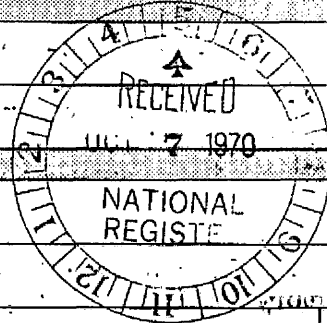


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Somerset</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>70.12.34.0010</b>	DATE <b>12/18/70</b>



H13 E 532770  
 Z18 N4472Z60

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Rockingham**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**(Old Berrien House) Washington's Headquarters**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Old Rocky Hill Road (Rt. 518)**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Franklin Township Kingston vic.**

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **08553** COUNTY: **Somerset** CODE: **035**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<b>State-owned</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		<b>Historic Site</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P.O. Box 1390, Department Environmental Protection**

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey, 08625** CODE: **34**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Somerset County, Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Administration Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Somerville** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey - N.J. #18**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1935, 1936**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **08**

STATE: **New Jersey**  
 COUNTY: **Somerset**  
 ENTRY NUMBER: **70.12.34.0010**  
 DATE: **12/18/70**  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. Description

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story frame structure was erected in 1734, with additions in 1764.

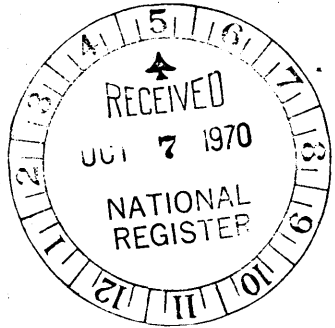
The iron fire-back in the fireplace reads 1734.

A two-story veranda extends on the south elevation. The roof is gabled with asbestos roofing. The building has been moved twice due to the encroachment of a nearby quarry.

This was originally a white clapboard farmhouse, of 20 rooms with a single center chimney into which four fireplaces opened. The two story building on the north end was built in 1897. The interior walls are plaster, the floors are random width wide boards - The house contains 10 rooms in the main section.

There is a W.P.A. replica of a fieldstone kitchen to the west of the house, and an 18th Century Washhouse recently moved to the grounds.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. Statement of Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian     16th Century     18th Century     20th Century  
 15th Century     17th Century     19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1734, 1783 (Washington Headquarters)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1783 this house was owned by the widow of former justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, John Berrien. Congress leased the house as headquarters for Washington from August 24 to November 10, 1783 while it met at Princeton.

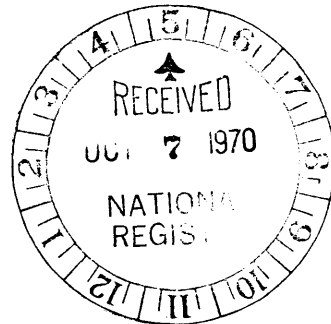
Here Washington wrote his "Farewell orders to the Armies" on November 2, 1783. He then delivered a farewell to his personal bodyguard.

Many distinguished guests were entertained here. Thomas Paine was one of the house guests during this period. James Madison, Robert Morris, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson and John Paul Jones were among the other visitors to the House.

Charles Willson Peale came to paint the portrait of Washington for Princeton University to replace the one of King George III that hung in Nassau Hall. Joseph Wright of Bordentown and the young William Dunlap also came to paint portraits of the General and Mrs. Washington.

It is an excellent example of a Somerset County farm house. During the 19th Century it was used as a dormitory by Italian quarry workers.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

**Cobb, Geneviene C., Washington's Rocky Hill Headquarters  
Somerset County Historical Quarterly, Vol. I 1958**

**Ives, M.L. Washington's Rocky Hill Headquarters (1932)  
pamphlet**

**Mills, W.J. Historic Houses of N.J. Lippincott 1902**

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		40 24 07	74 35 50	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5.47 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Charlotte Tomaszewski, Research Assistant**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection** DATE: **July 1, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Box 1420**

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey 08625** CODE: **34**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Richard K. Fulmer*

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: September 11, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Ernest A. Connelly*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: DEC 18 1970

ATTEST:

*William J. Huestegge*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: NOV 27 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

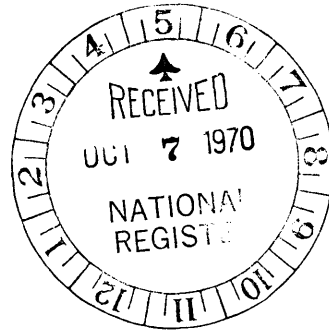
STATE <b>New Jersey</b>	
COUNTY <b>Somerset</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.12.34.0010	12/18/70

(Number all entries) **Rockingham, Somerville, New Jersey** Code: 34  
**Somerset County 035**

6. **New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #2671.1, 1961**

Historic Sites Section  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Trenton, New Jersey - 34

Code: 021 (Mercer County)

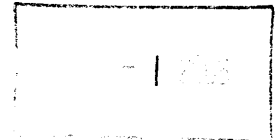


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

70100-394

RECEIVED

NOV 27 2009



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rockingham

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 84 Laurel Avenue (Route 603), approximately 1 mile north of Route 27  not for publication

city or town Franklin Township  vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Somerset code 035 zip code \_\_\_\_\_

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date 9/29/09

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Box Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 1.11.10

Additional Documentation Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/House Museum

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial vernacular

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundatio Stone

n \_\_\_\_\_

walls Wood

\_\_\_\_\_

roof Wood Shingle

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8 Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria considerations**

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Military

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1783-1802

1896-1956

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1783

1802

1896, 1956, 2001

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Washington, George

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # NJ -18
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Ford Farewell Mills Gatsch Historic Structure Report)

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property ~~0.8~~ acres: 5.5**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		
2					

3					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		
4					

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Margaret Newman, historic preservation specialistorganization HMR Architects date 12/1/08street & number 821 Alexander Road telephone 609.452.1070city or town Princeton state New Jersey zip code 08540**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name State of New Jersey, DEP, Division of Parks and Forestrystreet & number 501 East State Street, P.O. Box 404 telephone 609.984.0370city or town Trenton state New Jersey zip code 08625

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rockingham  
Somerset County, New Jersey

Section number   7   Page   1  

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## Architectural Description

First constructed ca. 1710 by the Higgins family with several eighteenth and nineteenth century additions, Rockingham is a vernacular five-bay, two-story frame building with a wood shingle gable roof and a central chimney. Attached to the east sits a reconstructed one-and-one-half story frame kitchen wing built in 2004 with a gable roof with wood shingles and a center chimney. Oriented south, Rockingham rests on a stone foundation and is of wood frame construction with brick nogging and sheathed with wood siding. A variety of wood sash survive including 12/12, 9/6 and 6/9. A two-story piazza extends across the entire front façade of the main block of the house. Another piazza runs across the kitchen addition.

Originally part of 300-acre eighteenth century farm, Rockingham has been relocated three times to save it from destruction. Moved to the current location in 2001, Rockingham is now the heart of a 17.5-acre New Jersey state historic site by the Delaware and Raritan Canal which is adjacent to the Millstone River, towards which it originally faced. Based on historic documentation of Rockingham's original location and local precedent, attempts are being made to recreate an eighteenth century farmstead with historically appropriate gardens, orchards and outbuildings; however, this nomination is for the house only.

## Exterior

Sheathed with flush board siding with a top bead, the south façade of the main block of Rockingham is an asymmetrical five-bay configuration with a door flanked by two windows. It is the product of two construction campaigns: the original three-bay, side-hall ca. 1710 section and a two-bay ca. 1760 addition. The front door is a double door; each door is three-paneled. A four-light rectangular transom tops the doors. To the east, the two 9/6 windows of the first floor complete the original block of the house. To the west, the two 12/12 first floor windows make up the addition that was constructed ca. 1760. All four of these first floor windows possess three-panel shutters, casings with a simple back band molding and plain aprons below the sills. At the second story, the original eastern section has a four-panel door onto the piazza, a nineteenth century addition, and two, 9/9 wood sash. To the west, there are three, 9/6 wood sash. This façade is dominated by the two-story piazza added ca. 1802. The floor of the piazza is stone. The columns are plain and square with simple capitals and bases. At the second story, there is reproduction wood lattice work based on an 1850 illustration and the cornice of the piazza is unadorned. (*Photos 1-3, 5*)

To the east, sits the reconstructed one-and-one-half story clapboard kitchen wing with a piazza across its front. Three doors interspersed with 6/6 wood windows punch the façade. From west to east, there is a four-panel door, then a 6/6 window, then another four-panel door, another 6/6 window and finally a board and batten door with HL hardware. The kitchen was reconstructed in 2001 and is based on historic research, an 1850s illustration and other historical evidence. Like the piazza of the main block, the floor of the kitchen piazza is stone, the columns are square and plain and the cornice is simple with two overlapping boards. The piazza ceiling is plain board, running east west. (*Photos 1-3, 5*)

The 2004 kitchen wing dominates the east elevation of Rockingham. A pair of double board and batten carriage doors with strap hinges beside a 9/6 wood window complete the first floor. Above this, a pair of 6/6 window adorn the upper gable end. The casings of these doors and windows are plain square stock trim. The upper gable end of the east elevation of the main block possesses clapboard siding, a plain, flush barge board and a single 6/6 window in its north half. (*Photo 4*)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rockingham  
Somerset County, New Jersey

Section number   7   Page   2  

---

## Architectural Description

At the north elevation of the main block, the two construction campaigns are visible in a seam at the first floor clapboards and in the exposed stone foundation. To the east of the seam, a 6/9 wood window next to a six-panel door with molded door surround and plain entrance portico grace the first floor of the original section. The vernacular Greek Revival portico has a low-sloping hipped metal roof, plain columns, simple brackets and trellising that matches that of the south piazza. This entrance was added ca. 1830 when the Franklin-Georgetown Turnpike was constructed adjacent to the original site which resulted in the shift of the primary façade from the south to the north. To the west of the portico, in the ca. 1760 addition, one window pierces the western end of the stone foundation. Above this, three, 9/6 wood windows punch the first floor. Like the south, all of the first floor windows have three-panel shutters and casings with a simple back band molding. On this elevation, however, the molded sills do not have aprons below. At the second floor, five, 9/6 windows with the same decorative casings extend across the elevation. Above this, a deep eave with beaded soffit and the two-board cornice complete the elevation. *(Photo 4)*

The north elevation of the 2004 clapboard kitchen wing has one, 6/3 wood sash and a four-panel door on the first floor and three, 6/3 wood sash in the upper half story. This wing has a seam roughly centered on the elevation. To the east, the exposed foundation is higher than the west. This is based on historic documentation. *(Photo 4)*

The west elevation of the main block sits on an exposed stone foundation penetrated by a single window. One 12/12 window pierces the southern end of the first floor and a 6/9 window punches the northern end; both have paneled shutters. Three, 9/6 windows grace the second floor and a pair of 6/6 windows adorn the upper gable end. All of the window casings have the same back band molding seen throughout. As on the north, there are no decorative aprons at the molded sills. A flush barge board that matches that of the east completes the upper gable end. *(Photo 3)*

## Interior

Because of the complex construction evolution of the house, the interior fabric of Rockingham is a mix of original, eighteenth and nineteenth century features. While their ages vary, the fabric is generally consistent. The majority of the walls and all of the ceilings are plaster. For the most part, the doors are four-panel but some board and batten exist. On the first floor, there are also three sets of paired two-panel doors. The door and window trim tend to possess a simple molded profile while the baseboards generally are plain but some have a top bead. The floors are random-width wide board, generally left unfinished. The woodwork has been painted based on paint analysis and historical precedent.

A center door in the façade opens into a short entrance hall which contains the stairway set against the southern wall of the central chimney. A large parlor sits to the east and the dining room to the west. Both are gained through a set of paired two-paneled doors. The parlor, or drawing room as it was known during the Berrien's time, was the original hall of the ca. 1710 section of the house. When constructed, the structural members were exposed in this room including the corner posts and summer beam. When the Berrien's acquired the property in the 1730s, these structural members were boxed in and the decorative woodwork was added. This is how the room remains with a molded chair rail, plain baseboard and molded door and window casings. The western wall is paneled with a fireplace; the paneling also was added in the 1730s. The windows are 9/6. *(Photo 6)*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rockingham  
Somerset County, New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 3

---

## Architectural Description

The dining room, added ca. 1760, sits to the west. This is the most sophisticated room in the house with original 12/12 windows, elaborate wood cornice, heavily molded door and window trim, chair rail, baseboard and paneled corner fireplace. (*Photo 7*)

Behind the front tier of rooms run the five rooms of the northern part of the house that, when constructed, were originally within lean-to sections. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the roofs of all the sections of the house were raised, making the entire house two complete stories including the lean-to sections. In the original eastern lean-to, there were three rooms which consisted of a rear entry hall, a reception room in the center, and a small bedroom in the southeast corner. Today, these rooms are extant, divided by plank partition walls. The eastern most room has a 6/9 window and is unadorned with the exception of a plain baseboard. To the west is the entrance hall with the board and batten exterior door with strap hardware and paired two-panel doors that access the parlor. It too is unadorned with the exception of the baseboard. West of this is a more elaborate room with a Franklin stove in the fireplace topped by original bookcases set in the south wall. There is a chair rail and baseboard in this room and a 9/6 window on the north. (*Photo 9*)

The original two rear rooms of the ca. 1760 lean-to lie to the west. The most elaborate of the five rear rooms sits in the northwest corner. Located off the dining room, it was the tea room during the Berrien era. A simple molded cornice and the same elaborate door and window trim of the dining room adorn this room as do a chair rail and baseboard. The windows are 6/9 and the door four-panel. (*Photo 8*)

To the east sits the other northern room of the ca. 1760 section. It is divided from the tea room by a plank wall and has a chair rail and baseboard. The window is 9/6 and doors four-panel. This room has a corner fireplace. This fireplace and partition were removed during the second half of the nineteenth century; they were restored in 2004.

The stairs to the second floor lie against the south side of the center chimney and are accessed from the main entry at the south. Although within the original eastern section, they date to the ca. 1760 construction. The second floor floor plan consists of the center stair flanked by a nineteenth century full length hall with stacked chambers to the west and the original large upstairs Blue Room to the east. Like the first floor, a series of smaller rooms make up the rear of the house. To the east, two connected rear rooms sit to the north of the original ca. 1710 house. To the west, the nineteenth century hall and corner bedroom sit to the north of the ca. 1760 addition.

In the second floor stair hall, there is a four-light casement window, turned balusters, a paneled door to the attic with strap hardware and doors to the east and west sections. Square stock trim adorn the door openings. Off this stair hall in the southeast corner sits the room that is believed to have been used by Washington. This room retains the exposed corner gunstock posts which are boxed in on the first floor. This exposed structure reveals the early eighteenth century construction date of this section of the house. Large 9/9 with simple molded trim and paneled window boxes below grace this room. The window boxes and wood trim are believed to date to the 1730s and Berrien's purchase of the house. This trim includes a simple molded wood cornice and paneled fireplace. A four-panel door with three-light transom in the southwest corner leads to the second story piazza.



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## Architectural Description

The two connected smaller rooms of the northern section lie off this room. They were constructed ca. 1802 when the roof of the lean-to shed addition was raised to a full two stories. These rooms are plain with simple baseboards, 9/6 windows and simple window and door trim. A four-panel door connects Washington's room with the northwest room. There is no door between the two small rooms and the door that connect the northern section with the hall is board and batten.

The second floor hall runs the full length of the building with 9/6 windows at each end. This hall was added in the nineteenth century. It has a chair rail and beaded baseboard. Original cupboards back up to the chimney, roughly centered on the east wall with paneled lower doors and board and batten upper door with H hinges above.

The northwest bedroom, accessed through a five-panel door, has 9/6 windows and deep baseboard. The southwest bedroom has a four-panel door with 9/6 windows, chair rail and simple baseboard.

The 2001 reconstructed kitchen wing contains reproduction wide board floors, a cooking fireplace, 6/6 windows and modern four-panel doors. To the rear of this space is a milk room with an exposed foundation and frame and 6/6 window. To the west of the kitchen, connected to the original house, is a hall with an integrated ramp which provides the accessible entrance into the historic sections of the house. To the east of the kitchen and at its upper story are modern offices which are closed to the public. The floor plan of the kitchen is based on 1896 affidavits and research into local precedents. (*Photo 10*)

Within the house, the furnishings date from the late eighteenth century but are not originally from Rockingham or the Berrien family. There are also several reproductions of Washington's equipment that he used during the Revolutionary War. These are based on the original examples that are at Mt. Vernon or the Smithsonian.

## Chronology of Construction

The original configuration of Rockingham and its early alterations are difficult to determine for several reasons. The lack of documentation between 1709, when Jedediah Higgins acquired the land and 1741 when John Berrien is cited in a road return, makes the early origins of the house difficult to determine. Additionally, because the house is no longer in its original location, clues to its evolution—such as within the cellar—cannot be determined. Finally, changes to the house over its 300-year history including raising the roof have removed earlier evidence.

Because of the 1783 advertisement by Margaret Berrien, the configuration of the house in 1783 is fairly well-understood. It consisted of an English-framed eastern section which was two stories high, with an integral lean-to. The western section was Dutch-framed and was one-and-one-half stories also with an integral lean-to. Both sections were over at least partial cellars and there was an attached kitchen to the east.

The Historic Structures Report completed on Rockingham by Ford, Farewell, Mills and Gatsch Architects in 1997 developed a comprehensive construction chronology broken up into numerous phases. They follow below:

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## Architectural Description

### *Phase I, ca. 1705-1715, Higgins*

The eastern section of the house appears to be the oldest part of Rockingham. It is a heavy timber box frame with eight-inch posts that project four inches from the interior wall plane at the corners of the building and the divisions of major interior spaces. The posts rise the full height of the building and are shouldered at the top, forming what is known as gunstock posts. The posts are tied together at the bottom by sills, at the division between first and second floors by girts, and at the level of the attic floor by girts and plates that carried the rafters. Like the corner posts, the girts and plates are exposed on the interior. In the ceiling of the first floor of the main section of the house, a transverse summer beam spans between the eastern end girt and the chimney girt. Originally, all of the framing was exposed with beaded edges. The evidence indicates that the lean-to at the north was an integral part of the frame, making it an original feature. The original floor plan was a hall and chamber plan with one room on each floor and lean-to rooms to the rear. The stairs appear to have risen along the side wall adjacent to the fireplace. The lean-to was divided into three spaces by board partitions.

### *Phase II, ca. 1735-1745, Berrien*

This phase entailed a refinement of interior finishes and likely occurred when John Berrien first acquired the property in the 1730s. During this stage, the exposed framing was boxed in with cladding trimmed with a quirk bead and the ceilings were plastered. Paneling, chair rails and a cornice were installed. In addition, the window seats were probably added.

### *Phase III, ca. 1760, Berrien*

During this stage of construction, the western section was added. It is speculated that this coincided with John Berrien's second marriage to Margaret Eaton in 1759. This expansion almost doubled the size of the house. It has been debated whether this addition may have consisted of a pre-existing structure brought up next to the eastern section. Ultimately, however, the evidence indicates that the addition was constructed by Berrien.

This section has an Anglo-Dutch frame, consisting of bents placed 4'-0" on center with corner braces. The frame and resulting plan relate to what has been defined by Clifford Zink as a Type 3 Dutch frame. Zink identifies the John Craig House in Monmouth County and the John Welling House in Mercer County as of this nave and single aisle type plan. Like the original section, the western section consisted of a single room on each floor with lean-to rooms to the rear. The lean-to probably had one or two rooms. Originally, there were corner fireplaces that were back to back and were constructed next to the fireplace of the original section. The existing plaster and woodwork in this section are original to its construction. At this time, it seems probable that a one-and-one-half attached kitchen wing was added at the east end of the house. Other changes made to the original section include the reconfiguring of the stairs and the likely reduction of the large fireplace in the hall which was no longer needed for cooking. 12/12 wood sash were added at the façade and 9/6 added in the lean-to. It was this house that Washington used during the Revolutionary War. There is a strong tradition that Washington used the Blue Room, the upstairs in the original section, as his study.

