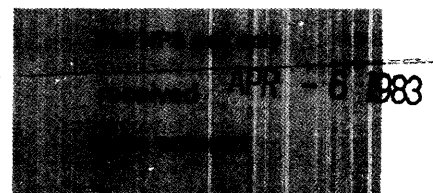


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Grisamore House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 111-113 West Chestnut Street N/A not for publication

city, town Jeffersonville N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Indiana code 018 county Clark code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Rosemary Prentice and Harvey Russ

street & number 707 W. Riverside Drive

city, town Jeffersonville N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47130

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clark County Courthouse, County Recorder's Office

street & number Court Avenue

city, town Jeffersonville state Indiana 47130

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic American Buildings Survey (IN-24-18) West Riverside Historic District,
title Indiana Preservation Plan has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1934, 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress;
Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

city, town Washington, D.C.; Indianapolis, Indiana state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Grisamore House, built in 1837, is Federal in style with Greek Revival details. It is a brick, two-and-one-half story plus basement, double house with the front facade featuring three stucco-covered, two-story Doric columns in antis, and recessed front entrances with balconies above. The detached house stands flush with the sidewalk. The lawn and gardens are to the rear or south of the house. The main facade faces north and the house fronts on Chestnut Street. The north elevation is laid up in Flemish bond with alternating headers and stretchers. The east and west side walls and rear wall are laid in common bond. Paired chimneys top the east and west walls of the house. The exterior walls are 12" thick while the interior, load-bearing walls are 8" thick.

While the north facade or main elevation of the house is essentially a six bay facade, it is divided into three sections. The center section is marked by a triangular pediment, with elliptical fanlight supported by three colossal Doric order columns with echinus. This major focal element is contrasted by the two elevated, recessed entrances of the first story and the corresponding projecting balconies of the second story. The main entrance doorway composition consists of a flattened elliptical, three-paned fanlight with centered keystone. Two-panel sidelights flank the present glazed door on the east entrance. Originally, this entrance contained a solid wood door with two vertical panels. The main door lintel and frame are comprised of heavily molded wood members. The vertical supports are topped by blocks with raised, centered rondels.

Two, seven-step stairways, with ornamental wrought iron railings and balusters on the outside edge, curve from the sidewalk to the first story level. The steps terminate at an open landing constructed of large cut sandstone blocks which have been covered with a slip coat of Portland cement. The east recessed entrance and porch has been stuccoed on both levels. Above each entrance is the wood floor of the balcony, which extends to and ties into the three columns. The floor joists for these porches were extended back into the structural system of the hall floor. Originally, these porches were finished with bowed wrought iron railings similar to those of the curved entrance staircases below.

Further highlighting the rather plain Federal facade is an elaborate cornice composed to stepped brick in a molded dentil that extends the width of the facade (see photo #7). This unusual detail is also used inside the triangular pediment. The low-pitched roof, with end gables, originally was finished with wooden shingles which were later covered with tin. Subsequently, the tin roof was covered with several layers of asphalt shingles. Two pitched roof dormers, one to each unit, are located on the south rear elevation.

The basement rises about half its height above the sidewalk grade and originally housed the kitchen, which has since been converted to a furnace room. The first floors were living and dining areas; the second floors consisted of three bedrooms, back porch, and balcony. The back bedrooms have been made into bathrooms. The third floor provided a bedroom and storage room. Each unit contains a side hallway with a wide, open staircase leading from the first floor to the third floor. A molded, curving hand rail tops two tapered balusters per step. The step ends are finished with sawn closed scrolls. Each of the rooms in the living areas on the first and second floors had fireplaces consisting of cast metal arched plates with wide surrounds. The composition was finished with paneled and molded mantel units supported by partially engaged columns. These elements were removed from the west unit in 1898, but remain in the east unit. Several rooms of the east unit retain built-in clothes presses and cabinets which may be original.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1837

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance ~~(in one paragraph)~~

The Grisamore House in Jeffersonville, Indiana, is significant for its unusual architectural design. Constructed circa 1837, the building is a brick double with a columned and pedimented portico in the center of its main facade. This design gives the structure the appearance of a single-family dwelling. In addition, the smooth brick surfaces of the flanking bays adjacent to the recessed entry and second floor porch provide an interesting contrast of solids and voids. It is the only known structure of its age and type in the state. The Grisamore House is currently leased by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, which is repairing the damage caused by a 1981 fire.

