

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 4 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 17 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Luther College Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Luther College Campus

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Winneshiek

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

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

STATUS

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

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Luther College

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52101

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Winneshiek County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Luther College Farm lies northeast of the Tower Dorms of the Luther College campus in Decorah, along a bluff at the base of a wooded area. The site consists of several buildings, including two barns, a brick farmhouse, an icehouse, a corncrib, a slaughterhouse, and other outbuildings. The layout of the farm is influenced by the terrain, following the bluff (see Fig. 11). Specific dates of construction are not available. However, the house and "several outbuildings" are credited to A.J. Ashmore, who owned the property from 1868 to 1874. These outbuildings may be the icehouse and both barns (except the north end of the larger barn, which is believed to have been added after 1900).

The barns (one about half the size of the other) are placed at right angles to one another and share about 15 feet of wall. The smaller barn is a rectangular, two-level structure of heavy wood frame construction on a limestone foundation. The gable roof has wooden shingles, and there is a gabled dormer in the center of the roof on the SE side. This dormer is decorated with a row of small incised semicircles on its lower edge. Location of doors and windows are shown in Figs. 1 & 2. The interior of this barn is divided into three bays and support beams are joined with wooden pegs. (See Fig. 3b for bent construction.) There is a small loft on the main floor in the west corner, with a small walled-off area beneath it, and a chute on the SE side. The basement is and was used for stabling horses; it is divided into six stalls and a tackroom. Only in the basement is there a door for entering the larger barn.

The larger barn was built in two sections (see Figs. 1&2). It is a rectangular, two-level structure similar in construction to the first barn, but the limestone foundation is laid up in slightly wider courses than that of the first barn. There are four dormers along the SW side of the roof and two tin weather vanes along the peak. Formerly, there were wooden ventilators on the rooftops. Locations of doors and windows are shown on the floor plans (Figs. 1&2). The interior is divided into ten bays; the bents are of different construction from those in the smaller barn (Fig. 3a), but the beams are similarly joined with wooden pegs. The second bent from the SE side is boarded up, and there is a chute in the center of this wall, and another chute next to the silo. The basement, presently little used, is divided into three sections by limestone walls. There are a few cattle kept in the north end; signs of earlier uses indicate a possible grain storage area and stanchions (iron bars) for dairy cattle (Fig. 2).

Along the southwest side of both sections are the remains of a shallow, sloping roof, particularly on the smaller barn. The barns exhibit some signs of deterioration: the limestone foundations are crumbling in some places, and there are indications of the walls beginning to rot. However, the internal structure is still solid.

The ice house is a rectangular one-story structure. The walls, about 1½ feet thick, are constructed of limestone, beneath a wood-shingled gable roof. Doors and windows are shown in Fig. 4. The NE door has a raised threshold of limestone. The interior is divided into two sections by a wooden plank wall which reaches only to the tops of the walls. A ceiling boxes off the smaller of the two sections, forming a room which could be nearly surrounded with ice. The floor of the larger room is about 3 feet below

see continuation sheet

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	JUN 4 1979 JUL 17 1979

Luther College Farm, Decorah, Winneshiek Co., Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

the door sill. In the small room there is a hand pump and a cement tank. The floor is also of cement. Presently, the building is used only for storage. The smaller of the two rooms was previously used as a dairy.

The slaughterhouse, a wooden rectangular one-story building, lies on a cement foundation. The gable roof of the one-room structure has wooden shingles. Windows and doors are marked on the floor plan (see Fig. 5). The interior of the building contains an iron rack running the length of the room, which once could have held hooks. Along the NE wall is a brick structure with a basin in it. A fireplace beneath this was stoked from the exterior of the building. This entire unit has a hinged wooden cover. There are two small chimneys, one near the peak of the roof and another above the brick basin. The building is no longer in use.

The brick farmhouse, on a limestone foundation, has an irregular plan. The gable roof, T-shaped, displays five dormers. The SW side of the building has an L-shaped porch, with few decorative elements. The steeply-pitched gable is a prominent element of this rather plain house, and is used on both ends of the main block, as a large front dormer, and on the small roof dormers. Many of the windows (and the main entrance) have segmental brick arches. There is now one chimney, toward the center of the main roof, although originally there were fireplaces in each roof. The interior of the house was extensively remodelled in 1949. The original staircase was removed, and the house converted into two apartments. Other alterations include two additions (brick on the west front, and on the NW rear), and the reconstruction of the NE and SE rear walls in wood with wide, horizontal siding.

The corn crib is a rectangular structure on a cement block foundation (originally limestone). The walls are constructed of horizontal, narrow boards, set slightly apart to resemble lathe, and the gable roof has wooden shingles. The interior is divided longitudinally into three sections (see Fig. 10). The building is not in use.