### *Phase IV, ca. 1802, Frederick Cruser*

During this stage of construction, the Dutch framed wing, along with its lean-to, was raised to its full two-story height. The lean-to of the English framed section also was raised to the same height, resulting in the current roof configuration.

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## Architectural Description

The two-story piazza also was constructed at this time. The windows in the raised section at the second floor were hung with 9/6 sash with narrow muntins.

### *Phase V, ca. 1830, William Cruser*

The small vernacular Greek Revival portico at the north door probably was added when the Franklin-Georgetown Turnpike was constructed which resulted in the shift of the front entrance from the south to north.

### *Phase VI, ca. 1850-1897, Quarry Companies*

In 1850, Benson J. Lossing sketched Rockingham for an engraving for his *Field-Book of the American Revolution*. It is to this etching that the house has been restored. After the sketch was complete, at some point in the second half of the nineteenth century, the frame kitchen and piazzas were demolished, a shed-roofed portico was added to the south, and a one-story piazza was added at the east where the kitchen wing had been. The roof was also rebuilt. Interior demolition also occurred at this time with the removal of partitions and a corner fireplace.

### *Phase VI, 1897, Washington Headquarters Association*

In the year after acquiring Rockingham, the Washington Headquarters Association undertook an ambitious program of moving and rehabilitating the building. They seem to have used the architect, W.E. Stone of New York City. During this campaign, the two-story piazza and kitchen wing were reconstructed based on the 1850 engraving by Lossing. They also interviewed several people who had been in the building before these features were demolished. These witnesses include Mary Ann Perdun, Sarah Sutphen and Cornelia Cruser, the daughter of William Cruser. Work also included interior refinishing with plaster patching and painting and the addition of wallpaper in some rooms. Individual patriotic societies furnished the rooms.

### *Phase VI-a, 1906-1936, Washington Headquarters Association*

In addition to general repair and maintenance, this phase consisted of the enlarging of the reconstructed kitchen wing for use by the caretaker. This occurred in 1912-1913. The work, done by William Matthews a Princeton builder, was based on the need of the caretaker rather than on historical precedent. The roof was changed and dormers were added. In 1915, a shed was added to the kitchen wing.

### *Phase VII, 1936-1956, State of New Jersey*

Rockingham became a state historic site in 1936. Changes during this stage concentrated on the kitchen wing and included the removal of the central chimney with its replacement by an exterior chimney on the gable and the enclosing of both kitchen porches. There were also alterations made to the fenestration: the north door was changed to a window and a door was added to the east elevation. The interior of the entire house was redecorated in 1952-1953.

### *Phase VIII-a, 1956-1957, State of New Jersey*

In December 1956, Rockingham was moved to its third site. The Kingston Trap Rock Quarry, which had been blasting up to within a few yards of the house, provided the new site and paid for the move. The house and frame wing, with its contents inside, were moved by William Adamowitz and Sons of Hillside. At this time, the orientation of the house was altered by 180 degrees. The original south elevation was made to face north. The building was elevated a foot or more

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## Architectural Description

higher than it had been. It was erected over a new cement block foundation and stuccoed to imitate stone above grade (possibly Garden State Brickface). A new cement block chimney was provided in the basement and a new heating system was installed.

### *Phase VIII-b, 1959-1963, State of New Jersey*

During this phase, there was a major restoration completed by the newly founded Rockingham Association (established in 1961) funded by the organization's founders, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Alsop. The intention was to return the house to its appearance during Washington's occupancy. Work included installation of new beaded clapboard affixed with reproduction square-cut nails. The porches were repaired; shutters replicated; masonry cleaned and repointed; and, new corner posts installed. On the interior, a reproduction mantel was installed in the parlor and chair rail added. Reproduction hardware was installed. The walls were replastered and the interior painted in Williamsburg colors.<sup>1</sup>

### *Phase IX, 2001-2004, State of New Jersey*

Expansion of the quarry led to Rockingham's third and final move in July 2001, to its current site which is much larger, along the Delaware and Raritan Canal and closer to its original location. In 2004, the house was restored. During the move, the gable end walls were laid on the attic floor and once the move was completed, they were restored and the roof was reconstructed with all new framing (the existing framing dated to the 1930s) and the chimney was rebuilt from the roof up. On the first floor within the northern section of the house, the western most partition was restored and the corner fireplace was added. Evidence for this fireplace was clear. The template for the fireplace was found at Bainbridge House in Princeton per the Historic Structure Report. In addition, the stone floors of the piazzas were laid. Although they had been wood at the previous site, the historic affidavits from 1896 were clear that the floors were originally stone.

The kitchen wing was also reconstructed. The earlier kitchen wing that was first reconstructed by the Washington Headquarters Association at the end of the nineteenth century had been greatly altered over the years and no longer retained its historic integrity. It was not moved. The design of the kitchen wing is based on the 1896 interviews, Lossing's etching and historical precedent.

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<sup>1</sup> Ford, Farewell, Mills and Gatsch Architects, "Rockingham Historic Structure Report" (19 December 2007), II.C.-1—II.C.-24.

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## Statement of Significance

### Summary

Rockingham is the home that George Washington occupied during the summer of 1783 when the Continental Congress met in Princeton to facilitate the end of the Revolutionary War. It is believed to be the second oldest house in the Millstone River Valley; its original section was built ca. 1710. It was enlarged ca. 1760 and again at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Following Washington's tenure, the house remained a private residence until the last quarter of the nineteenth century when it became a tenant house for the quarry that owned it. In 1896, the Washington Headquarters Association was formed to save Rockingham as a shrine to Washington; the house was threatened with destruction due to the expansion of a trap rock quarry that became an important local business in the twentieth century. This began a 100-year effort to save the house which resulted in its physical relocation on three separate occasions. In 2001, the house was moved to its current location; it was restored and reopened to the public in 2004.

The significance of Rockingham is two-fold. First, George Washington's occupancy of the house in 1783 makes it significant. Washington was at Rockingham for almost three months. Because of his tenure, numerous luminaries like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were visitors. He entertained from here but also conducted business. From Rockingham, Washington wrote his Farewell Orders which discharged the soldiers on November 2, 1783. Washington used the occasion of his farewell address to admonish the soldiers about the virtues and personal character traits necessary for citizenship in a new republic. This helped establish a smooth transition for many from soldier to citizen which was crucial to the ultimate survival of the new country.

Second, the 100-year preservation campaign to save Rockingham puts it soundly into the American historic preservation continuum. Like Mount Vernon and other early preservation efforts, Rockingham was saved because of its association with George Washington. Also like Mount Vernon, it was women who preserved it with the assistance of wealthy private citizens. Rockingham was saved for patriotic reasons but it cannot be denied that there was certain amount of xenophobia behind it. During the nineteenth century, the preservation of such iconic symbol as a Revolutionary War headquarters of George Washington was viewed as a way of preserving American culture and class in a time of large European immigration. Unique to Rockingham, fights to preserve it continued beyond the initial effort. In order to save it, the house has had to be moved three times: in 1896, 1956 and 2001. Each required an active constituency to rally behind protecting the building. These efforts speak in no small part to the overwhelming stature of George Washington and the Revolutionary War.

Although the building has been moved three times which often renders it ineligible for the National Register, its association with Washington trumps the relocations, as was the case in 1972 when the building was first listed and had been moved twice. In addition, the building's relocations have been important chapters in the 100-year history of its preservation. Rockingham and its association with Washington have been considered so important that the effort and expense to move it have been undertaken three times.

Therefore, Rockingham is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B, for its association with George Washington and his use of the house for three months in 1783 at the end of the Revolutionary War. Rockingham is also eligible under Criterion A, for its 100-year preservation campaign. It is an important chapter in the history of American preservation in general and local New Jersey preservation in specific.

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## Statement of Significance

### Historical Background and the Chronology of Ownership of Rockingham

(From Ford, Farewell, Mills and Gatsch, Architects "Rockingham Historic Structure Report," 1997)

Originally, the location of Rockingham lay within Piscataway Township in Middlesex County. Somerset County was separated from Middlesex in 1688 but Rockingham remained in Middlesex. It was only through boundary changes in 1714 that the original site of Rockingham became a part of Somerset County. Ca. 1745, Somerset County was divided into the Western Precinct and the Eastern Precinct, which became Franklin Township in 1798; Rockingham became a part of Franklin Township at this time. It continues to be a part of Franklin Township today as it was in its three previous locations.

The house was originally located 1/8-mile east of the Millstone River just south of what is now Route 518. This placed the house 110 feet above sea level, facing south on the bluff above the river. Although early local histories attribute the original ownership to the prominent Harrison family, careful land title research conducted for the preparation of a 1997 Historic Structure Report for the house makes clear that although the Harrison family greatly influenced the development of the local area, they did not own or construct Rockingham. Instead, the land on which Rockingham would be built was first owned by East Jersey Proprietor, Charles Ormiston. On February 21, 1702, Ormiston, who never lived in America, sold his tract to an English immigrant named Thomas Watson of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Watson in turn sold the property to two men: a second Thomas Watson and Joseph Kirkbride. Watson and Kirkbride sold it to Jediah Higgins in 1709. It was the Higgins family who first developed the site.

The Higgins family immigrated to New Jersey from Eastham, Massachusetts where Jediah Higgins was born on March 5, 1656-57. By 1682, the first record of Higgins is found in New Jersey when he owned land in Piscataway. In 1684, he married Mary Newbold of Burlington County. His own importance within the colony is illustrated by his serving between 1695 and 1698 as a member of East Jersey's General Assembly. By 1702, he had moved to Kingston. In 1709, he served in New Jersey's General Assembly. Jediah Higgins died in 1715; at this time, he was a shoemaker and well-to-do farmer. His will subdivided his property granting his wife, Mary, his house and his son, Jedediah, was left several pieces of property. Although no house on the Rockingham property was specified in his will, it appears that the original section of Rockingham was built by the Higgins family, father or son, ca. 1710.

Although no record has been found documenting the transfer of Rockingham to the Berrien family, by 1735 John Berrien was taxed for 130 acres and one head of cattle in the Eastern Precinct (Franklin Township), Somerset County, presumably at Rockingham. It is believed, therefore, that by 1735, Berrien was living at Rockingham. Berrien was born in Newtown, Long Island in 1711, the grandson of Cornelius Jansen Berrien who had emigrated from Alkmar, Holland.

John Berrien was a wealthy and prominent man. He married twice, both times to daughters of wealthy families. He served in numerous civic positions that allude to his local stature. Ca. 1744, Berrien married his first wife, Mary Leonard, the daughter and niece of two extremely wealthy men of New Jersey. In 1745, ten years after first being taxed for Rockingham's 130 acres, Berrien had increased his land holdings by 100 acres; he also had dramatically increased his livestock. Berrien was taxed for eighteen head of cattle and forty-four sheep. Berrien appears, however, to have been

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primarily a merchant and had a shop at Rocky Hill. He also was involved in real estate. It was Berrien who named the property, "Rockingham."

Berrien was an active participant in civic affairs. In 1748, he was one of the managers of a lottery to raise funds for completing the Anglican Church and constructing a parsonage in New Brunswick. In 1751, he played the same role at St. Michael's in Trenton. During that same year, he served on the Grand Jury for Somerset County. In the 1750s, the death of his wife's father and uncle further increased his property and wealth. By 1758, his first wife had died; on August 16, 1759, John Berrien married Margaret Eaton of Monmouth County, a member of another wealthy family.

As his wealth increased, so too did the prominence of his civic positions. In 1762, he had become a Trustee of the College of New Jersey (Princeton University), a post he occupied until his death. In 1764, he was appointed a Justice of the State Supreme Court by Governor William Franklin; that same year, he served as one of the commissioners for settling interests in common lands in the Township of Bergen. In 1765, he was named a commissioner for straightening the highways, a prominent and important local position. In 1769, he was elected to the Assembly.

While John Berrien's life appeared to be successful and prosperous, he seems to have committed suicide. On April 21, 1772 after inviting distinguished Princeton citizen Richard Stockton, Samuel Stockton and Israel Everett to witness his will, he threw himself into the Millstone River. His death was reported in a New York newspaper less than a week later, "From Rocky-Hill in the Province of New Jersey, we have an Account of the Death of John Berrien, Esq., the Third Judge of the Supreme Court for said Province." A later letter confirms suicide, "William Paterson, later New Jersey's Chief Justice, wrote to a friend, 'John Berrien, Esq., one of the Justices of the supreme court in the Jersies; drowned himself about the middle of April last: the Jury found lunacy.'"<sup>1</sup> The apparent contradiction between his evidently successful life and the circumstances of his death has never been convincingly explained.

Berrien's will divided his property into seven equal parts: one to his wife and one to each of his six children. While this virtually necessitated the need for the sale of the property to develop the equal shares, because none of the children were yet of age, his wife and executor, Margaret Berrien, did not need to make any immediate divisions. Margaret remained at Rockingham with her young children. In 1778 and 1780, she was taxed for 315 acres in Franklin Township. In 1783, she unsuccessfully attempted to sell Rockingham as well as other holdings in Princeton. At this time, she ran an advertisement of the property's sale in *Rivington's Royal Gazette* from July 5 to August 27, 1783:

That very healthy and fine situated Farm Rockingham, the property of Mrs. Margaret Berrien. This Farm lies on the River Millstone, about five miles from Princeton, on the road leading from Princeton to Morristown; it contains about 320 acres, a good proportion of Meadow and Woodland; the soil is good for wheat and natural to grass, so that a great quantity of the best English meadow may be made with little trouble or expence [sic]; the place is well watered. The House contains upwards of twenty Rooms of different kinds, including a kitchen, very conveniently contrived and genteelly finished, and cellars almost

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<sup>1</sup> Ford Farewell Mills and Gatsch Architects, "Rockingham Historic Structure Report" (19 December 1997), II.A.-15.

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## Statement of Significance

under the whole; there is also a very good Barn and Stables, Coach House, Grainary and Fowl House, all painted; a very curious Smoke House and other out-houses; there are several very fine young Orchards, containing the best grafted Fruit in our country, besides a variety of Pears, Plums, Peaches and Cherries, Rasberries [sic] and Currants; there is a small Tenement on said Farm, of Three Rooms, with a Cellar and Milk-room, and the whole Farm abounds in Springs of the best Water. There are several thousand very thrifty Red Cedar Trees, a great number of which have been trimmed and cultivated. A tolerable good Stock, with some farming Utensils will be disposed of to any person who should incline to purchase said Farm is agreeable.

In September 1783, she rented Rockingham to the Continental Congress for use by George Washington (see below), while she appears to have lived in the Princeton house, owned by her son John. She moved back to Rockingham in 1784 when it was again put up for sale; again, it went unsold. This was not a good time to be selling a 300-acre farm; following the war, there were difficult economic times.

Margaret was taxed for Rockingham in 1784 and 1786. By 1788, her son William was listed as the tax ratepayer. He continued in this capacity in 1789 and 1792. In 1793, William was sharing the responsibility with his younger brother Thomas. In that year, William was taxed for 215 acres and Thomas for 100. In 1795, Thomas Berrien alone paid tax on 300 acres. In 1797, that number was only 100 acres.

Rockingham was again put up for sale in 1799 and 1800 but no takers were found. Again, the property was advertised:

To be sold by the subscriber—that elegant farm called Rockingham lying on the river Millstone, at Rocky Hill, on the great road from Kingston to Brunswick; 5 miles from Princeton and 12 from New Brunswick. The farm contains 316 acres of good land, there are two good apple orchards of the best engrafted fruit, and a great variety of other fruit trees; the house is large, elegant and convenient, with a well of good water under the piazza; two good kitchens, a good barn, coach-house, and several other out-buildings; the whole or part of the land will be sold, as may best suit the purchaser. An undisputed title will be made and possession given immediately. The terms will be easy. For further particulars, enquire of the subscriber at Allentown or Mr. John Berrien at Rocky Hill.

T.W. Montgomery

In 1802, Berrien was finally able to sell Rockingham. After a March 29, 1802 public auction, Margaret Berrien conveyed the property to Frederick Cruser on April 9, 1802.

Margaret Berrien's sale of Rockingham to Frederick Cruser ended the family's almost 70-year tenure and the longest occupation by any family. Frederick Cruser was born in 1766 to a family that arrived in Staten Island in the seventeenth century. Frederick was first taxed for 325 acres of Rockingham in 1806. In 1808, he was taxed for 340 acres and 325



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acres in 1826. He and his wife Catherine owned two slaves and lived at Rockingham until 1829 when they sold it to their son, William.

William Cruser was born in 1788 and married Sarah Stryker in 1811. They had ten children. According to the 1830 census, there were seventeen people living on the property which included the Stryker family, two slaves and three free blacks. In 1840, there were fifteen people at Rockingham. Some of the children had moved away and there was now a "bound boy" whose keep the Crusers was being paid for by Franklin Township. Interestingly, the 1840 census reveals that seven of the Cruser children were blind.

Frederick Cruser died in 1835 leaving the bulk of his estate to his son William. William suffered significant financial losses, especially during the financial panic of 1837. In 1841, shortly after William's death, Rockingham was offered for sale in a sheriff's sale. On March 31, 1841, Henry Duryee purchased Rockingham at auction for \$900.00.

Duryee doesn't appear to have lived at Rockingham, although he may have rented it. In 1847, he sold the 102-acre property to James Stryker Van Pelt for \$3,726.50. The 1850 and 1860 censuses list James, his wife Mary and their two children, Mary and Charles, along with hired help.

In 1869, Van Pelt sold the 102.2 acre property to David H. Mount for \$8,500. Mount probably never occupied the property; he was a large local land holder. In 1872, he sold the 51.39 acres of the northwestern section of the farm, which included the house, to Martin A. Howell. Howell began quarrying the rocky hillside on which Rockingham sat.

At some point the property came under the ownership of the Rocky Hill Stone Storage Company who for many years used Rockingham to house its resident managers. In 1896, it turned the building into housing for Italian quarrymen and their families. According to one estimate, there were as many as forty or fifty people living in the house.

This conversion of the house into a dormitory alarmed one local woman who sought to preserve the building. Miss Kate E. MacFarlane of Rocky Hill originated the idea of forming an organization to acquire and maintain Rockingham as a "historic shrine" to George Washington. She enlisted Mrs. Josephine Thomson Swann, a wealthy Princeton widow, who paid for the purchase of the house. The owners of the quarry were unwilling to sell the land on which the house was located, although they did transfer the house to the Washington Headquarters Association and provide them with a plot of land a short distance up the hill along Route 518. By August 1897, the house had been moved and "restored" including reconstruction of the piazza. During the tenure of the Washington Headquarters Association, there was always a resident caretaker. The first was Mrs. Pool followed by Reverend A.W. Pray, Mrs. Lewis and Thomas Barrowman.

By the 1930s, however, the society was in trouble. In 1935, the board resolved to transfer Rockingham to the New Jersey State Commission on Historic Sites. In 1936, Rockingham became a state historic site open to the public. In 1956, the house was moved again followed by an extensive restoration campaign in the early 1960s. This restoration was spearheaded by the Rockingham Association which was founded in 1961. Like the earlier Washington Headquarters

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Association, the Rockingham Association was formed by private citizens. The organization continues to support the house today.<sup>2</sup>

In 2001, continued expansion of the quarry caused the house to be moved to its current location. Along the Delaware and Raritan canal, the site is similar and geographically closer to the house's original site, which was along the Millstone River. The orientation of the house was returned to its original configuration—the primary façade once again faced south. In 2004, the house was completely restored.