The property on which the structure is located was purchased by Wilson and David Grisamore in 1837. David Grisamore was a brick mason who helped establish St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1836; Wilson left Indiana in 1839 to establish a sugar plantation in LaFourch Parish, Louisiana. Later owners of the home included James Keigwin (circa 1854), a contractor and brickmaker, and his sister, Eliza Keigwin Read, widow of lawyer and bank president, John Read. The Read family retained ownership of the east portion of the home until 1906, when they sold it to Orlena Ogden Fitch, who had rented this portion for some years. The Fitch family maintained ownership of this section for more than 50 years. The west portion of the home was owned by Dr. Lod W. Beckwith, a prominent local physician, and later by John Driscoll, assistant cashier of the Citizen's National Bank. The entire structure was recently leased by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. This state-wide, non-profit preservation organization is restoring the building and plans to locate its southern regional office in the eastern half of the ground floor; the remainder of the building will be leased as office space.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Jeffersonville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	1	0	1	6	0	4	2	3	6	4	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas M. Slade, Director of Preservation Services

organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date 9-30-82

street & number 3402 Boulevard Place telephone 317/926-2301

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana 46208

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3-28-83

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is located within the boundaries of the National Register.

Keeper of the National Register
Attest:
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet The Grisamore House

Item number 7

Page 1

Following a fire in May of 1981, which completely gutted the west one-third of the building and the entire roof, the owner and architect set about rebuilding the damaged sections in accordance with the HABS measured drawings which were executed in 1934. All salvageable interior elements were removed and stored for later re-installation in the repaired building. Work is currently under way, with much of the structural repair already completed. The upper cornice and pediment have been repointed, and the entire roof over the east and center sections of the house has been replaced.

A poured concrete foundation has replaced the stone exterior walls of the basement for the west unit. Also, a cement block wall has been added to the foundation of the interior wall, which stopped the fire, to support the reconstruction of the west unit's interior framing system. This addition was necessitated by the damage sustained by the recessed joist pockets of the load-bearing wall during the fire. The major structural difference between the new construction and the original east two-thirds of the house is that the exterior walls are no longer solid masonry. Instead, a regular wood framing system with a single layer of facing brick was constructed.

The interior surfaces of the brick walls were all originally plastered. The architect has removed all the plaster, exposing the brick, and intends to insulate the interior surfaces of the exterior walls by installing sheet styrofoam with a vapor barrier and drywall. Upon completion of the new wall surface, the original woodwork, which was salvaged, will be reinstalled, and in those places where it was damaged beyond repair, new material replicating the original will be substituted. It is expected that all repairs to the building will be completed by August 1, 1983.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet The Grisamore House

Item number 9

Page 2

"Abstracts of Early Wills & Executors Records, Clark County, Indiana." Indiana Magazine of History. V. 36, No. 3, (September, 1940).

Baird, Capt. Lewis C. Baird's History of Clark County, Indiana. B. F. Bouen & Co. Indianapolis, 1909

Carson, C. K., Publisher. Carson's Directory of the City of Jeffersonville, 1892-93. Vol. VIII. New Albany, Indiana: Ledger Company, Printers, 1892.

Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments Metropolitan Preservation Plan. May, 1973. History of the Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties. Vol. II. Cleveland: L. A. Williams & Co., 1882

Indianapolis News (June 23, 1902) "Jeffersonville is A Hundred Years Old."