Other buildings include a small house which was moved to the farm by the College for use as a hog house, two garages, a shed near the barn, and two more sheds once used for chickens but now unused. Another shed is located near the slaughterhouse. Cement foundations for another small structure are also extant (see Fig. 11).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1868-74; 1929-

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This farm complex, with buildings and structures dating from the late 1860's to about the turn of the century, achieves significance as an important visual and historical presence in the rural atmosphere of Luther College and the Decorah community. Situated on rising ground which forms a wooded backdrop, the complex overlooks a portion of the college campus and provides an interesting contrast to the functional modernity of the cormitory towers across the road. The dominant features of the complex are the barns, which by their sheer size, as well as their fine proportions and construction, achieve a certain significance of their own. They are "attended" by other buildings -- corncrib, slaughterhouse, icehouse, and assorted sheds--which were practical elements of the way of life found on the farm for many years. All are good examples of typical vernacular building, simply yet sturdily constructed. The high stone foundations of the barns are commonplace in this region of good building stone. The icehouse presents another use of this material, in the simply-dressed courses laid up to form a cool place for storing ice and preserving foodstuffs in the days before mechanical refrigeration. Collectively, then, the buildings of Luther College Farm offer an excellent sense of Iowa agricultural life before the gas engine revolutionized farming and more efficient production and transportation methods caused a decline in the self-sufficiency of Iowa farms.

The farm is also of a certain local historical interest, due to its associations with Capt. A.J. Ashmore, of Winneshiek County's English colony, who owned the property from 1868 to 1874, and with Luther College itself. The English Colony consisted of about 30 families who settled in and around Decorah between 1867 and about 1885. The Colony included men from prosperous English families whose career mobility was checked by conditions present in their native country. As a result, these young men emigrated to areas where land was available and business opportunities were more abundant. Decorah was such an area in the 1860's.

Captain A.J. Ashmore typified the Decorah English colonist. He had come to the area by 1867, leaving a career in the British army. He purchased the 320-acre farm described here in 1868, and built the house and several outbuildings before selling it in 1874. In 1870, Ashmore was elected vestryman of the small Episcopal congregation in Decorah. Most of the key English colonists were also members of Grace Episcopal Church, which was established by this group in 1876. Ashmore and his family moved to a new home in West Decorah in 1874, perhaps having discovered his own inadequacies as a farmer, as other colonists had similarly discovered.

The farmhouse at Luther College Farm is one of the few surviving structures to be associated with the once flourishing English Colony. Others include the Henry Harcourt Horn house in rural Winneshiek County, and the Grace Episcopal Church in the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District in Decorah.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Horn, Henry H. An English Colony in Iowa. Ms., 1931, Luther College Library.
 Portman, R.F.B., "Decorah's English Colony of 1972," (1931) Luther College Library.
 Records of Grace Episcopal Church, Decorah.
 see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME La Crosse, Wisc; Iowa, T11.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 59,720,0 47,966,0,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

An area of about 5 acres located along former Highway 52, northeast of the Tower Dormitories on Luther College campus; in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 9, T98N R8W, Winneshiek County

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rebecca Hanson (student)

ORGANIZATION

Luther College

DATE

March-May 1979

STREET & NUMBER

401 Lief Ericson Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa 52101

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

5/31/79

FDR NPS USE ONLY

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

William H. Kratman
 KEEP-ER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7.17.79

ATTEST: *William H. Kratman*

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

7.13.79

DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 4 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 17 1979

Luther College Farm, Decorah, Winneshiek County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Ashmore sold his farm to Jacob Jewell, a member of Decorah's large Norwegian community. Jewell's son, Frank, farmed with him, and was probably responsible for the extension of one of the barns. During the time that Frank Jewell owned the farm, many of its products (particularly dairy products) were sold to nearby Luther College.

The purchase, by Luther College, of the farm and outbuildings in 1929 was one of the initial steps in the institution's trend towards physical and economic growth. The purchase was controversial in college circles, as it was considered a financial risk (Olson, pp. 54-58). However, a trend toward "modernization" in the administration overrode these fears. The college was trying to remain self-sufficient, and was thus seeking additional sources of income. The farm also provided food products for direct use by the college community during the 1930's and 1940's, and employment for students into the 1960's. The farm provided meat, milk and other products, and the college ran a dairy operation there until 1963, when the farm was converted to a feeding operation.

After the initial controversy over purchase of the farm, the complex became a source of pride to the college community. It was included in the college history sections of the institution's catalogues, and in later years its acquisition was the subject of praise (Nelson, p. 219). The farm thus served to enhance the public image of Luther College, while at the same time aiding in the maintenance and survival of this small educational institution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 4 1979

DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1979

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

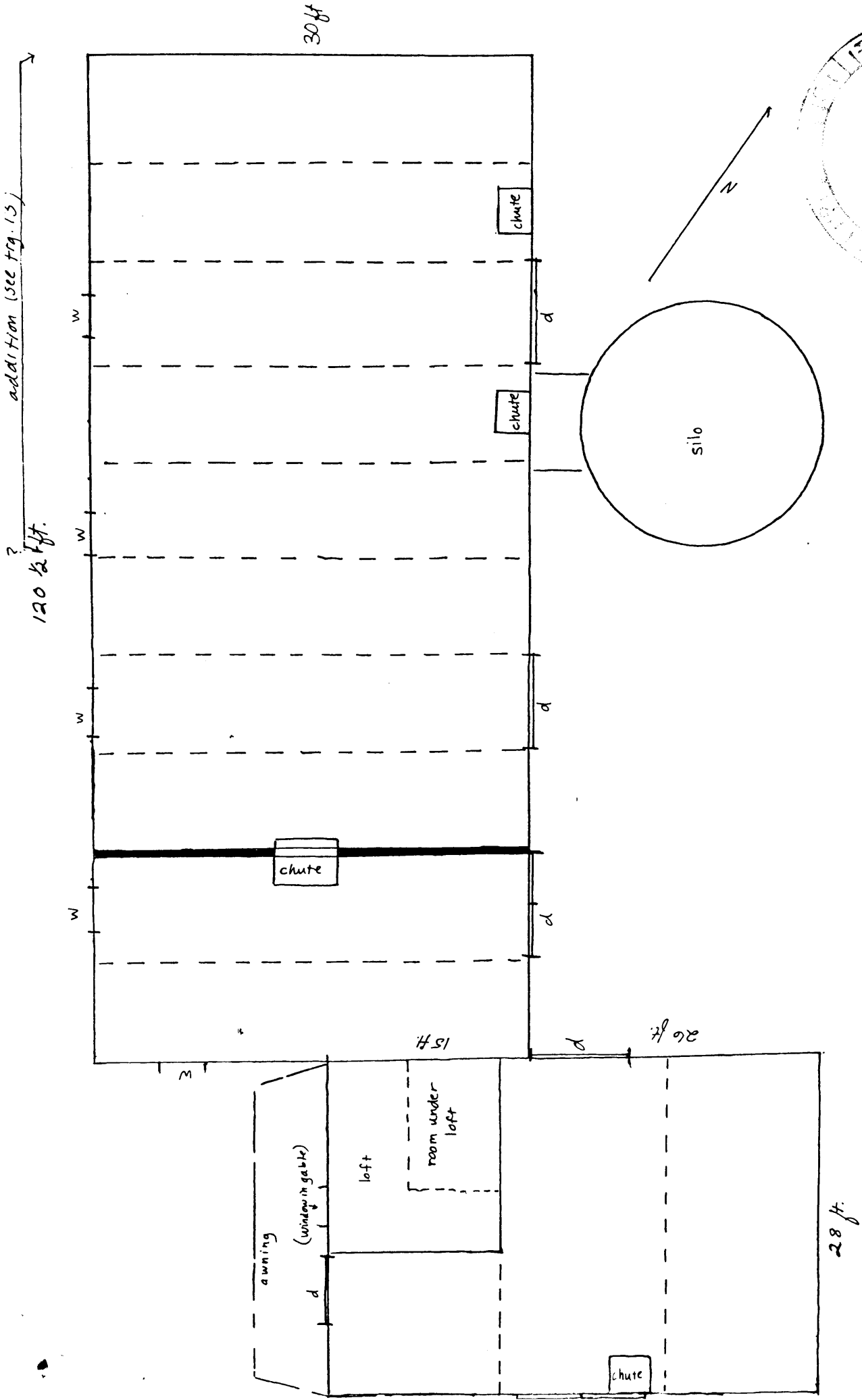
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

- Arthur, Eric and Witney, Dudley, The Barn, A Vanishing Landmark in North America, New York Graphic Society Ltd., Greenwich, Conn., 1972
- Bailey, Edwin C., Past and Present of Winneshiek County, Iowa, S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., Chicago, 1913, Vol. I, pp. 121-124, Vol. II, pp. 46-51
- Barley, M. W., The English Farmhouse and Cottage, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1961, pp. 230-231
- Bicknell, Amos J., Bicknell's Village Builder, American Life Foundation and Study Institutes, Watkins Glen, New York, 1976 (Orig. 1872)
- Downing, A. J., The Architecture of Country Houses, Dover Pub., Inc., New York, 1969 (orig. 1850),
- Halsted, Bryon David, Barn Plans and Outbuildings, Orange Judd Co., New York, 1902 (orig. 1881)
- Harney, George E., Barns, Outbuildings and Fences, Korff Bros., New York, 1870, Pl. 30, 31
- Keyes, Margaret N., Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City, Univ. of Iowa Press, Iowa City, 1966
- Luther College Admissions pamphlet, 1979
- Luther College Catalogues, Lutheran Pub. House, Decorah, IA, 1929-1945
- Nelson, David T., Luther College: 1861-1961, Luther College Press, Decorah, IA, 1961
- Olson, Oscar Ludvig, A History of My Administration as President of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, 1921-1922, MS, 1952, pp. 54-58
- Upjohn, Richard, Upjohn's Rural Architecture, Da capo Press, NY, 1975 (orig. 185)