## Washington's Occupancy

In 1783 with the Revolutionary War essentially over, Philadelphia troops of the Continental Army went into revolt and marched upon Philadelphia where the Continental Congress was then in session. They were angry over the failure of Congress to honor its promises to the army regarding salary, bounties and life pensions. Rumors abounded that the American government was going broke and that they might not be compensated at all. On June 24, 1783, the Congress resolved to remove to the safety of Princeton, New Jersey. Elias Boudinot, President of the Continental Congress, called upon General George Washington to send a loyal detachment of troops and requested his presence. Col. George Morgan was asked to find suitable accommodations to rent for Washington. Morgan found about a dozen but only one was willing to rent for less than one year, "Mrs. Berrien, however, does not make that objection but that is four miles distant. She offers her whole farm of 300 & odd acres and all her buildings at a rate of \$15 month, to be paid monthly in advance, and for no longer than mutually agreeable. The rent to commence from next Monday, as she is ready to give immediate possession."<sup>3</sup>

Washington along with Mrs. Washington left Newburgh, New York on August 19, 1783. His party included a guard of two or three dozen men from New Hampshire led by Lt. Belazeel Howe. In addition, there also would have been slaves and servants. The party arrived at Rockingham on August 23. The guards lived in tents set up on the lawn about fifty rods (800 feet) from the house while the Washingtons lived in the house; it is also likely that other officers inhabited the house as well. Lt. Howe had his own tent. Washington attended his first session of Congress on August 26, 1783.

Washington entertained frequently while at Rockingham. He hired a good chef and served food on china and glassware. On September 5, he hosted a dinner for the members of Congress and the Minister of France which was held outdoors. There were at least 200 guests at the party. Other visitors and dignitaries to Rockingham included artists William Dunlap and Joseph Wright, philosopher Thomas Paine and war financier Robert Morris. Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton also visited. The General would ultimately stay there for almost three months, from August to November.

General Washington was also in Princeton to conduct business. He attended many Congressional sessions, especially those that had to do with the dissolution of the army. He appears to have used Mount Lucas Road to get to and from

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid., II.A.-1--A.-25.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., II.A. - 18.

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## Statement of Significance

Princeton from Rockingham, bringing him across the Millstone River on the bridge at the foot of Old Georgetown Road.<sup>4</sup> Washington wrote daily letters from Rocky Hill both conducting business of the army as well as personal.<sup>5</sup>

On October 18, Congress passed a proclamation releasing the troops from service as of November 4. Washington penned his famous Farewell Orders while at Rockingham. On October 30, the orders were dispatched from Rockingham to be issued on November 2 by General Henry Knox at Newburgh, New York. Excerpts from this address are below:

...Every American Officer and Soldier must now console himself for any unpleasant circumstances which may have occurred, by a recollection of the uncommon scenes in which he has been called to act, no inglorious part; and the astonishing Events of which he has been a witness--Events which have seldom, if ever before, taken place on the stage of human action, nor can they probably ever happen again. For who has before seen a disciplined Army formed at once from such raw Materials? Who that was not a witness could imagine, that the most violent local prejudices would cease so soon, and that Men who came from the different parts of the Continent, strongly disposed by the habits of education, to dispise [sic] and quarrel with each other, would instantly become but one patriotic band of Brothers? Or who that was not on the spot can trace the steps by which such a wonderful Revolution has been effected, and such a glorious period put to all our Warlike toils?...

It is earnestly recommended to all the Troops that with strong attachments to the Union, they should carry with them into civil Society the most conciliating dispositions; and that they should prove themselves not less virtuous and usefull [sic] as Citizens, than they have been persevering and victorious as Soldiers. What tho' there should be some envious Individuals who are unwilling to pay the Debt the public has contracted, or to yield the tribute due to Merit, yet let such unworthy treatment produce no invective, or any instance of intemperate conduct, let it be remembered that the unbiased voice of the Free Citizens of the United States has promised the just reward, and given the merited applause, let it be known and remembered that the reputation of the Federal Armies is established beyond the reach of Malevolence, and let a conciousness [sic] of their atchievements [sic] and fame, still incite the Men who composed them to honorable Actions; under the persuasion that the private virtues of economy, prudence and industry, will not be less amiable in civil life, than the more splendid qualities of valour, perseverance [sic] and enterprise, were in the Field: Every one may rest assured that much, very much of the future happiness of the Officers and Men, will depend upon the wise and manly conduct which shall be adopted by them, when they are mingled with the great body of the Community...<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid., II.B.-9.

<sup>5</sup> The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html>

<sup>6</sup> The Papers of George Washington at University of Virginia. <http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/documents/revolution/farewell/index.html>

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## Statement of Significance

In early November 1783, Washington began preparations for leaving Rockingham. Mrs. Washington had already left for Mount Vernon in early October. On November 10, George Washington and his aides left Rockingham. After a brief visit to West Point and New York, he returned to Mount Vernon.

### 100-Year Preservation Campaign

Since 1896, because of its association with George Washington, there have been numerous efforts to save Rockingham from deterioration and destruction. The preservation efforts began with the Washington Headquarters Association and have been spearheaded since 1935 by the State of New Jersey. While not all the preservation decisions made since the nineteenth century would be considered appropriate today, they are indicative of the evolution of historic preservation practices in America.

In 1896 when Miss Kate E. MacFarlane of Rocky Hill originated the idea of forming an organization to acquire and maintain Rockingham as a "historic shrine," historic preservation was still in its infancy and was, like MacFarlane's Washington Headquarters Association, being undertaken by private wealthy citizens. The Massachusetts Historical Society was founded in 1789; by the 1876 Centennial, there were seventy-eight such historical societies in the United States. These organizations tended to concentrate on genealogy and archival materials.

Restoration is considered to have begun in this country in 1827 when a 1765 synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island was restored. In 1828, William Strickland designed the missing tower of Independence Hall in the Georgian style, not a current style of the day. Because Georgian architecture was an outmoded style but was in keeping with eighteenth century origins of the building, Strickland is considered to be the first restoration architect in America.

In 1850, the State of New York purchased the Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, one of Washington's headquarters during the Revolutionary War, making it the first publicly owned historic site dedicated to Washington. Washington, more than any other figure in American history, generated immense patriotic fervor. In 1853, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union was founded by Ann Pamela Cunningham of South Carolina to save Mount Vernon from development. This was a national movement, not just a local endeavor. By 1858, the Association had acquired Mount Vernon.<sup>7</sup>

"So influential was Ann Pamela Cunningham's victory at Mount Vernon that her efforts established certain presuppositions about historic preservation in America. These assumptions included the idea that private citizens, not government, were the proper advocates for preservation; that only buildings and sites associated with military and political figures were worthy of preservation; that such sites must be treated as shrines or icons; and that women would assume a dominant role in the acquisition and management of such properties. Thus was established the uniqueness of the preservation movement in America."<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> William J. Murtagh, *Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America* (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, 1997), 25-30.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 30.

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## Statement of Significance

At the end of the nineteenth century, added to the above and providing a renewed impetus for preservation, was the influx of Eastern and Southern European immigrants. Preservation was seen as a way to protect American history from this perceived onslaught. There was a certain amount of xenophobia and chauvinism that accommodated this aspect of the preservation movement as well as class discrimination. The burgeoning middle class venerated its past as a way, in its mind, of preserving its position in society.

Into this came the movement to preserve Rockingham and the Washington Headquarters Association. The Washington Headquarters Association was composed of the elite and old stock of Princeton society. Although membership was said to be open, the board voted on admission of any new member. Their founding members were both upper class as well as women. Rockingham had military associations and it was treated as an icon of Washington's presence in Princeton in 1783. Xenophobia also existed as represented by a description of the house in the contemporary press in 1896:

But the fine old homestead has fallen into base uses. In the banquet hall I found more than a score of dirty, half-dressed laborers, with half as many Italian women and unkempt children crowded about a rough table greedily eating from a big common trough of tin filled macaroni...the other rooms are crowded with beds and cots, and the walls are fairly hidden with the clothing of the men who work in the big stone crusher...and as the place has been looked upon with veneration by so many generations throughout the countryside, naturally a great feeling has been aroused against the vandalism.<sup>9</sup>

In a 1935 history of Washington's headquarters, patriotic propaganda pervaded the description of Rockingham:

When the Washington Headquarters Association, headed by Miss Kate MacFarlane of Rocky Hill and Mrs. Josephine Thomson Swann of Princeton, first planned to purchase Rockingham and make it a historic shrine, forty or fifty Italian quarrymen with their families were living in lazy confusion beneath its roof...Was it not a patriotic duty to rescue this headquarters from ruin and restore it to reverent use?

At the end of her tour of inspection Mrs. Swann was still unsatisfied. "Isn't there one room you have not shown me yet?" she asked her buxom guide.

"Ah yes," the housekeeper answered hesitantly, "the room of the great general who once lived here"; and she stepped away to fetch a key.

The door to the Blue Room she threw open with a reverential air. Walls whitewashed, woodwork scoured, floor scrupulously scrubbed, its sole furniture a plain deal table in the far corner. On it burned a night-light before a crude color print of George Washington.

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<sup>9</sup> FFMG, II.A.-28.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## Statement of Significance

The whole community had cramped itself into the remaining rooms in order to keep as a chapel the one room most closely associated with the great man. Reverence grows by what it feeds on. This touching mark of Italian deference to the tradition of an honored name comes as an added reason for believing that here we have a patriotic shrine worthy indeed of the man whose onetime presence makes the house historic.

In the year after acquiring Rockingham, the Washington Headquarters Association undertook an ambitious program of moving and "restoring" the building. They based their restoration on interviews of people who were familiar with the building as well as the 1850 engraving by Lossing. From these sources, they reconstructed the two-story piazza and kitchen wing which had both been removed. Work also included interior refinishing with plaster patching and painting and the addition of wallpaper in some rooms.

Following the restoration, the furnishings were provided by local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames and the Society of the Cincinnati. This began the long tradition at Rockingham that remains today of local organizations contributing to the overall preservation and success of the house.

Like many nineteenth century restorations, much of the work was based on colonial ideals rather than actual research, site analysis or historic precedence. The interior decoration of painting and wallpaper campaigns, for instance, were not based on actual analysis of Rockingham's extant historic fabric but rather on what was believed would have existed. On the other hand, unusually thorough steps were also taken. Interviews were made with people who knew the house before it was acquired by the quarry, including the daughter of William Cruser. This was not common practice at the time.

Basing the restoration on Lossing's engraving to accurately portray the house as it existed during Washington's stay has proved to be a mixed success. While subsequent archival research has confirmed the presence of the kitchen wing in 1783, it has also proved that the two-story piazza did not exist until the nineteenth century and was built after 1802 by the Cruser family.

The Washington Headquarters Association was in existence for almost 40 years. By the 1930s, the society was in trouble. Members were elderly and there was difficulty filling new board positions. In May 1932, there were four vacancies and by December of that year, there was no quorum for board meetings. No meetings were held in 1933.

In 1936, the Association transferred Rockingham to the New Jersey State Commission on Historic Sites. The state continued the restoration efforts begun by the Association. Strangely, it is under the State's direction that some of the preservation efforts that seem questionable today were made. Between 1936 and 1956, the kitchen wing was altered for the convenience of the caretaker who lived at the site. The central chimney was removed and an exterior chimney added to the gable end. Center chimneys are important character defining features of Rockingham and unusual features of a New Jersey house. Porches of the kitchen wing were also enclosed during this period and changes made to the fenestration. Today, these types of changes are not encouraged because they were not based on historic evidence and because they changed the overall character of the exterior.

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In 1956, to protect it, the building had to be moved a second time due to the encroaching quarry and damage from blasting. This move was completed under the guidance of the state and as before, dubious preservation decisions were made. On its new site, the building was reoriented 180 degrees, which turned the original south façade north. The orientation of the building, especially of an eighteenth century building, is crucial to understanding its history and context. Changing it was a strange choice. Similarly, following the move, the building was elevated a foot or more higher than it had been and put on a concrete block foundation that was parged to resemble stone. This raising of the building changes its important relationship to its landscape and using modern materials to simulate historic ones is not considered a best practice today.

In 1961, the Rockingham Association was founded by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Alsop. Like the Washington Headquarters Association, this organization was a group of private citizens whose mission it was to preserve the house. The Rockingham Association, incorporated in 1964, helped fund a major restoration of the house in the 1960s. This work sought to return the house to its appearance during Washington's occupancy and if anything may have been overzealous in its historical accuracy with reproduction materials that were difficult to distinguish from their genuine historic counterparts.

The Rockingham Association continues to be actively involved today, perpetuating the history of the involvement of private citizens groups at the site. They acquire additions to the collection of eighteenth century pieces and develop reproduction artifacts, textiles and wardrobes appropriate to 1783. Other citizen groups are also involved. The Live Historians Club at Montgomery High School provides docents at Rockingham and the Stone Brook Garden Club of Princeton is responsible for the kitchen gardens.<sup>10</sup>

In 2001, the efforts to save Rockingham continued when the building was moved a final time and restored. The original orientation of the building was restored; the south façade was again oriented south. The house was returned to its original foundation height. The kitchen wing, that dated to the nineteenth century and had been so greatly altered over the course of the twentieth century, was not moved and was reconstructed at the new location based on the 1896 interviews, Lossing's etching and historical precedence. The house was restored to its 1802 configuration. This followed the findings of the 1997 Historic Structure Report when it was determined that the Period of Interpretation for the building should continue through to 1802 when the building attained its current basic form with its full two-story height and double piazza.

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<sup>10</sup> "The Rockingham Association" Brochure.

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## Bibliography

Ford Farewell Mills and Gatsch, Architects. "Rockingham Historic Structure Report." 19 December 1997. Copies of the report can be found at the offices of Farewell Mill Gatsch Architects, HMR Architects and the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.

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<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html>

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The Papers of George Washington at University of Virginia.  
<http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/documents/revolution/farewell/index.html>

"The Rockingham Association" Brochure printed by the Rockingham Association.

Snell, Charles W. Rockingham National Register Nomination. May 4, 1972. A copy of the Nomination can be found at the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.



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Rockingham  
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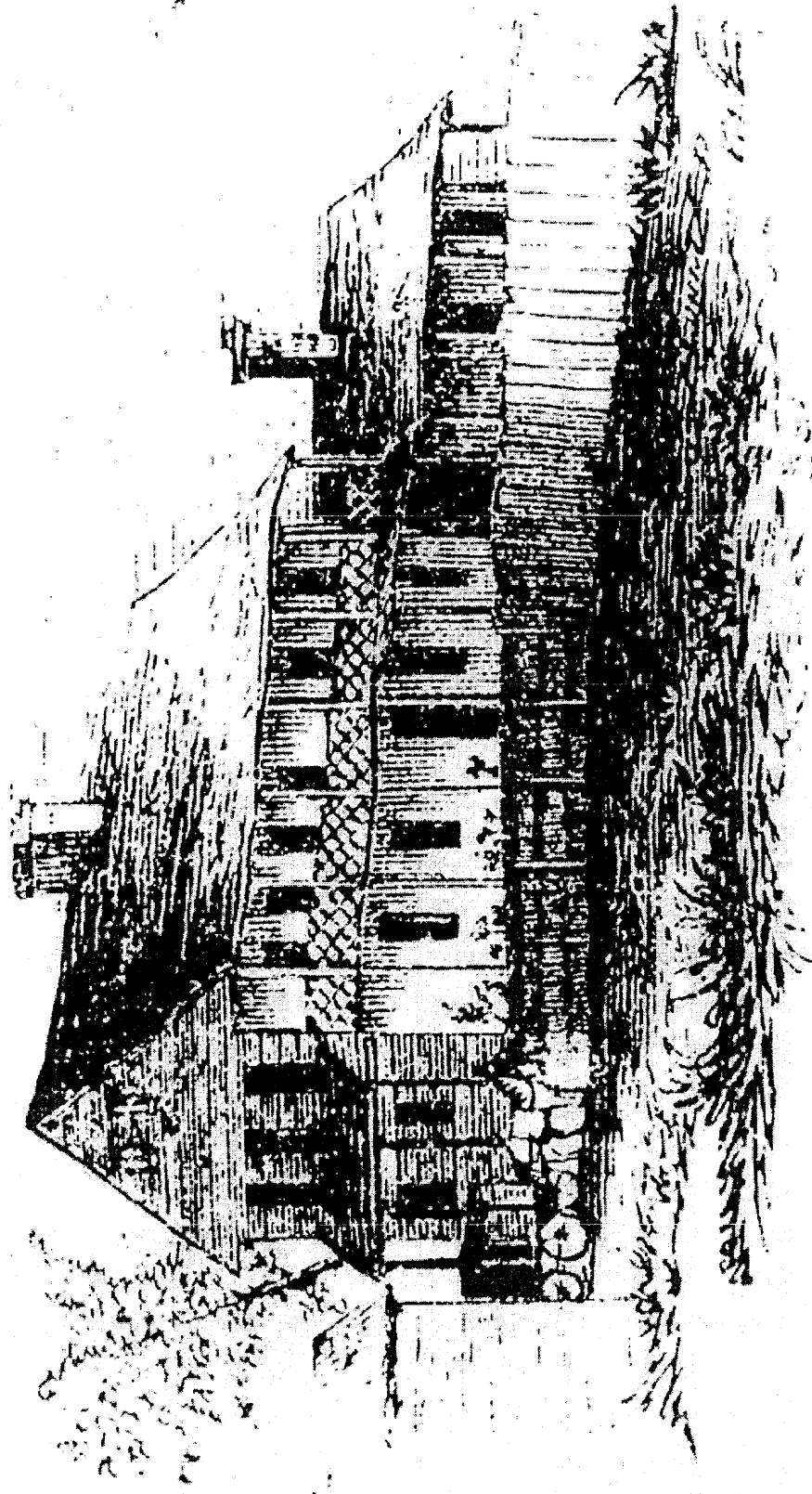
## Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description

Although the site consists of 17.5 acres of land within Lot 11.02 of Block 1.02 (Deed Book 1853, page 145) of Franklin Township, Somerset County, this nomination includes the foot print of the house only.

### Boundary Justification

Rockingham was moved to this location in 2001. It is the fourth location for the house; it has been moved three different times. Because there is no historic connection with its current site, it is not included.



## WASHINGTON'S QUARTERS. 3

Rockingham, in an engraving by Benson J. Lossing's *Field-Book of the American Revolution*. Lossing wrote that he made the drawing on which the illustration is based in 1850.