Martindale, Ella Catherine Griesemer. The Griesemers. Mohnton, Pa.: Griesemer Family Association, 1980

Peat, Wilbur D. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century (Indianapolis, 1962) pp. 16-17, Plate 20.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

data entered

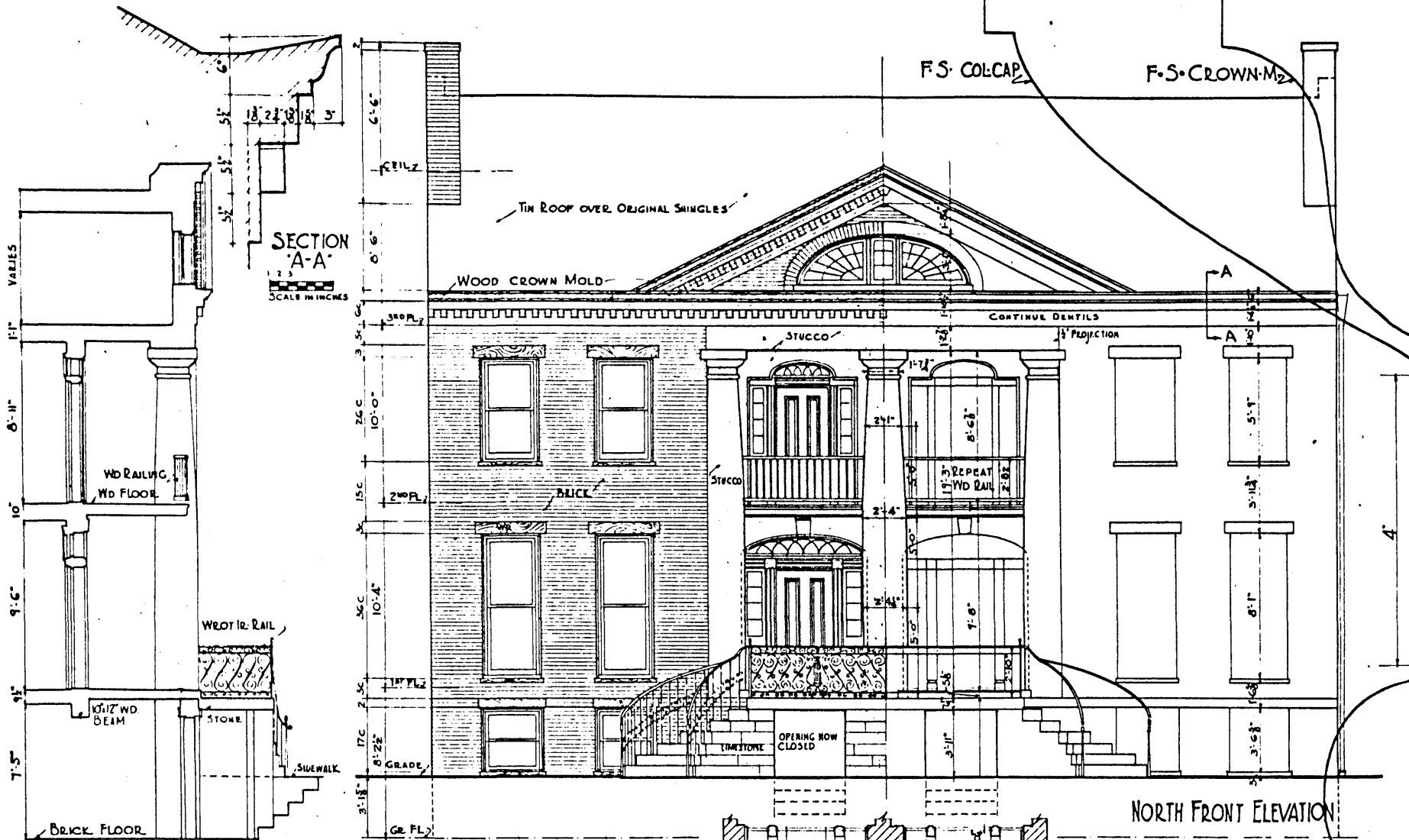
Continuation sheet The Grisamore House

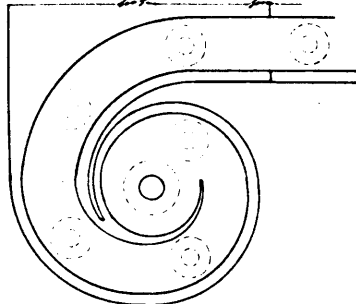
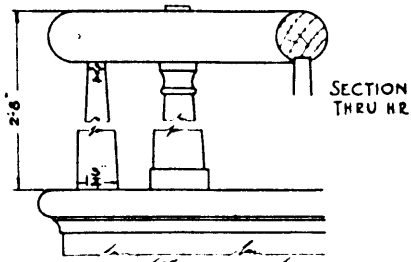
Item number 10