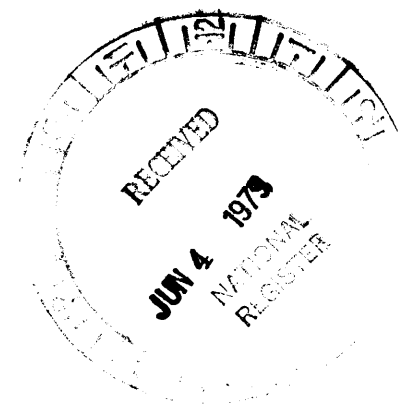
Assessor's Records
Deeds
Abstracts

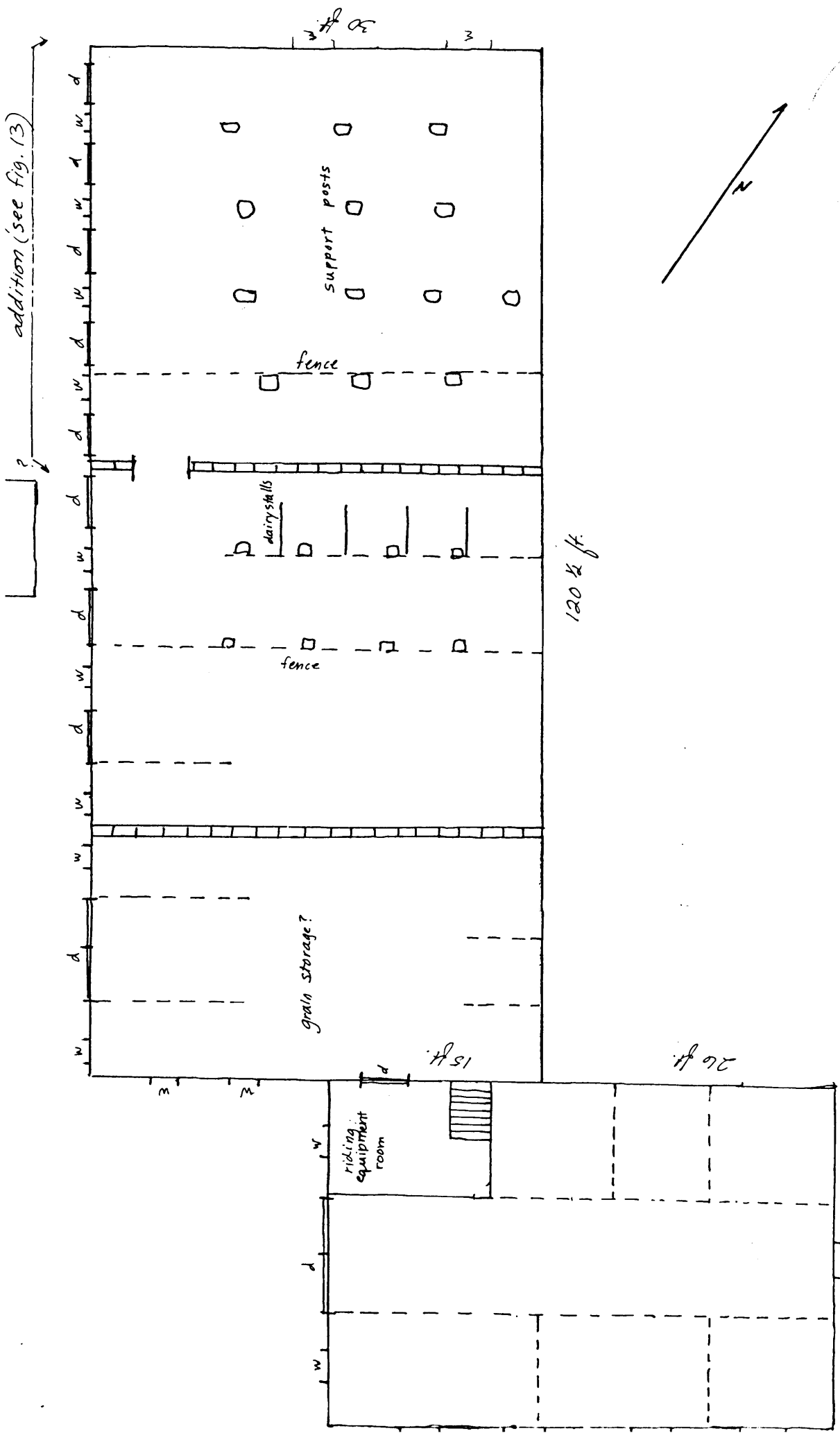
Informants: Mrs. Harold Meyrick, 119 N Mill, Decorah, IA (daughter of F. Jewel L. E. Mikkelsons, RR 3, Decorah, IA (farm residents)
Alfred Kvammen, Hillcrest Dr., Decorah, IA (farm employee, Luther grad.)
Vern Spilde, RR 3, Decorah, IA (Farm Manager)



R.H. and C.B.
Feb. 8, 1979

Fig. 1 Plan of the main floor of the barn
(not to scale)

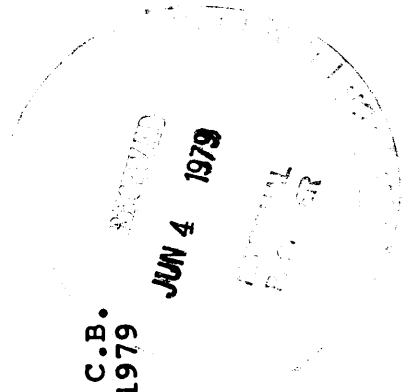




R.H. and C.B.
Feb. 8, 1979

Fig. 2 Plan of the basement floor of the barn
(not to scale)

28 ft.