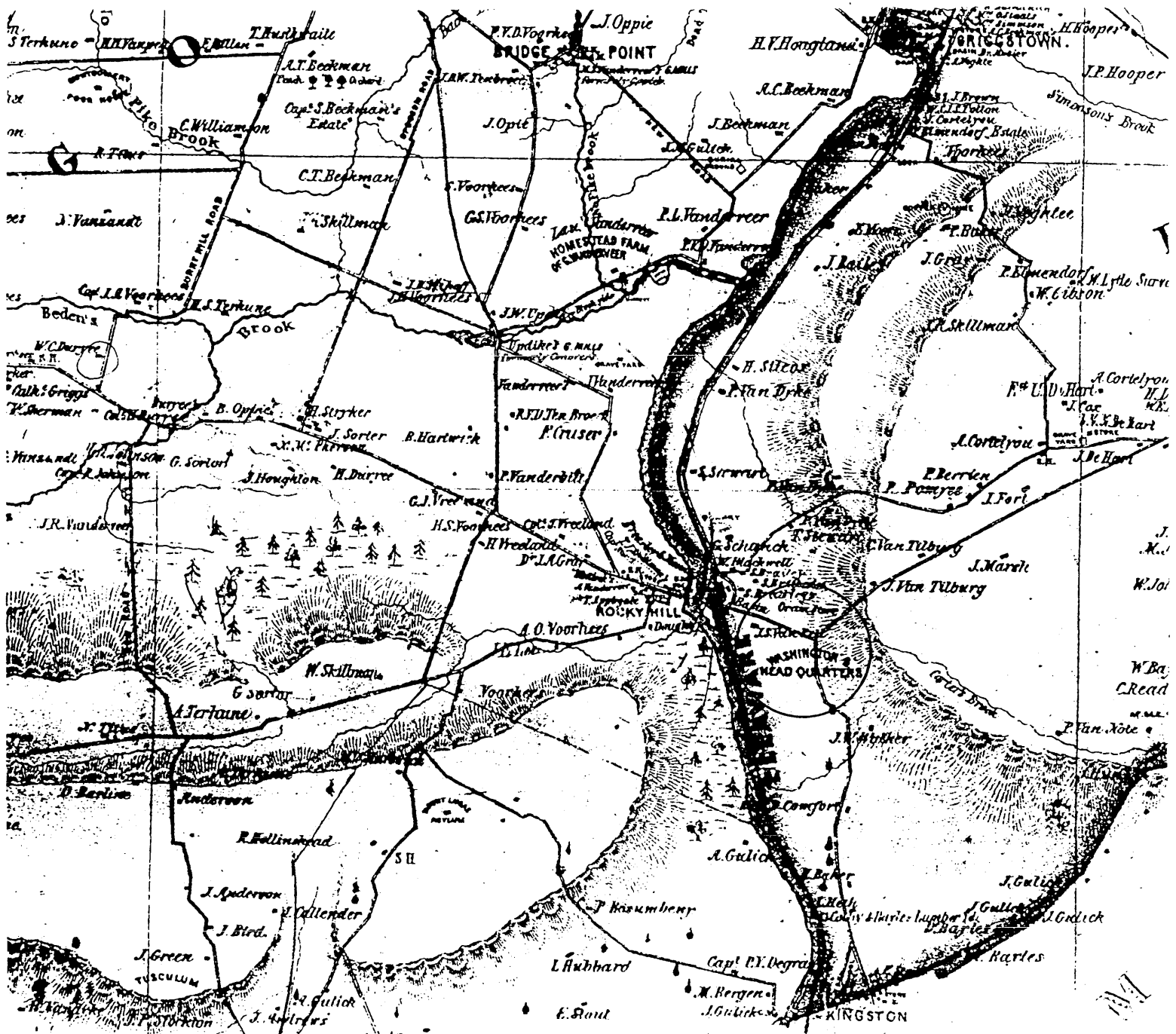


Figure 11. Otley and Keily's 1850 map of Somerset County identifies Rockingham as the home of J.S. Van Pelt and as Washington's Headquarters.

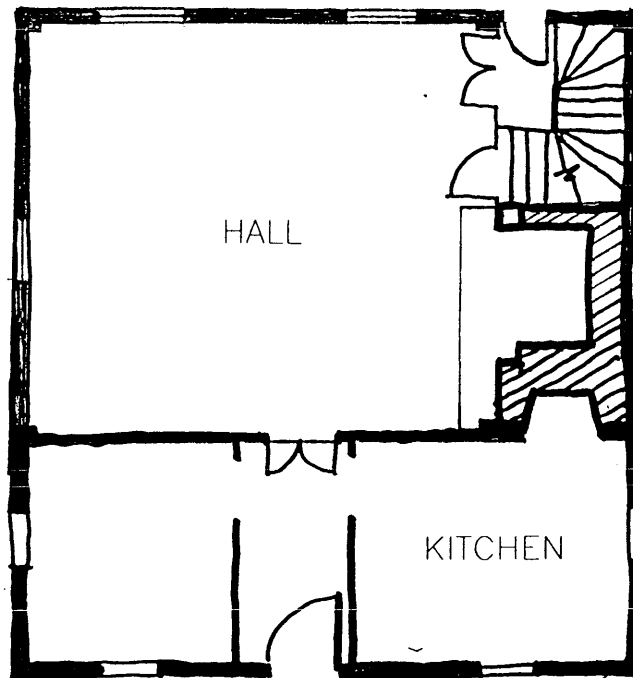
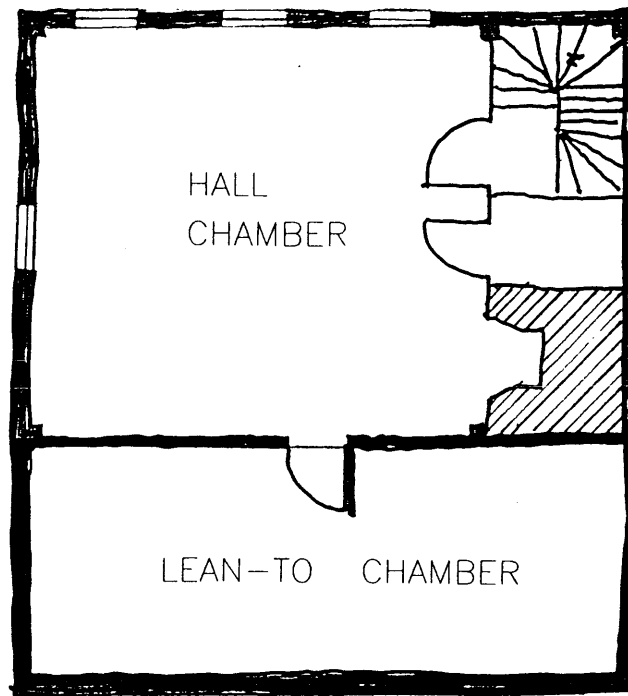


Figure 30. Plans of Stage I house.

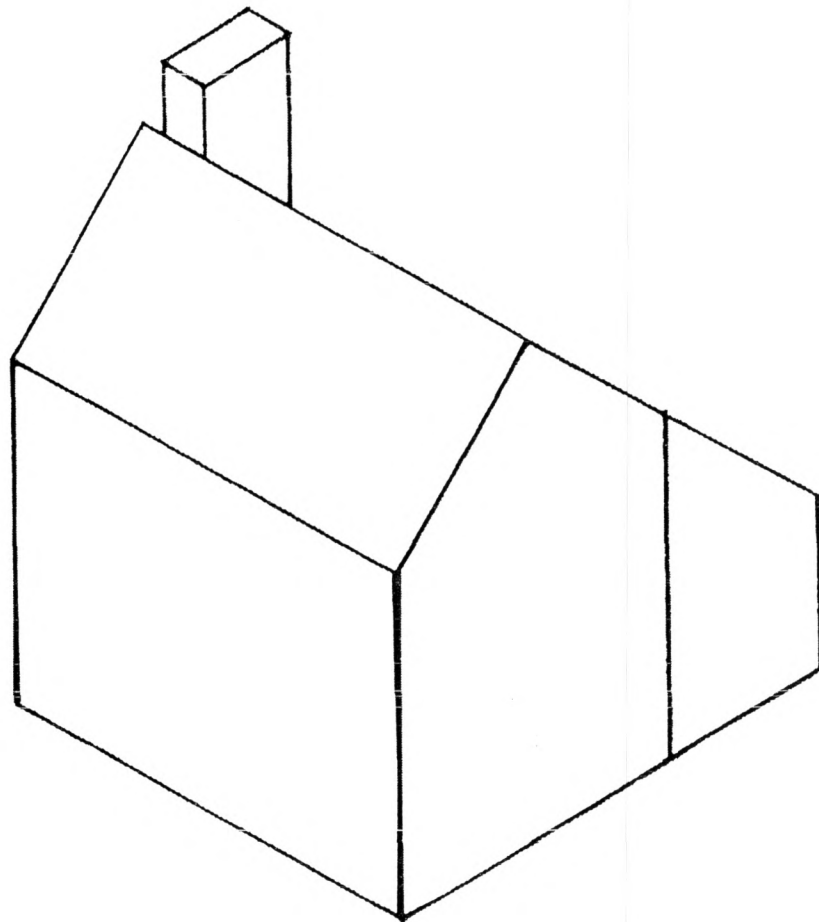
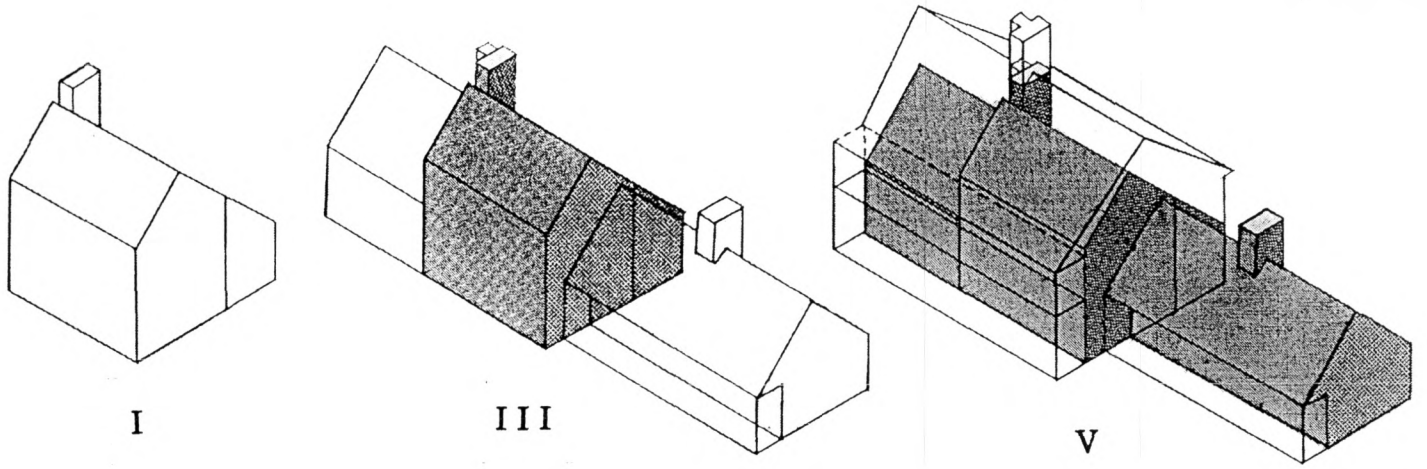


Figure 31. Rockingham, Stage I

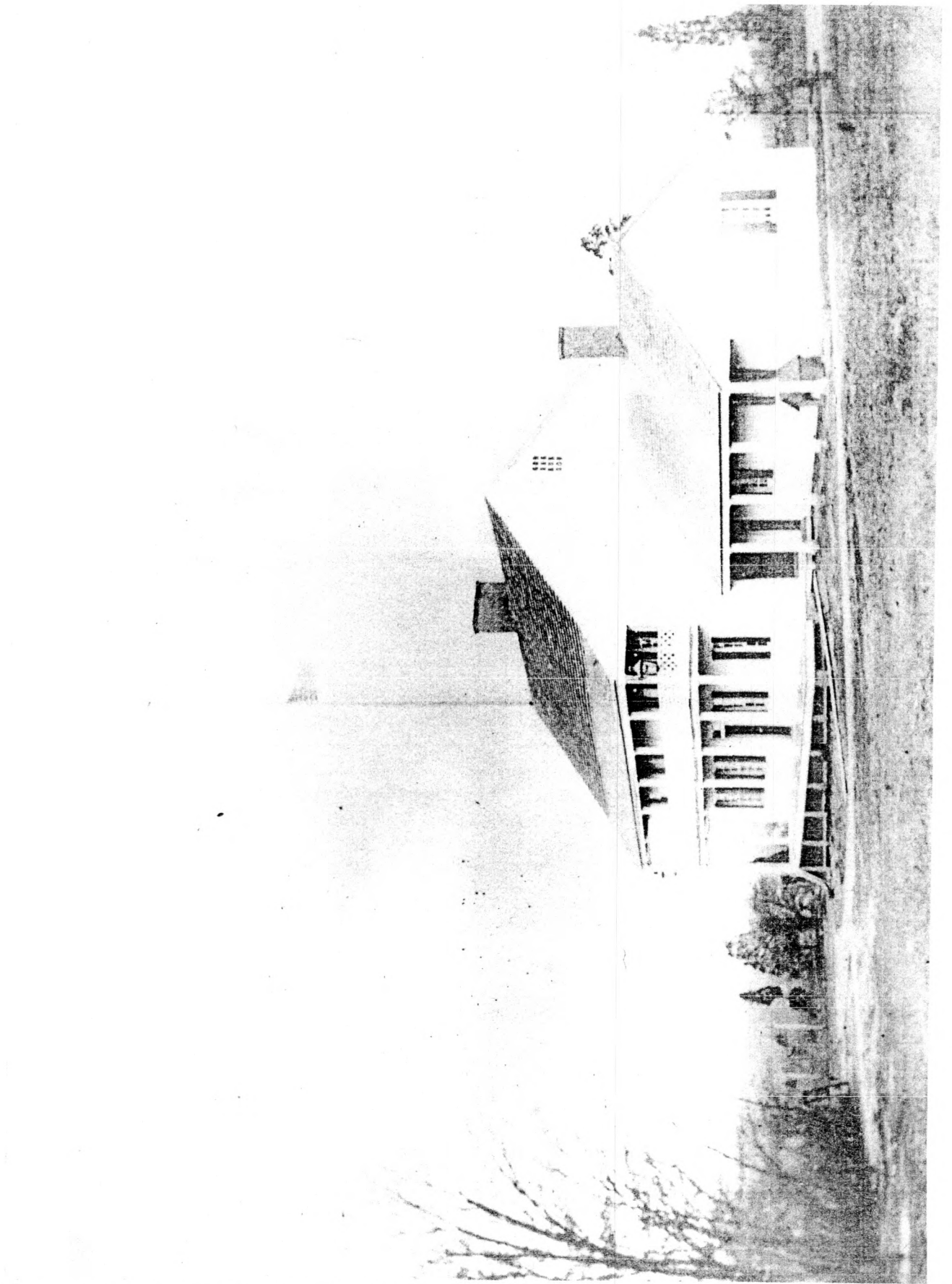


Figure 36. Rockingham from the south at its second site. Note the distinct line between the main roof and the roof of the newly constructed piazza.

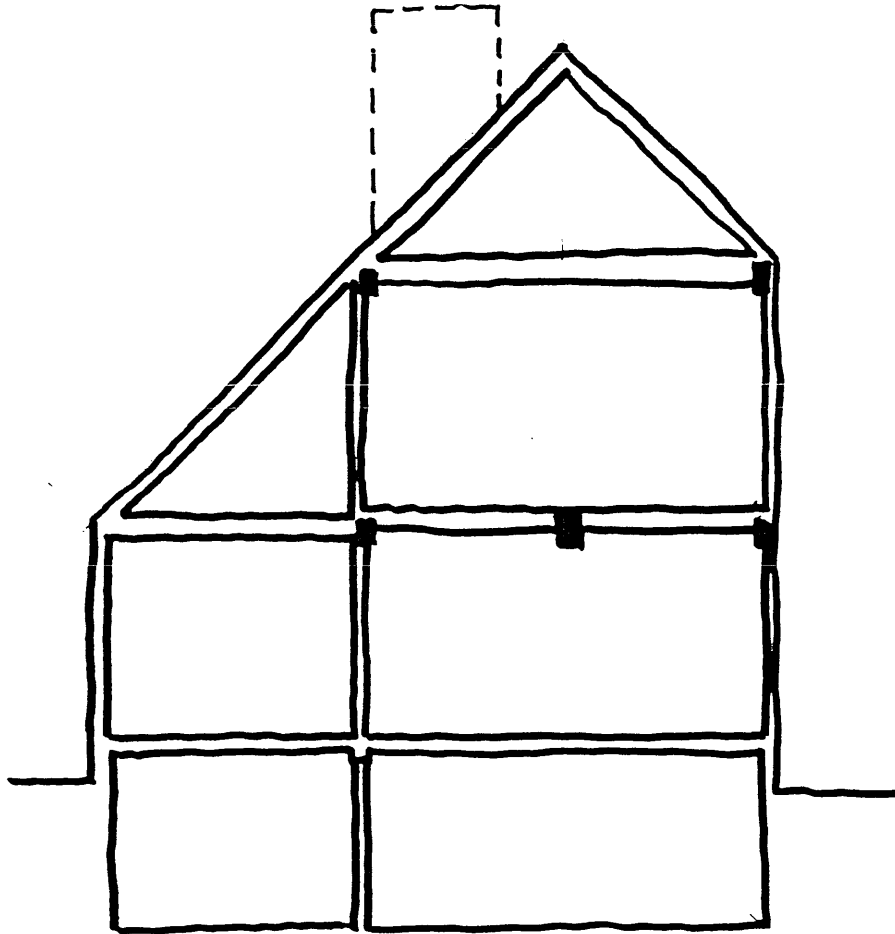


Figure 40. Section through Stage I house.

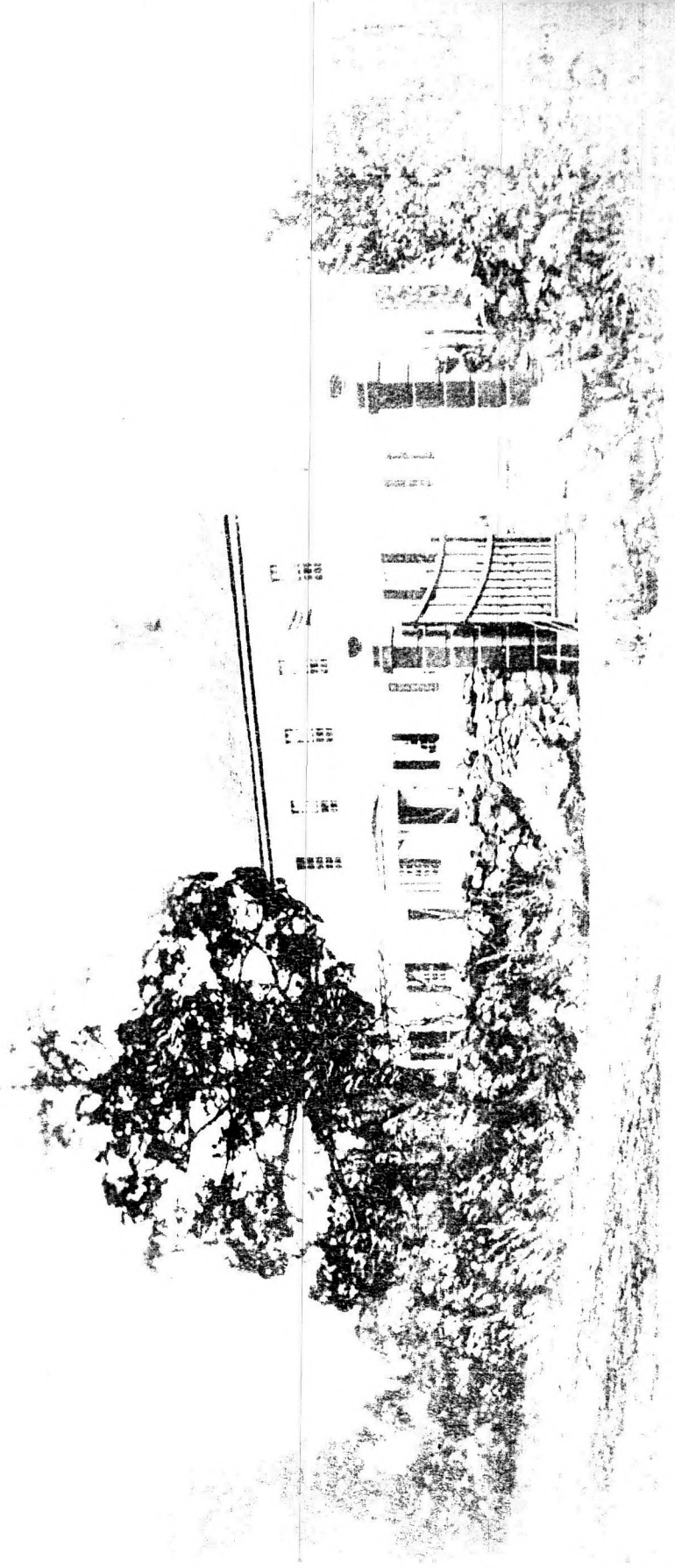


Figure 42. Rockingham on its second site: view from Route 518.