Page 3

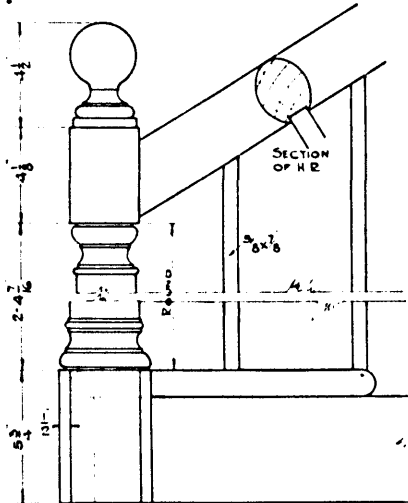
TRACT I That part of Lot No. 117, in said City of Jeffersonville, and bounded thus: Beginning at the northeast corner of said lot on Chestnut Street and running thence westerly along said Street twenty-five (25) feet on Driscolls eastern line; thence at right angles southwardly with Driscolls line to a thirty (30) foot alley which separates said lot from the public square, thence easterly along said alley twenty-five (25) feet to the eastern line of said lot; thence northwardly along said eastern line to said street, the place of beginning.

TRACT II That part of Lot No. 117 in said City of Jeffersonville, bounded thus: Beginning at a point on the front line of said lot also the South line of Chestnut Street, twenty-five (25) feet westwardly from the Northeast corner of said lot (said point of beginning being also the center of the partition wall of the double tenement brick dwelling house standing on said Lot No. 117) and running thence southwardly with the center line of said partition wall, and on a line parallel with the Eastern line of said lot to the Southern line of said lot; thence Westwardly with the Southern line of said lot to a point within three (3) feet of the Western line, thereof; thence Northwardly on a line parallel with the Western line of said lot to a point on the Northern line of said lot three (3) feet Eastwardly from the Northwest corner thereof; thence Eastwardly with the Northern line of said lot to the place of beginning.

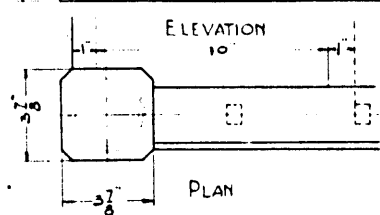




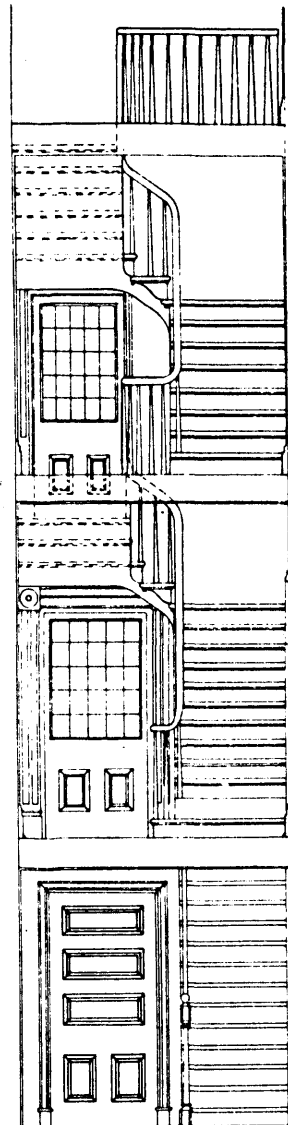
PLAN AT NEWEL 1ST FL.