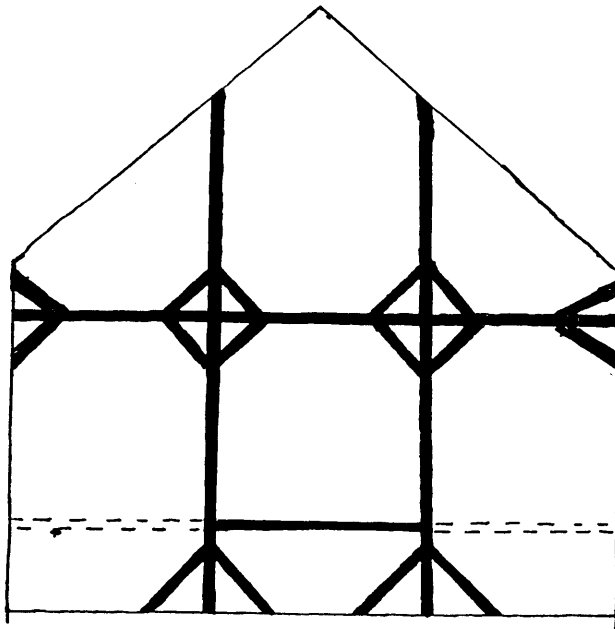


Fig. 3a

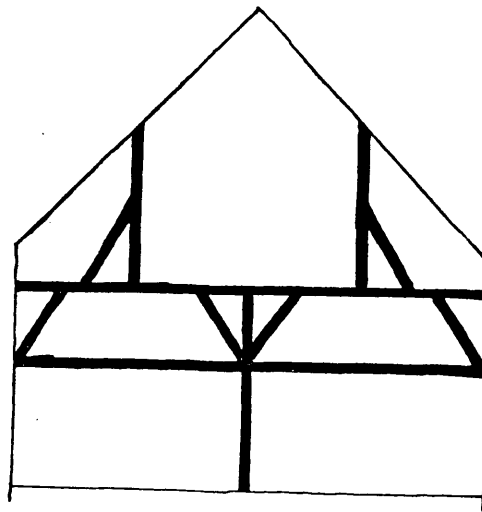
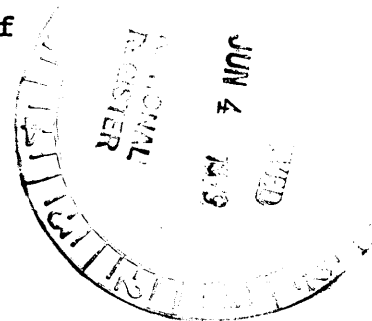


Fig. 3b

Fig. 3 Construction of bents in both sections of the barn (not to scale)