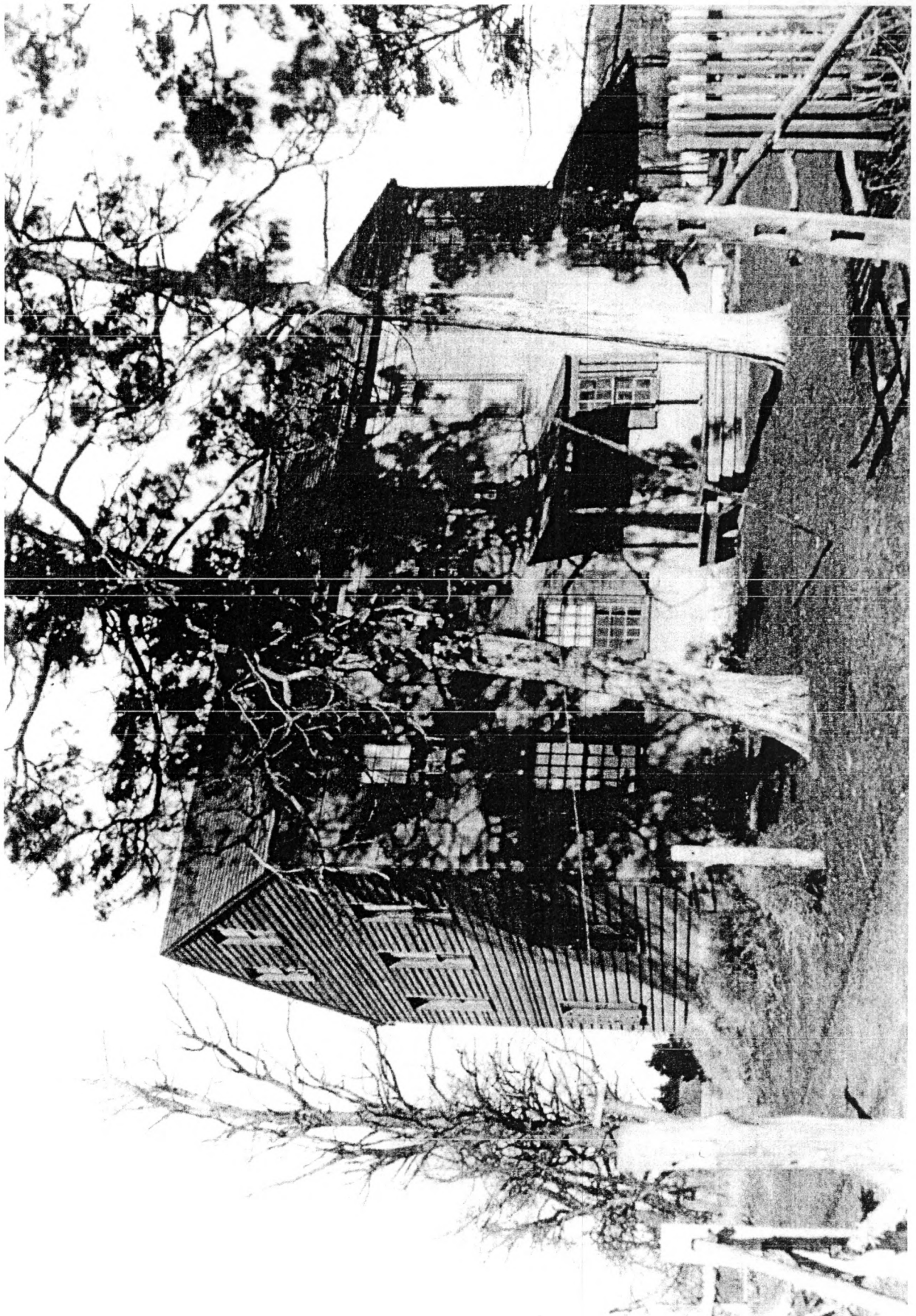


Figure 60. Late 19th century view of the south facade (piazza side.)

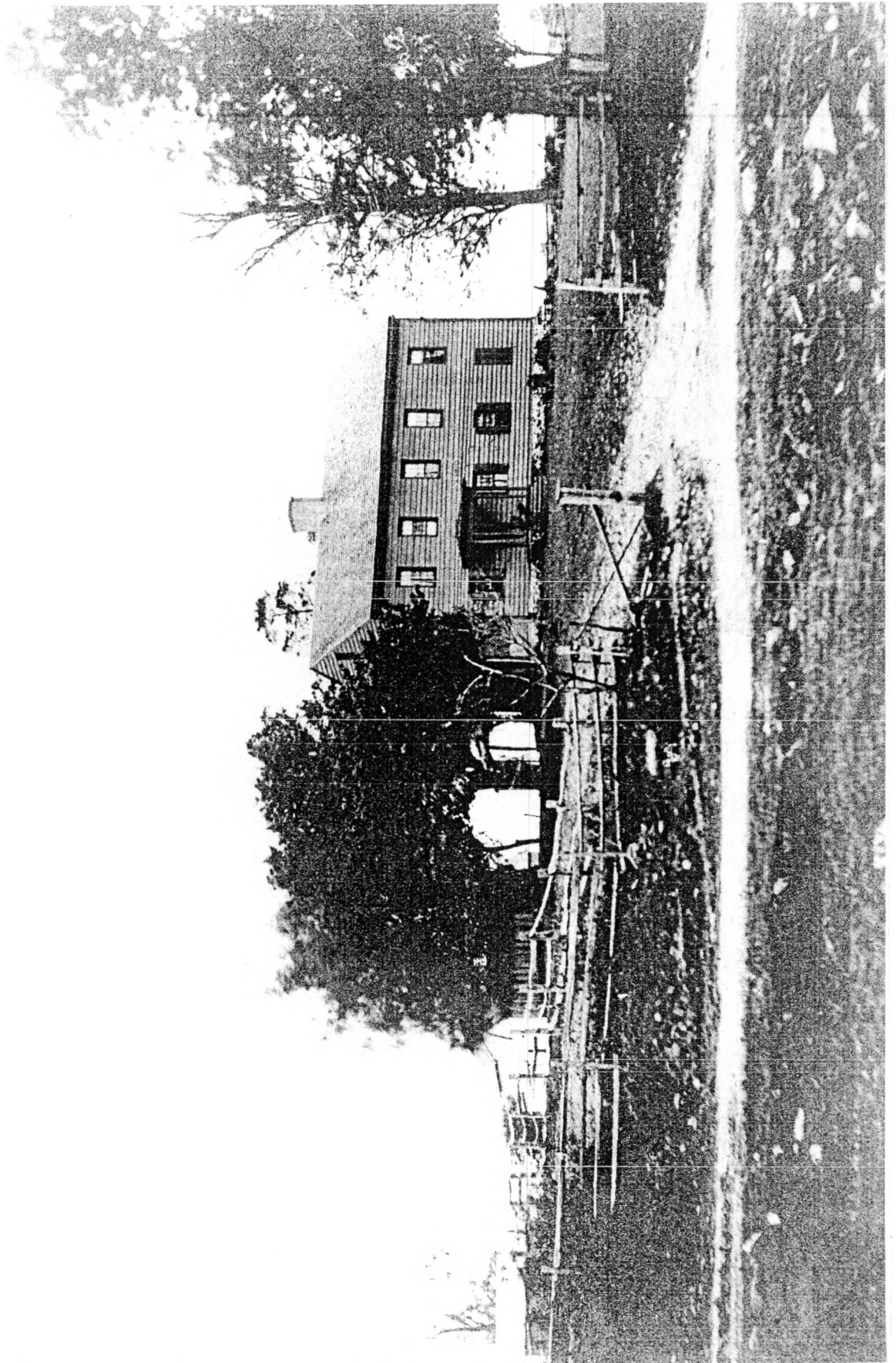


Figure 61. Late 19th century view of the north facade (lean-to side.)

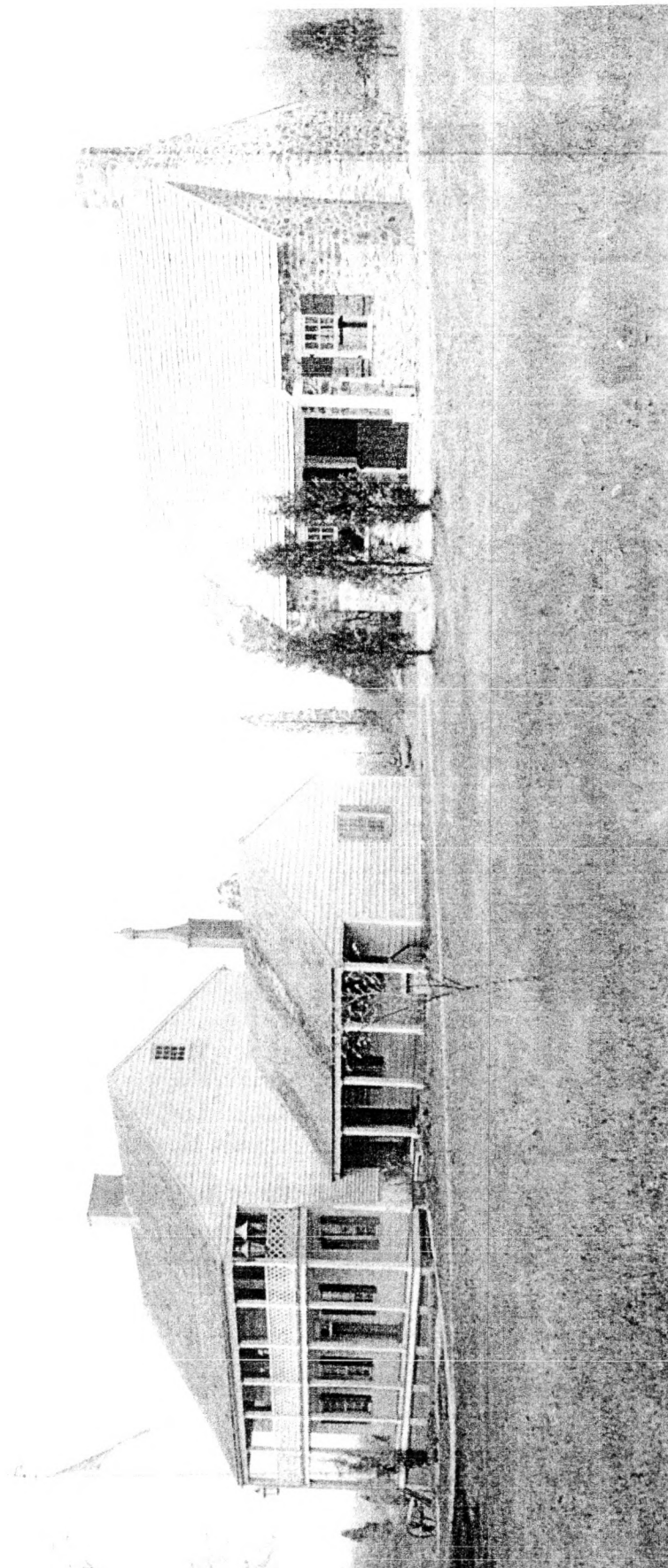


Figure 66. Flush boarding at south wall. View of Rockingham at its second site prior to 1912.



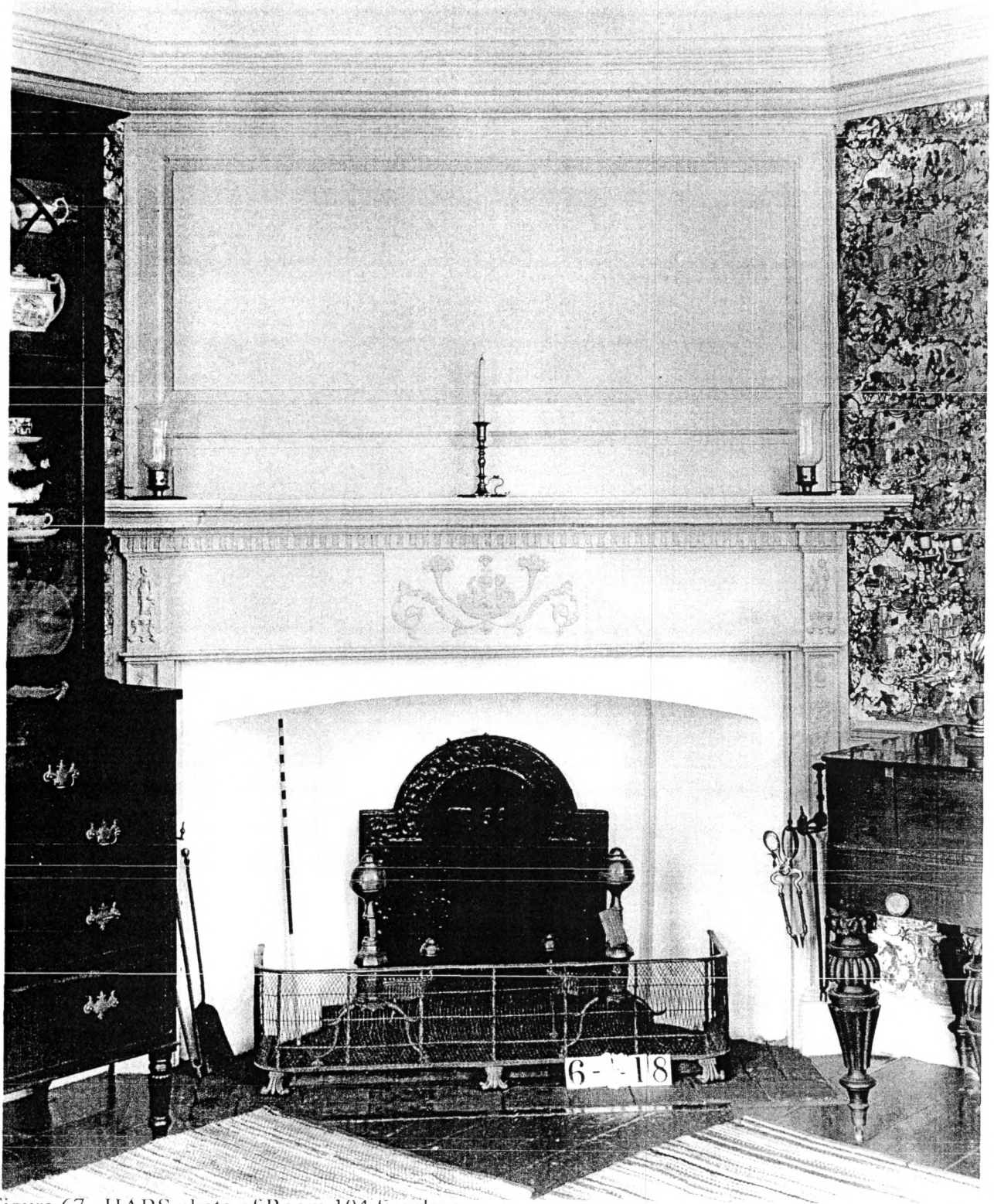


Figure 67. HABS photo of Room 104 fireplace.

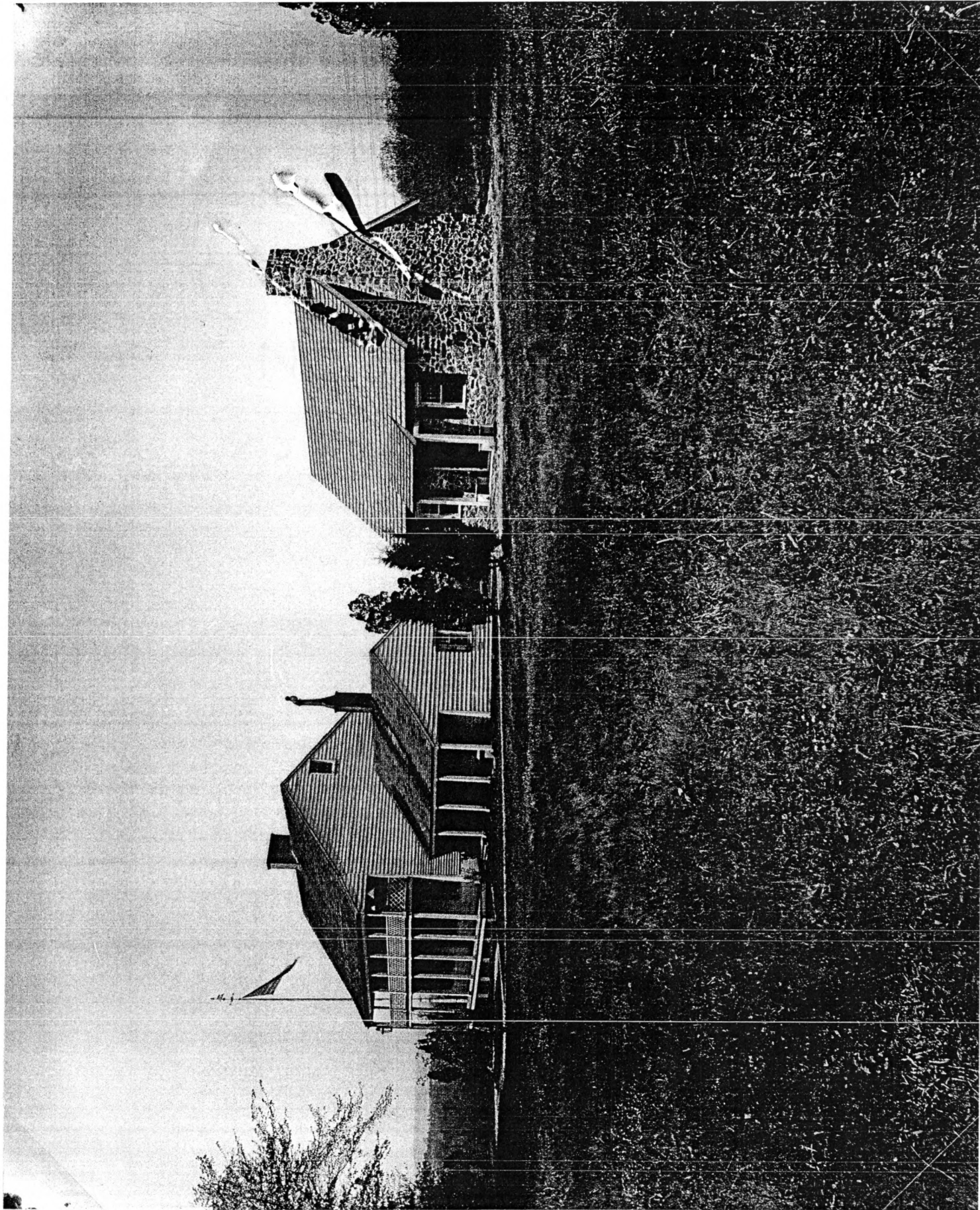


Figure 70. Rockingham from the southeast, ca. 1901 - 1912.