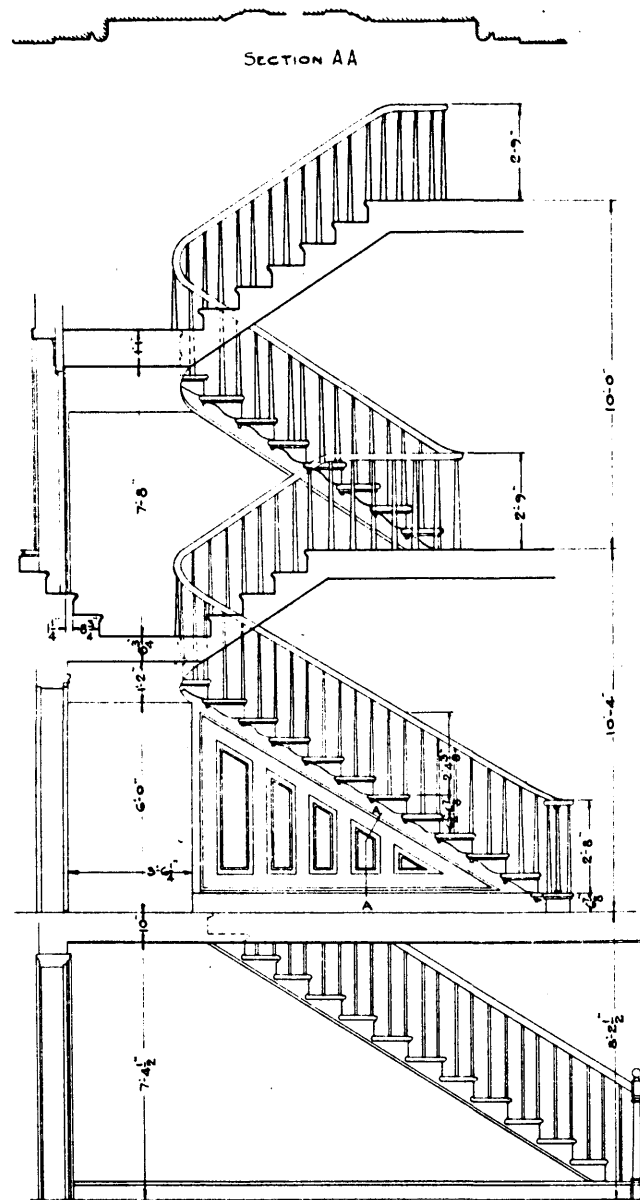
SECTION OF H R



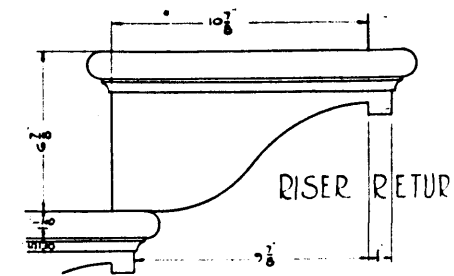
NEWEL & HAND RAIL GR FL



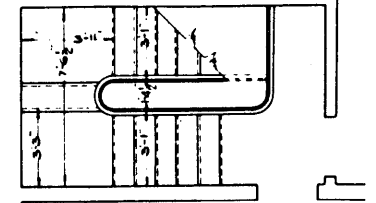
CROSS SECTION



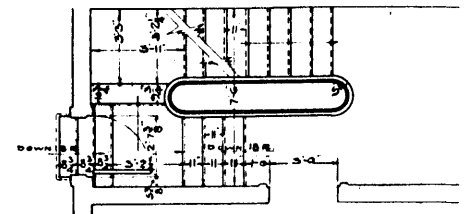
LONGITUDINAL SECTION



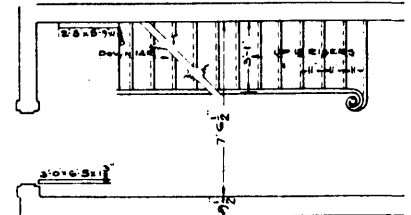
RISER RETURN



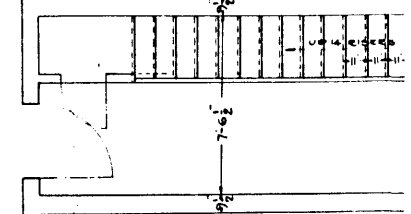
THIRD FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

STAIRWAY DETAILS

C. M. SYLVESTER DEL.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE

GRISAMORE HOUSE JEFF. IND.

SCALE
PLANS
SECTIONS
DETAILS

SURVEY NO.
24-18

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 6 OF 6 SHEETS

110