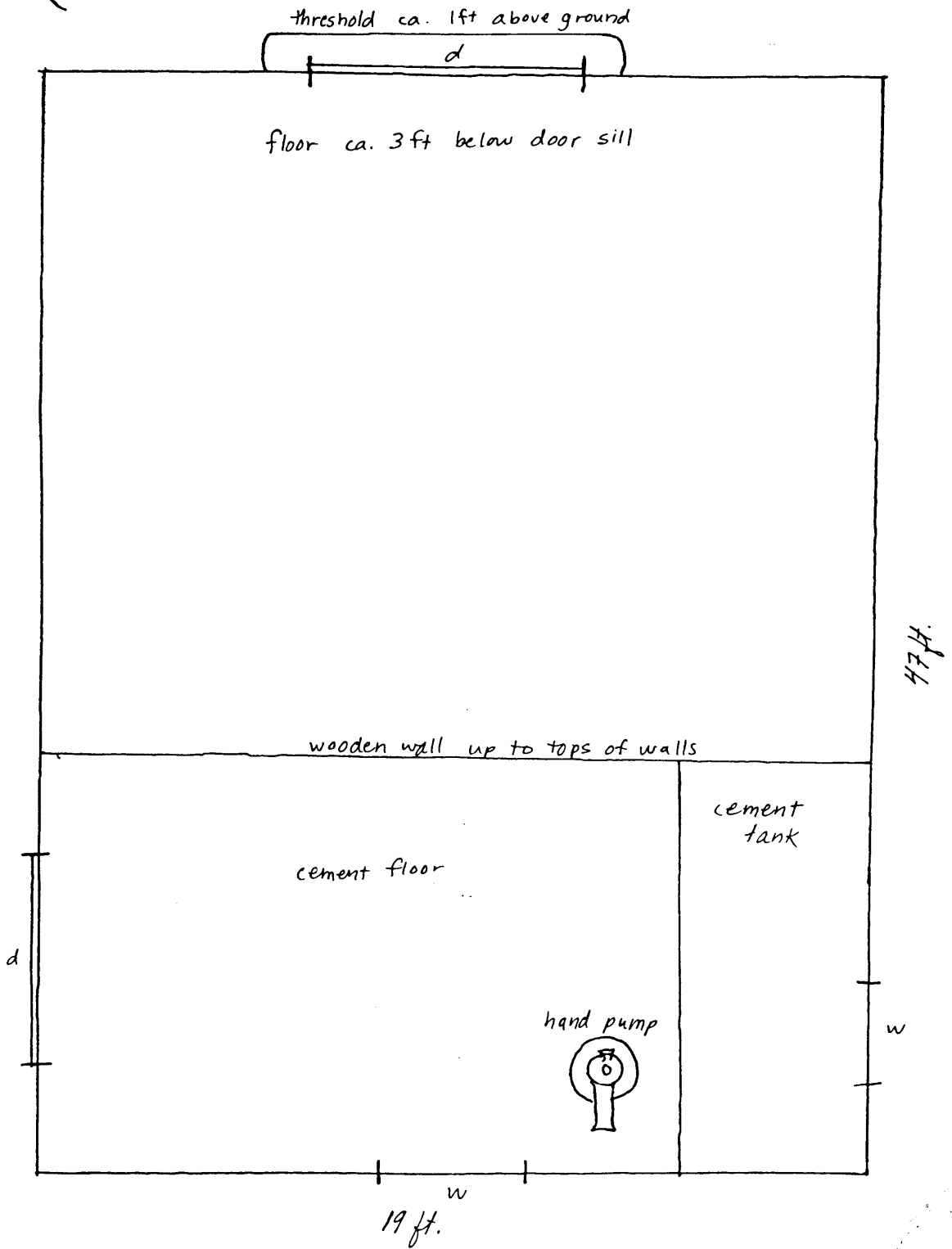


Fig. 4 Plan of icehouse
(not to scale)

R.H and C.B.
Feb. 8, 1979

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
JUN 4 1979

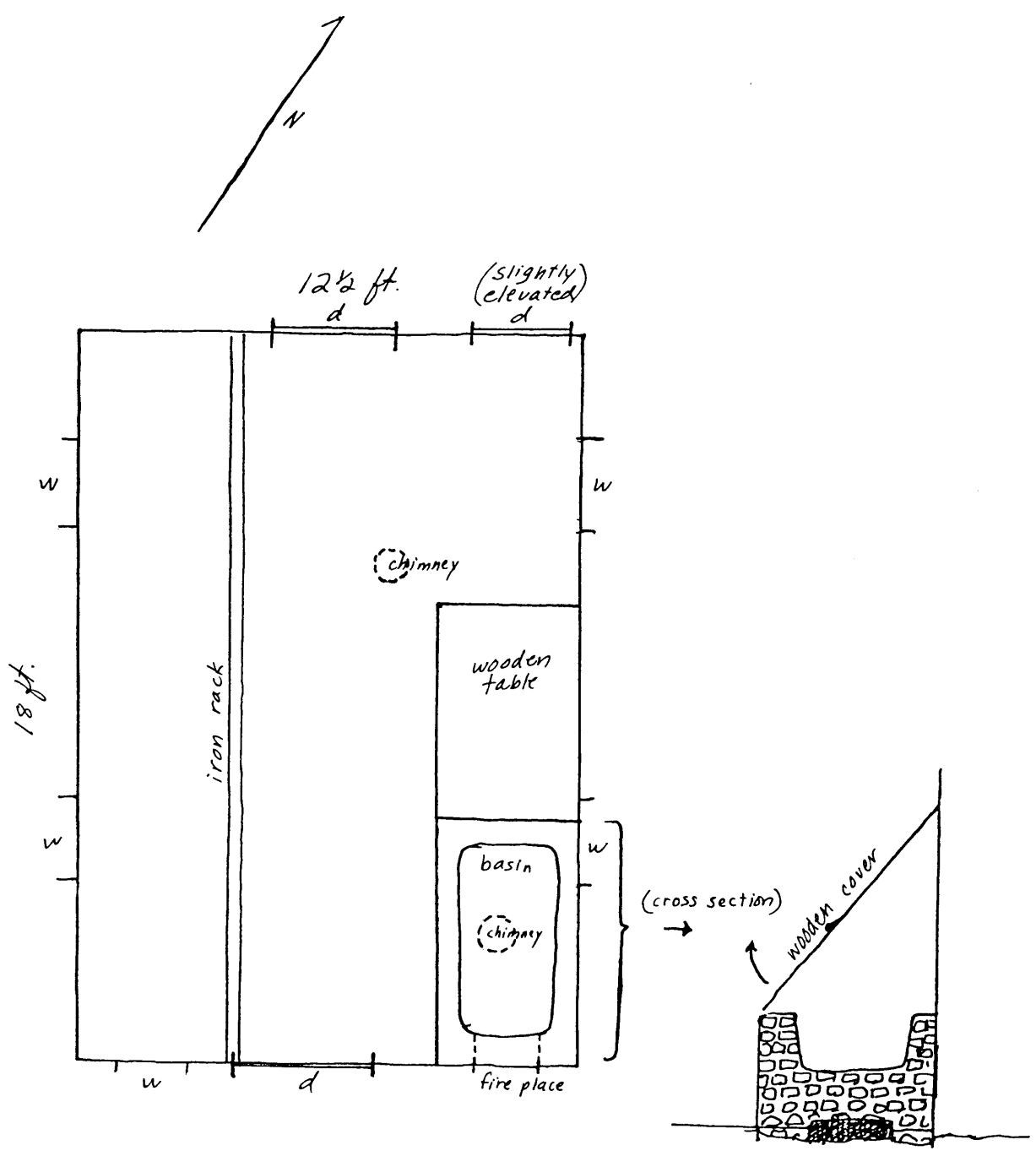
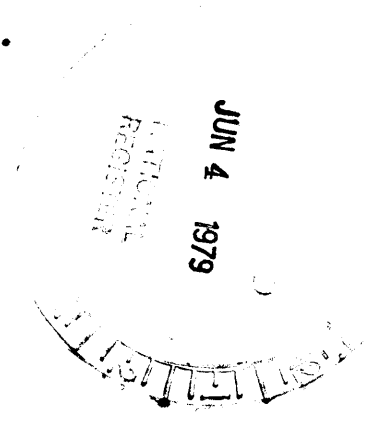