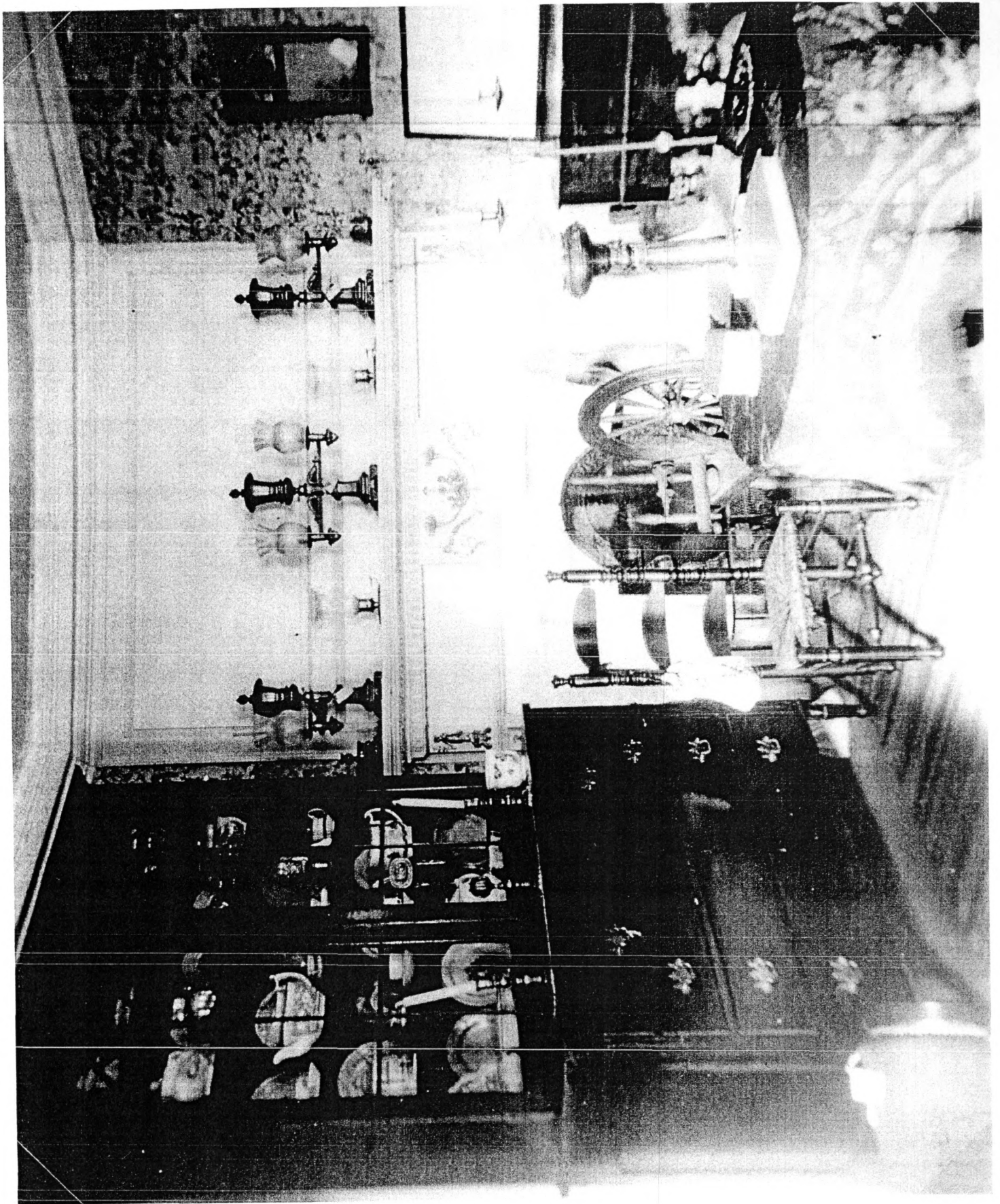


Figure 72. Parlor 104 during the Washington Headquarters period.



Figure 73. Dining Room 106 during the Washington Headquarters Association period.



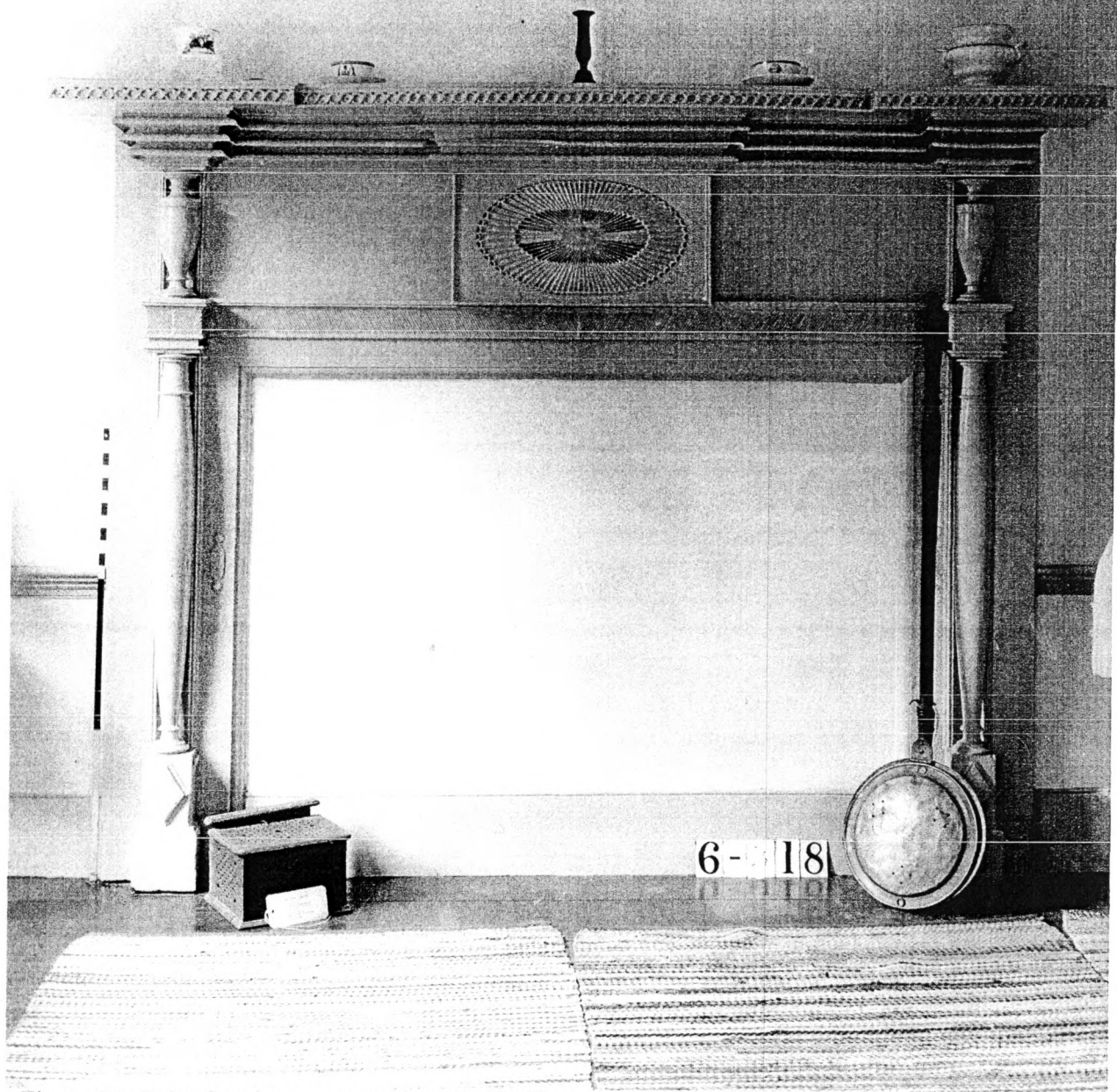


Figure 74. False fireplace surround installed in Chamber 204. HABS photo.



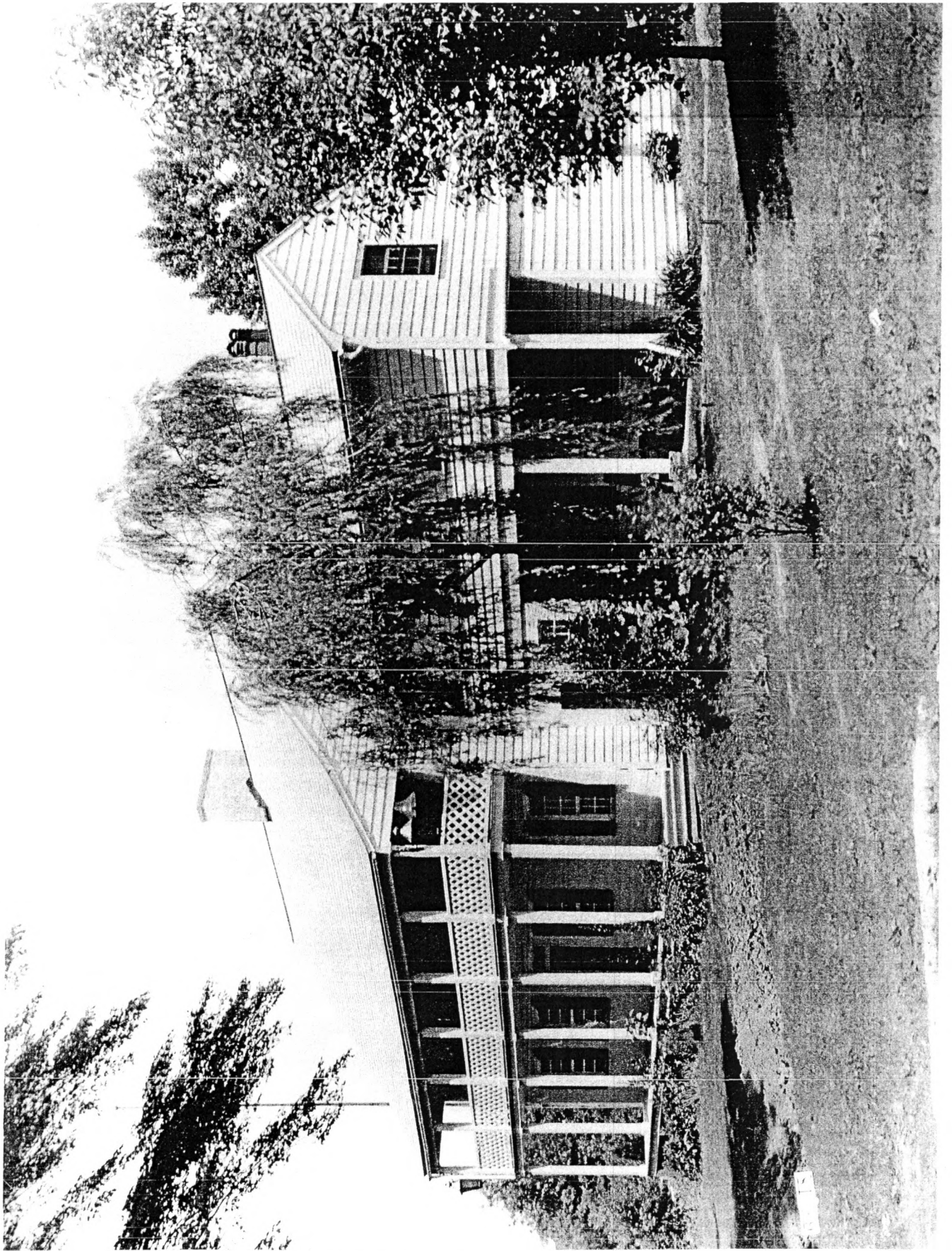


Figure 78. Historic American Buildings Survey photo of the north (piazza) side.

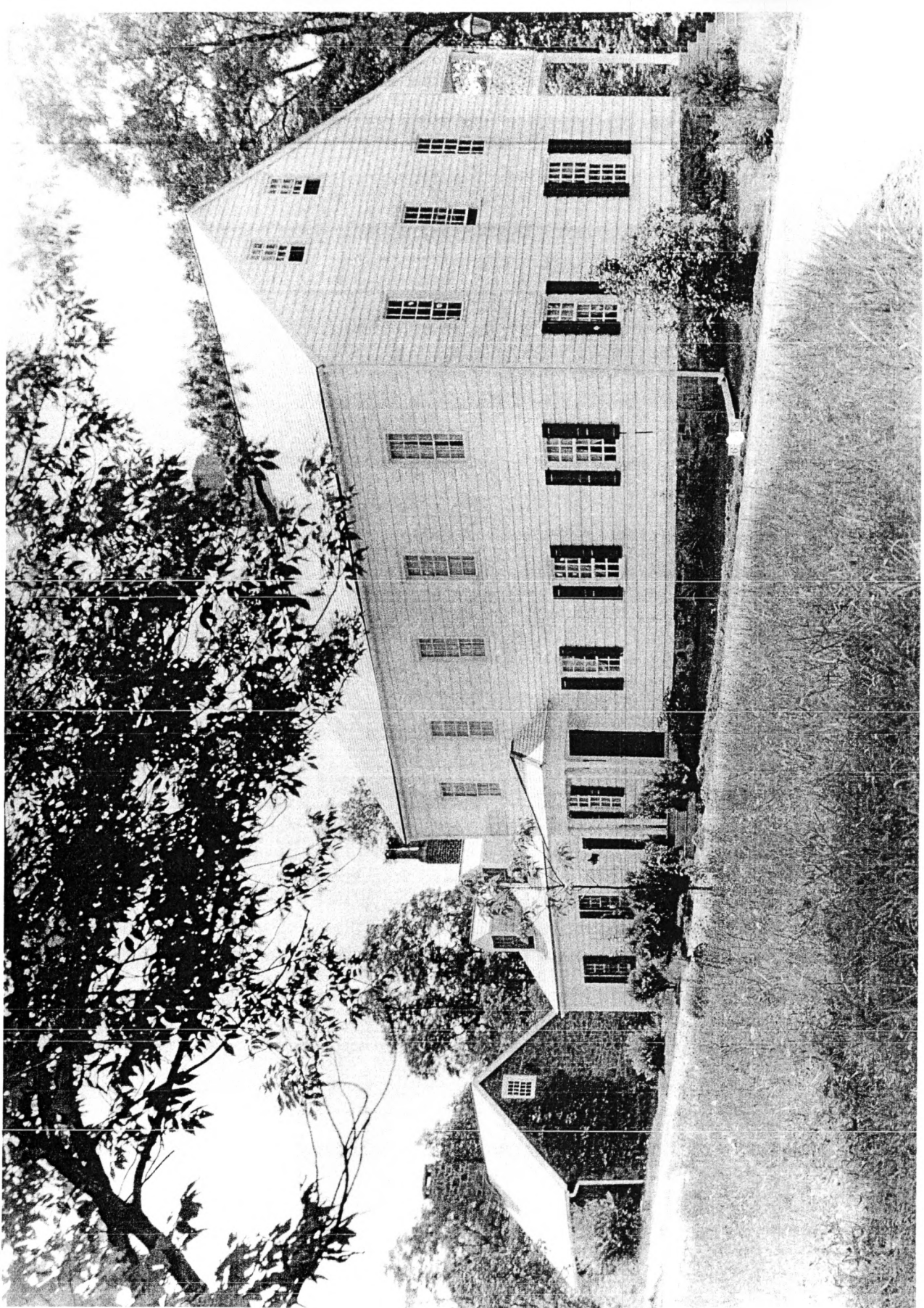


Figure 79. Elevation of north (current south) side. HABS photo.



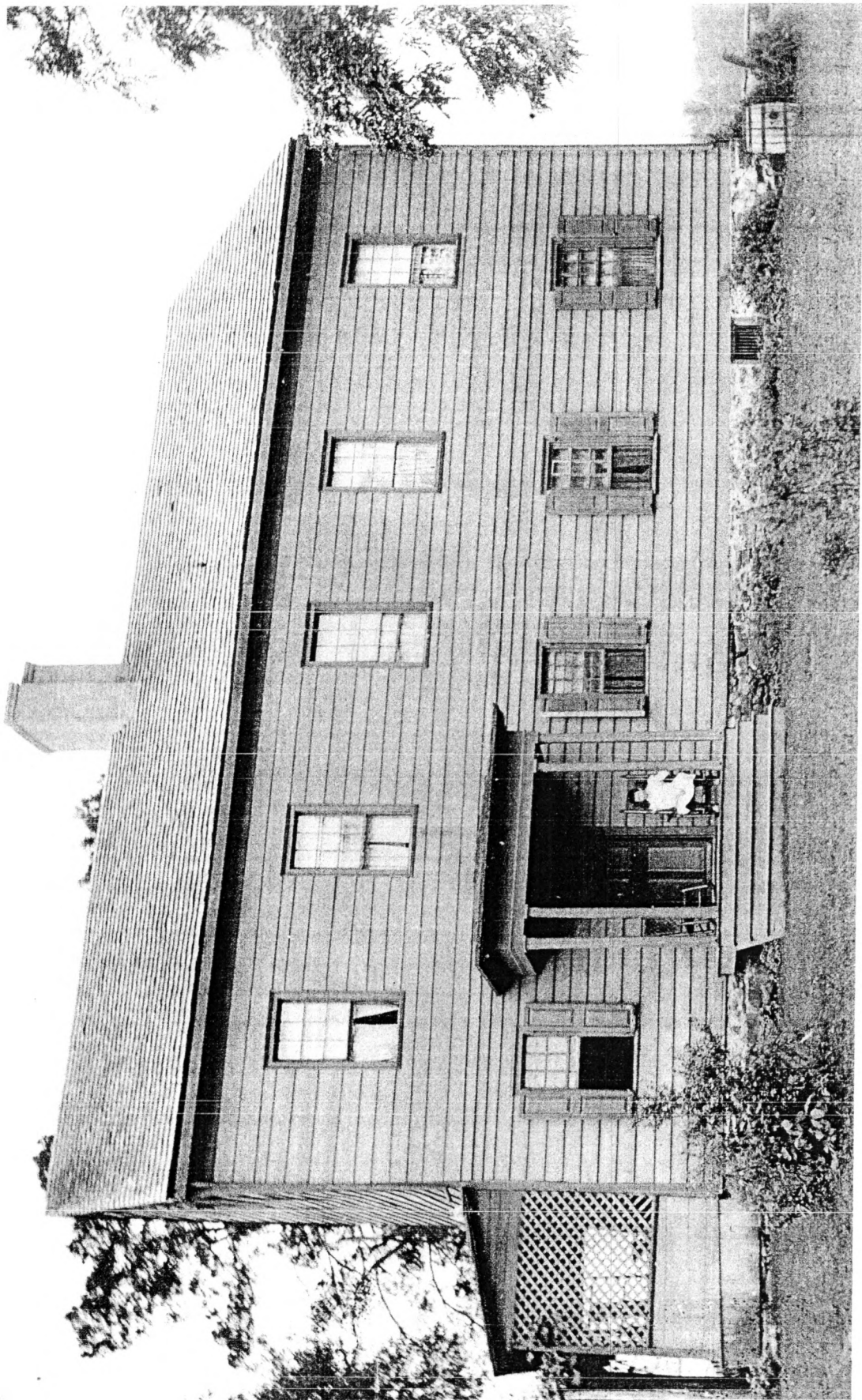


Figure 80. Close-up of the north (lean-to) side, fourth quarter of the nineteenth century.



Figure 86. Corner cupboard in Room 101. Photo ca. 1920, from the WHA files. This corner cupboard is not original to Rockingham, and is currently in room 102. The paint has been stripped. This photo appears to show the original board partition still in place at Room 101.





Figure 87. The corner cupboard in a different location in Room 101, and without the drapery. HABS photo.

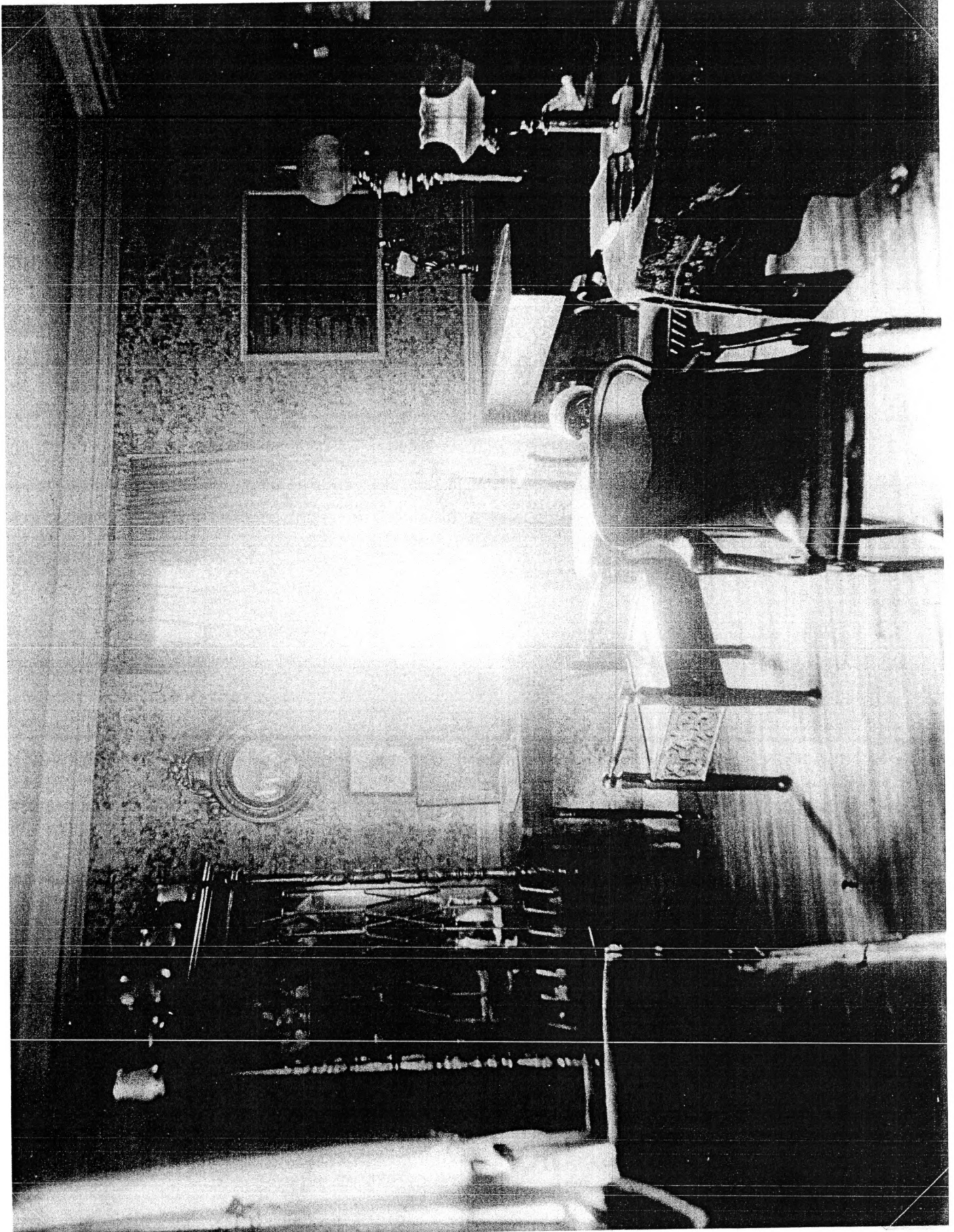


Figure 88. Parlor 104 during the Washington Headquarters Association period.





Figure 90. Dining Room 104 fireplace. HABS photo.

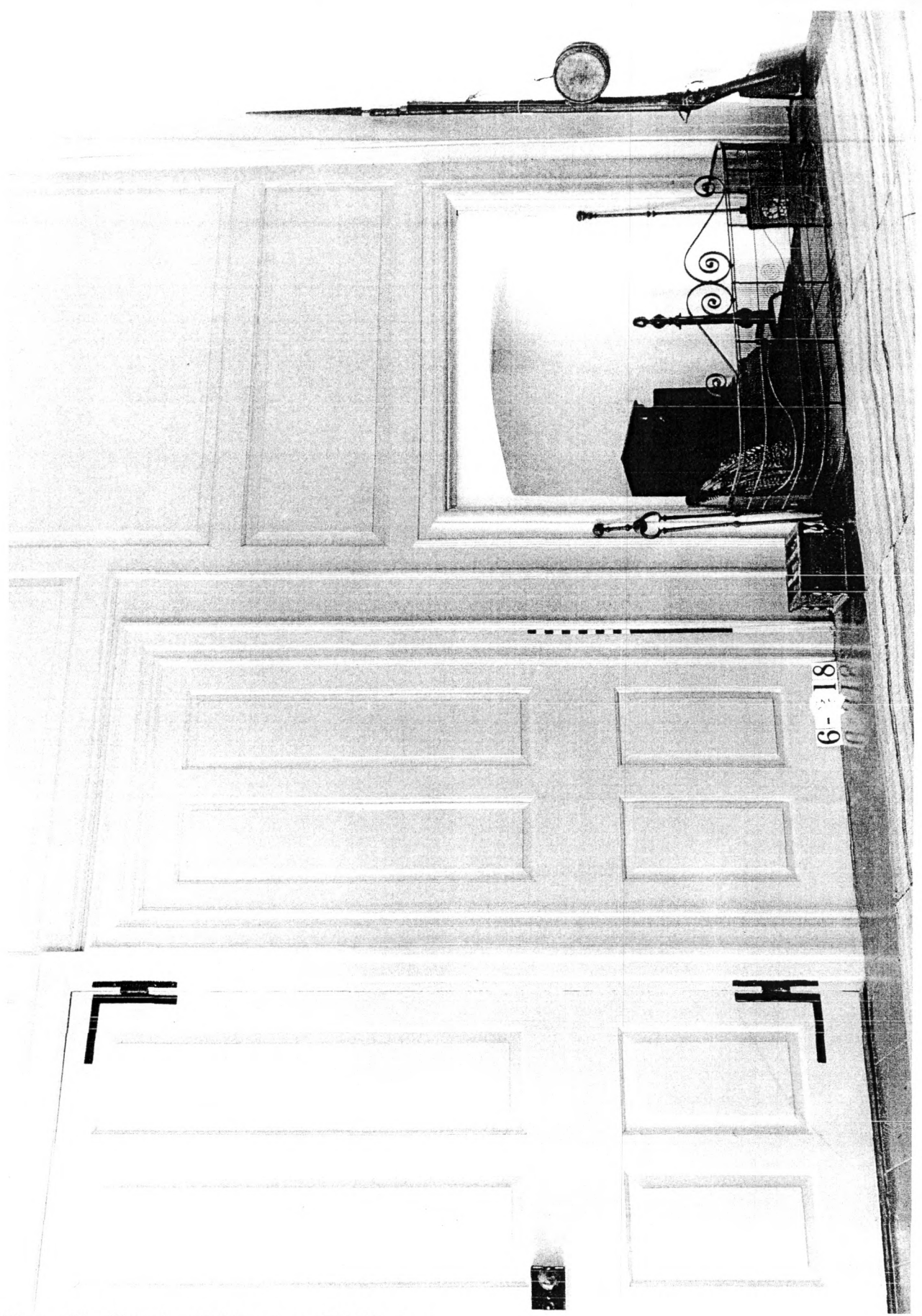


Figure 91. Chamber 207 fireplace. HABS photo.



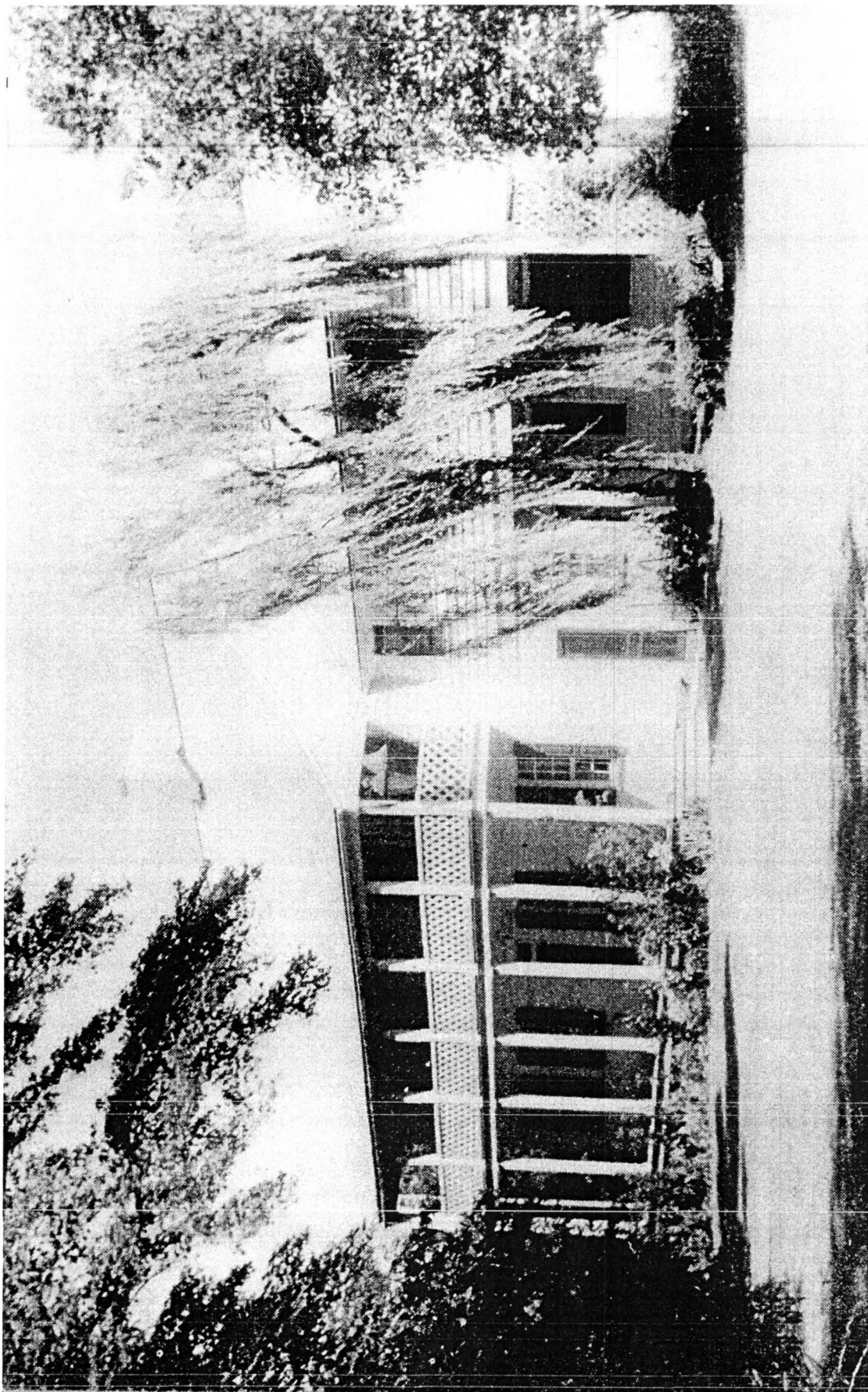
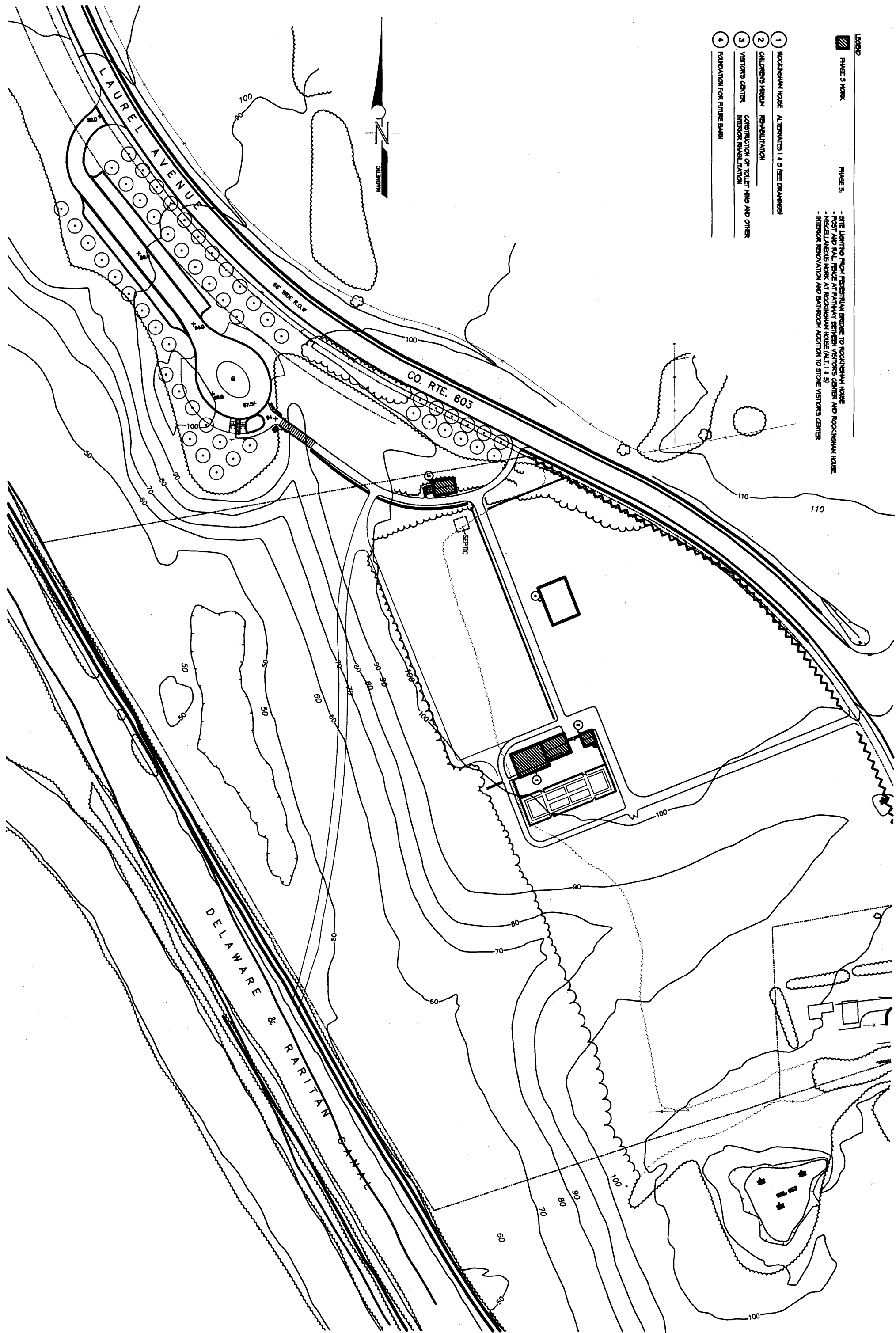


Figure 92. Rockingham ca. 1920. Photo from the collection of the NJ Historical Society.



- LEGEND**
- 1 ROCKINGHAM HOUSE ALTERNATIVES 1 & 5 (SEE DRAWINGS)
  - 2 CHILDREN'S MUSEUM RENOVATION
  - 3 VISITORS CENTER CONSTRUCTION OF TOILET WNS AND OTHER INTERIOR RENOVATION
  - 4 FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE BARN

**PHASE 5:**

- SITE LIGHTING FROM PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE TO ROCKINGHAM HOUSE
- POST AND RAIL FENCE AT PATHWAY BETWEEN VISITORS CENTER AND ROCKINGHAM HOUSE
- MISCELLANEOUS WORK AT ROCKINGHAM HOUSE (ALT. 1 & 5)
- INTERIOR RENOVATION AND BATHROOM ADDITION TO STONE VISITORS CENTER

**ROCKINGHAM HISTORIC SITE**  
 D&R CANAL STATE PARK  
 SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

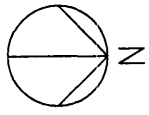
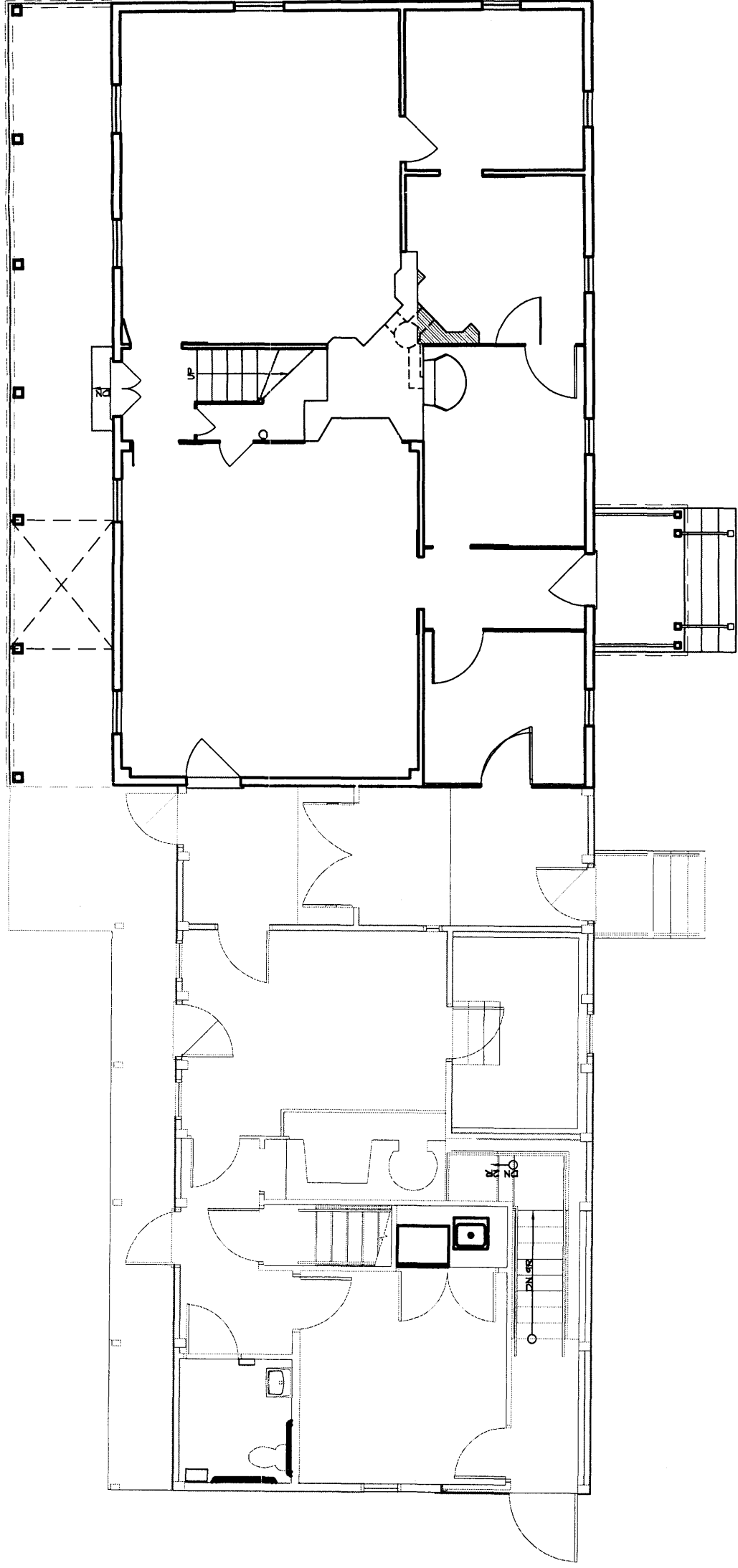
**HMR ARCHITECTS**

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 821 Alexander Road, Princeton, NJ 08540  
 T 609.452.1070 F 609.452.1074

SCALE: NTS  
 DRAWN BY: MCA  
 DATE: 11-10-2009

**SITE PLAN**

**S-1**



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**ROCKINGHAM HOUSE**  
 SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