Fig. 5 Plan of slaughterhouse
(not to scale)

R.H. and C.B.
Feb. 8, 1979



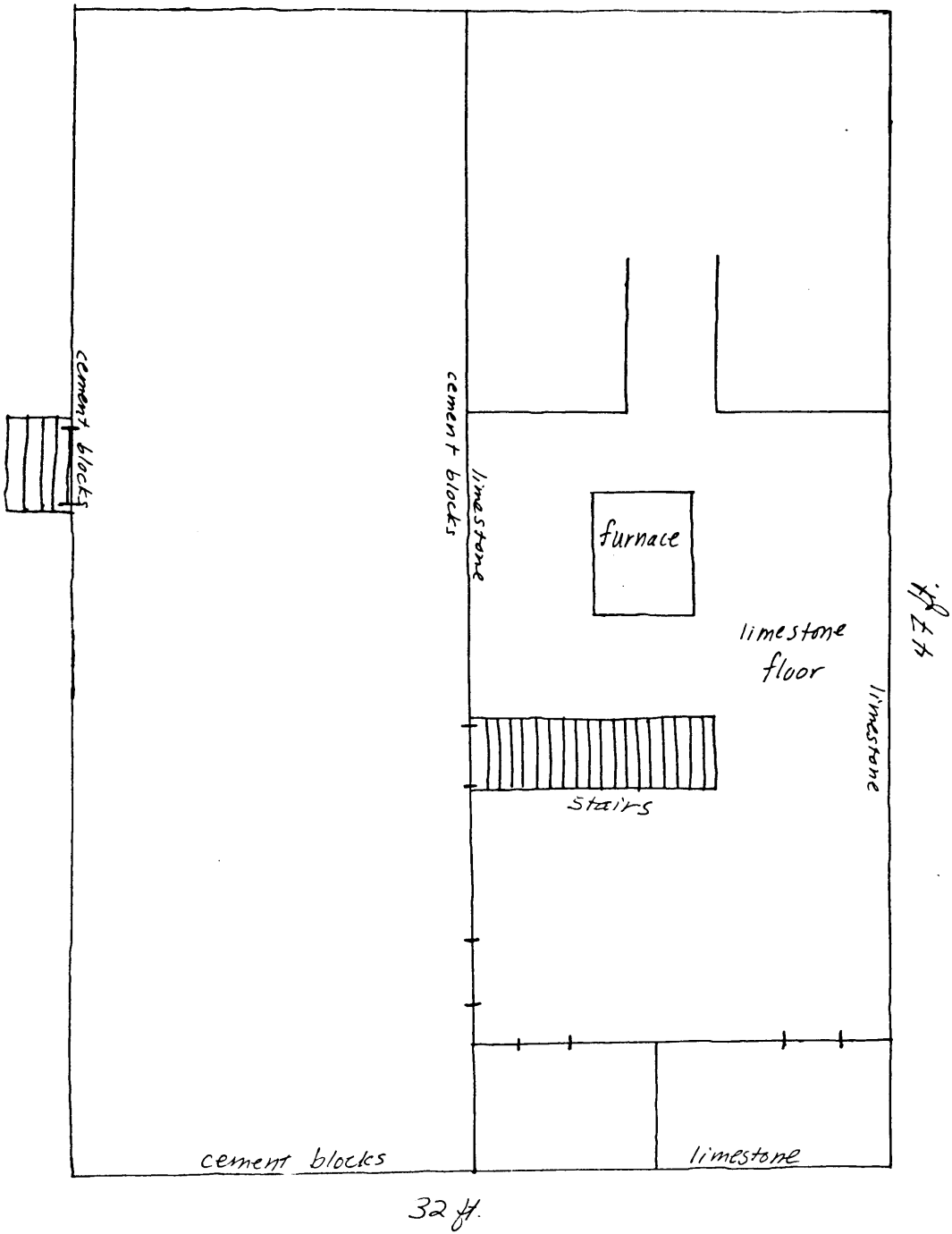
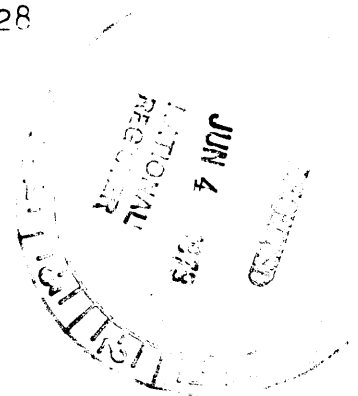