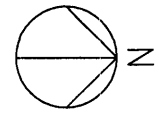
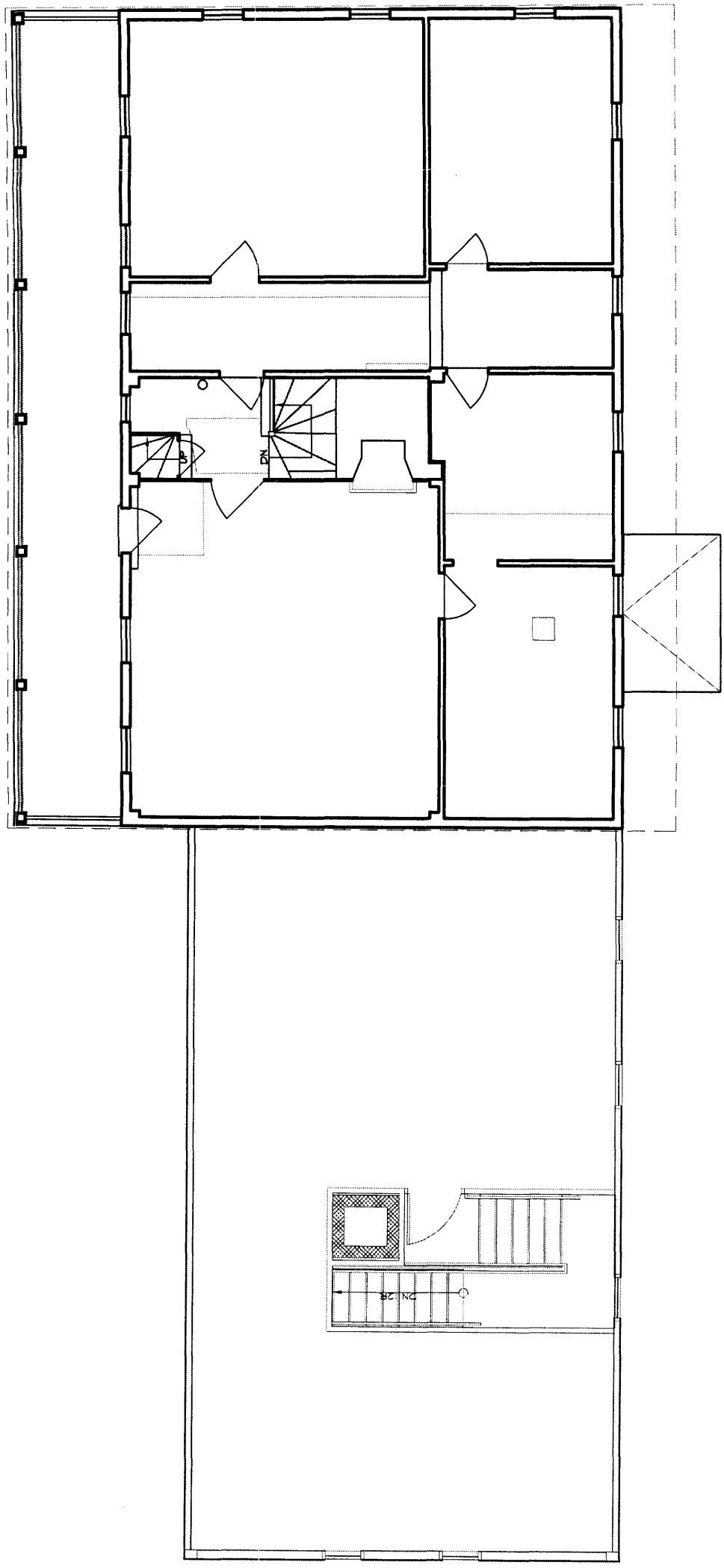
**HMR**  
 ARCHITECTS

HOLT MORGAN RUSSELL ARCHITECTS, PA  
 821 Alexander Road, Suite 115, Princeton, NJ 08540  
 T 609.452.1070 F 609.452.1074

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"  
 DRAWN BY:  
 DATE:

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

A-1



NATIONAL REGISTRATION NOMINATION  
**ROCKINGHAM HOUSE**  
 SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**HMR**

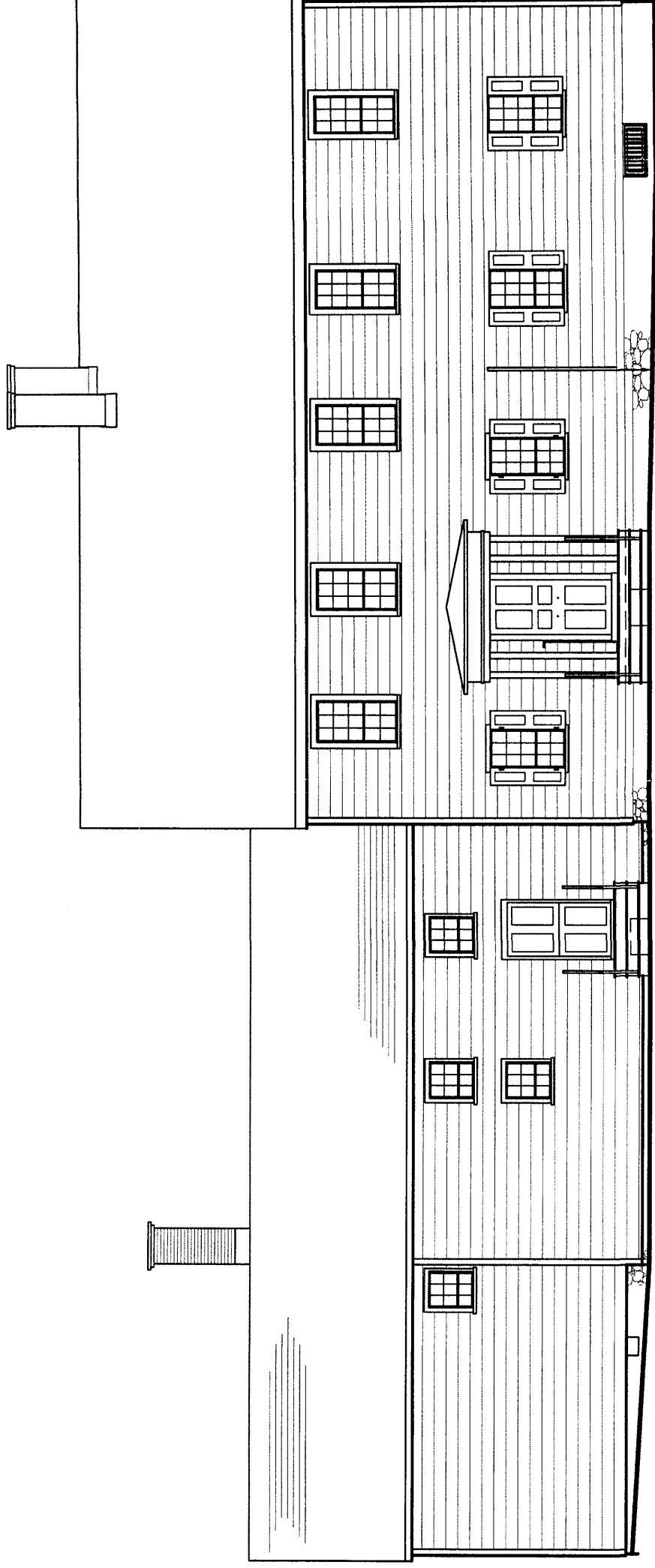
ARCHITECTS

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FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"  
 DRAWN BY:  
 DATE:

A-2



NATIONAL REGISTRATION NOMINATION  
**ROCKINGHAM HOUSE**

SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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821 Alexander Road, Suite 115, Princeton, NJ 08540  
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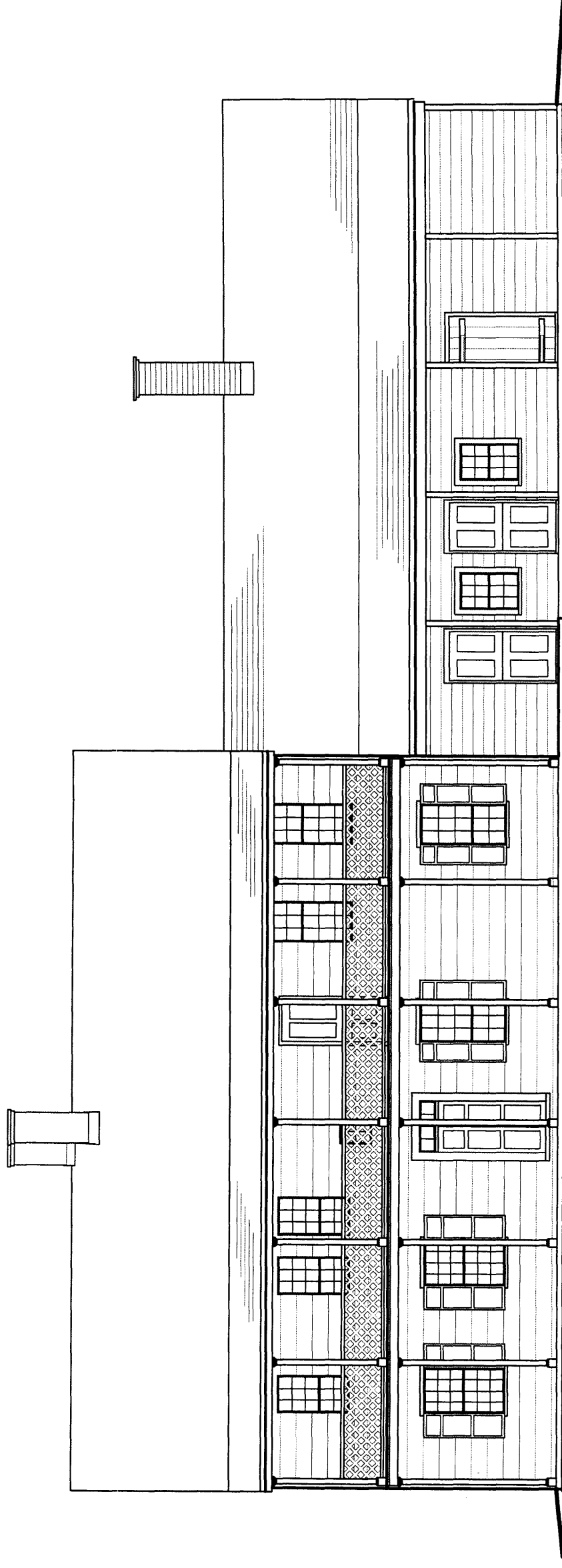
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DRAWN BY:

DATE:

EXTERIOR ELEVATION - NORTH

A-3



NATIONAL REGISTRATION NOMINATION  
**ROCKINGHAM HOUSE**  
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**HMR**

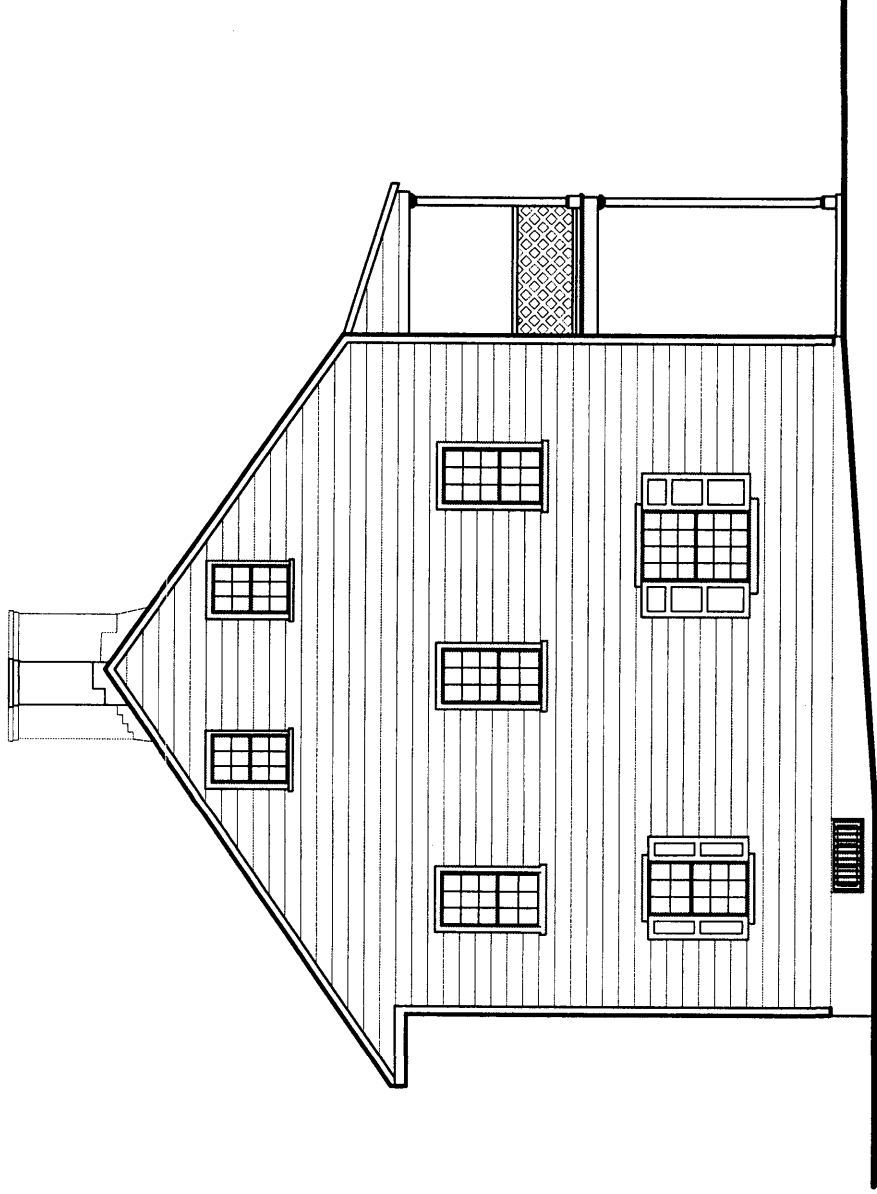
ARCHITECTS

HOLT MORGAN RUSSELL ARCHITECTS, PA  
821 Alexander Road, Suite 115, Princeton, NJ 08540  
T 609.452.1070 F 609.452.1074

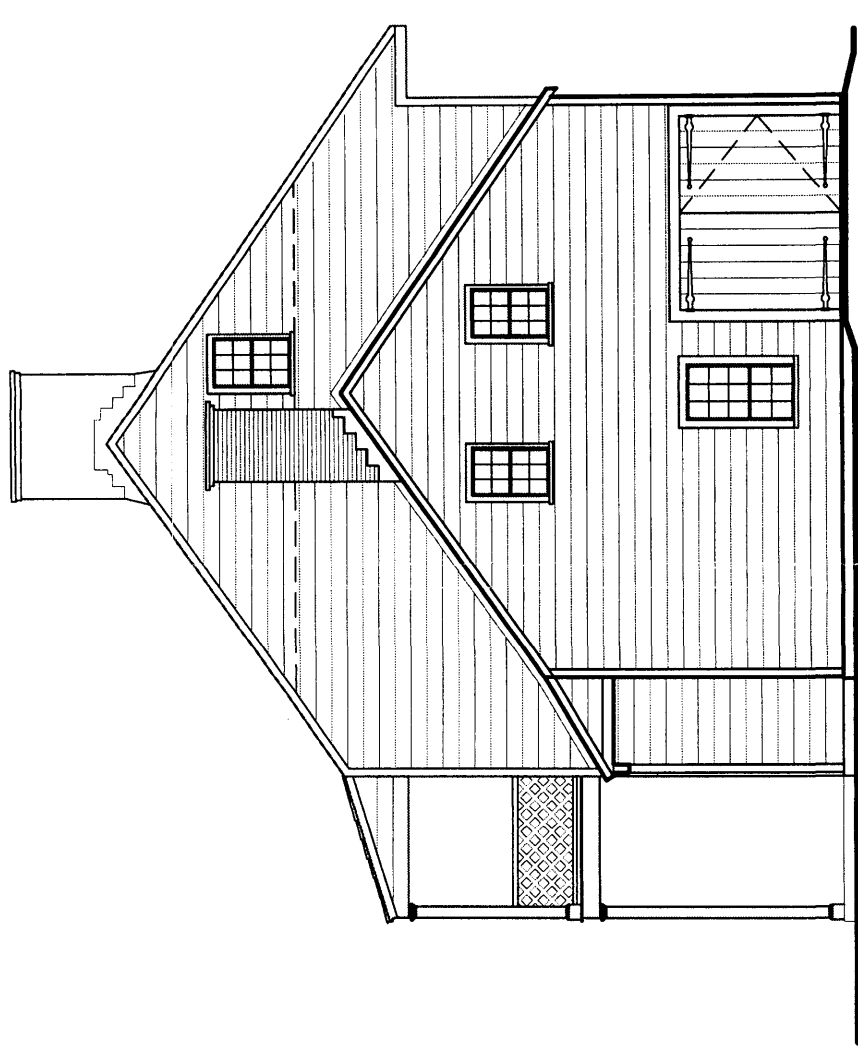
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DRAWN BY:  
DATE:

EXTERIOR ELEVATION - NORTH

A-4



WEST ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

NATIONAL REGISTRATION NOMINATION  
**ROCKINGHAM HOUSE**

SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**HMR**

ARCHITECTS

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 821 Alexander Road, Suite 115, Princeton, NJ 08540  
 T 609.452.1070 F 609.452.1074

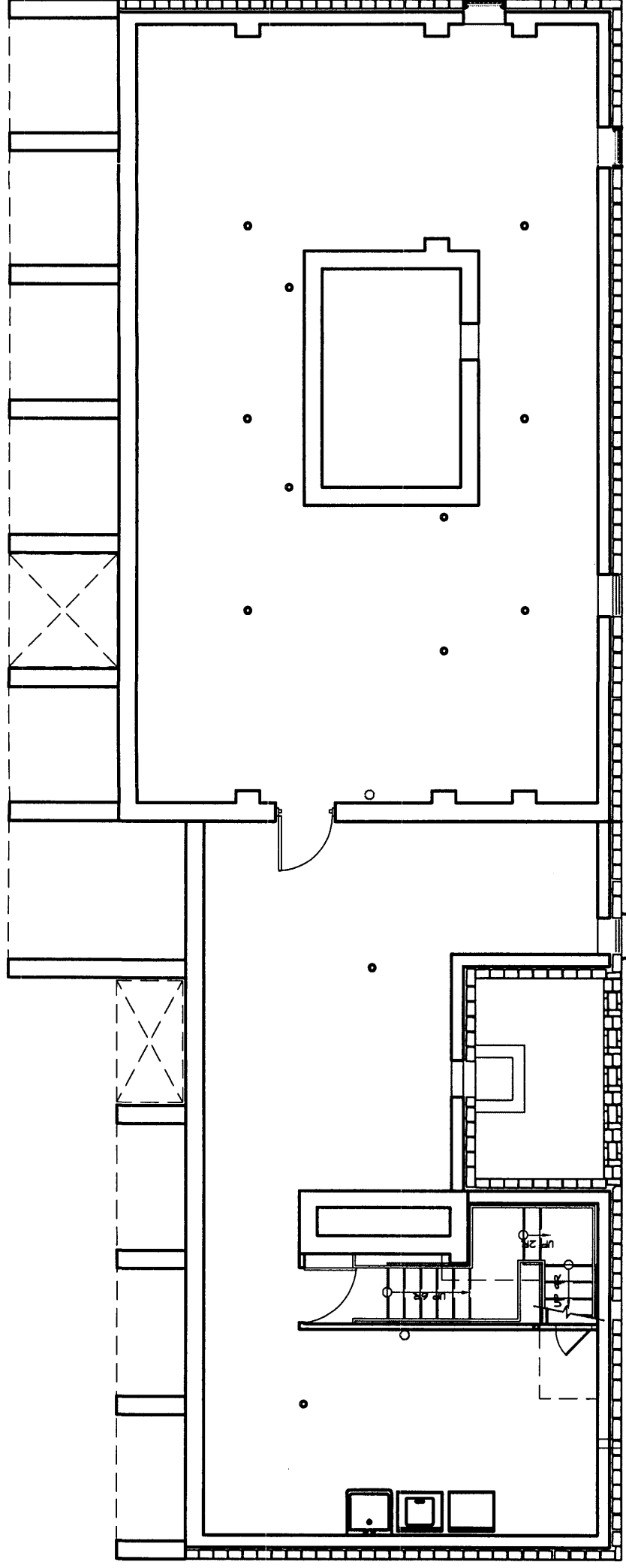
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DRAWN BY:

DATE:

EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS - EAST & WEST

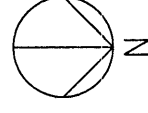
A-5



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 ARCHITECTS

HOLT MORGAN RUSSELL ARCHITECTS, PA  
 821 Alexander Road, Suite 115, Princeton, NJ 08540  
 T 609.452.1070 F 609.452.1074

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

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DATE:

**BASEMENT PLAN**

**A-0**