Fig. 6 Basement plan of house
(not to scale)

R.H. Feb. 28
1979



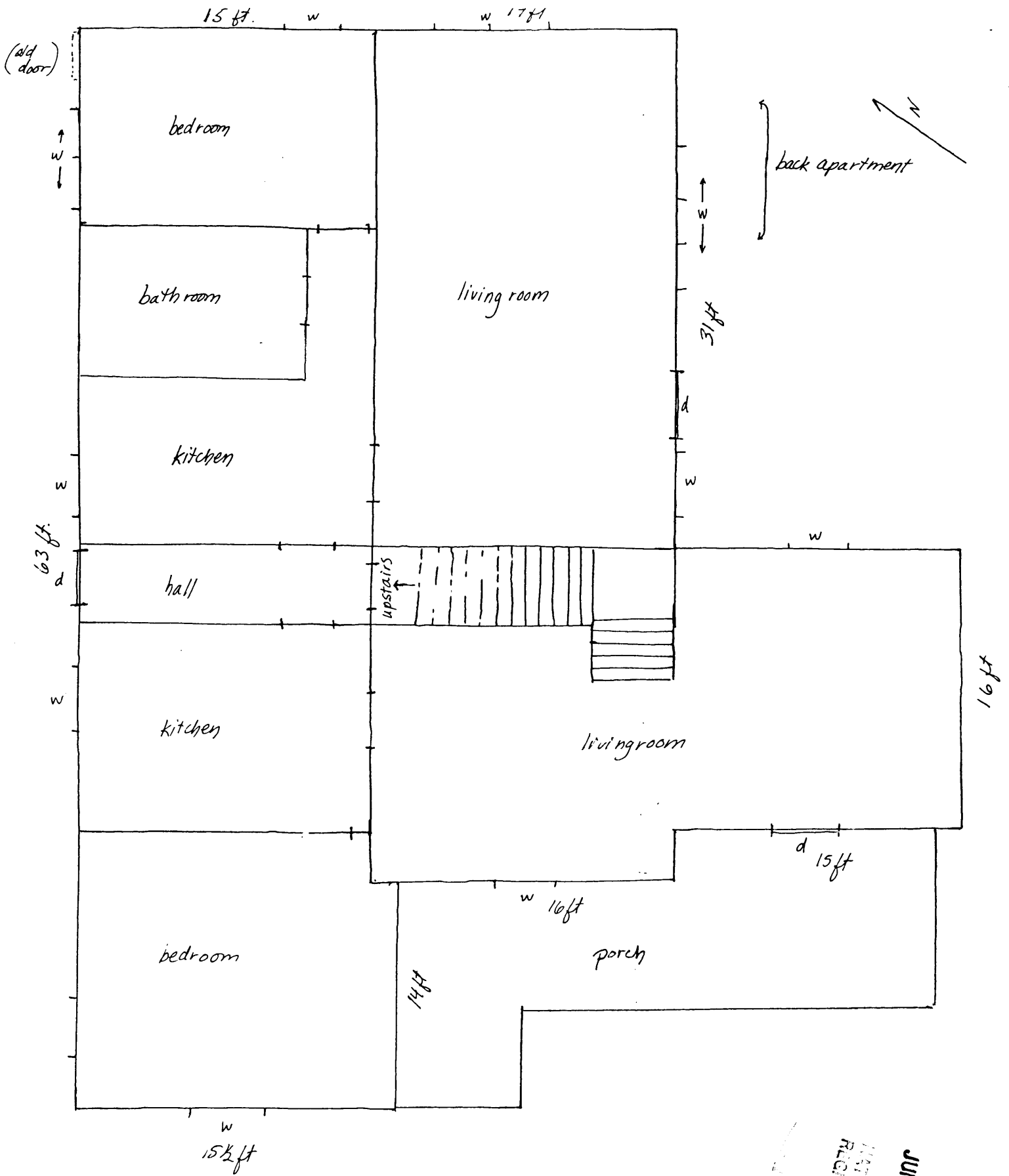
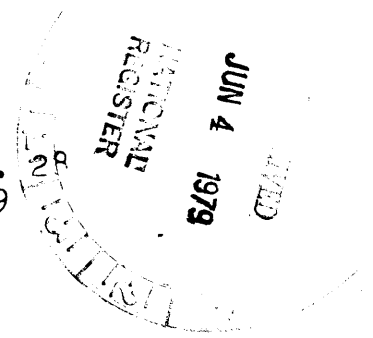


Fig. 7 Main floor plan of house (not to scale)

R.H. Feb. 1979



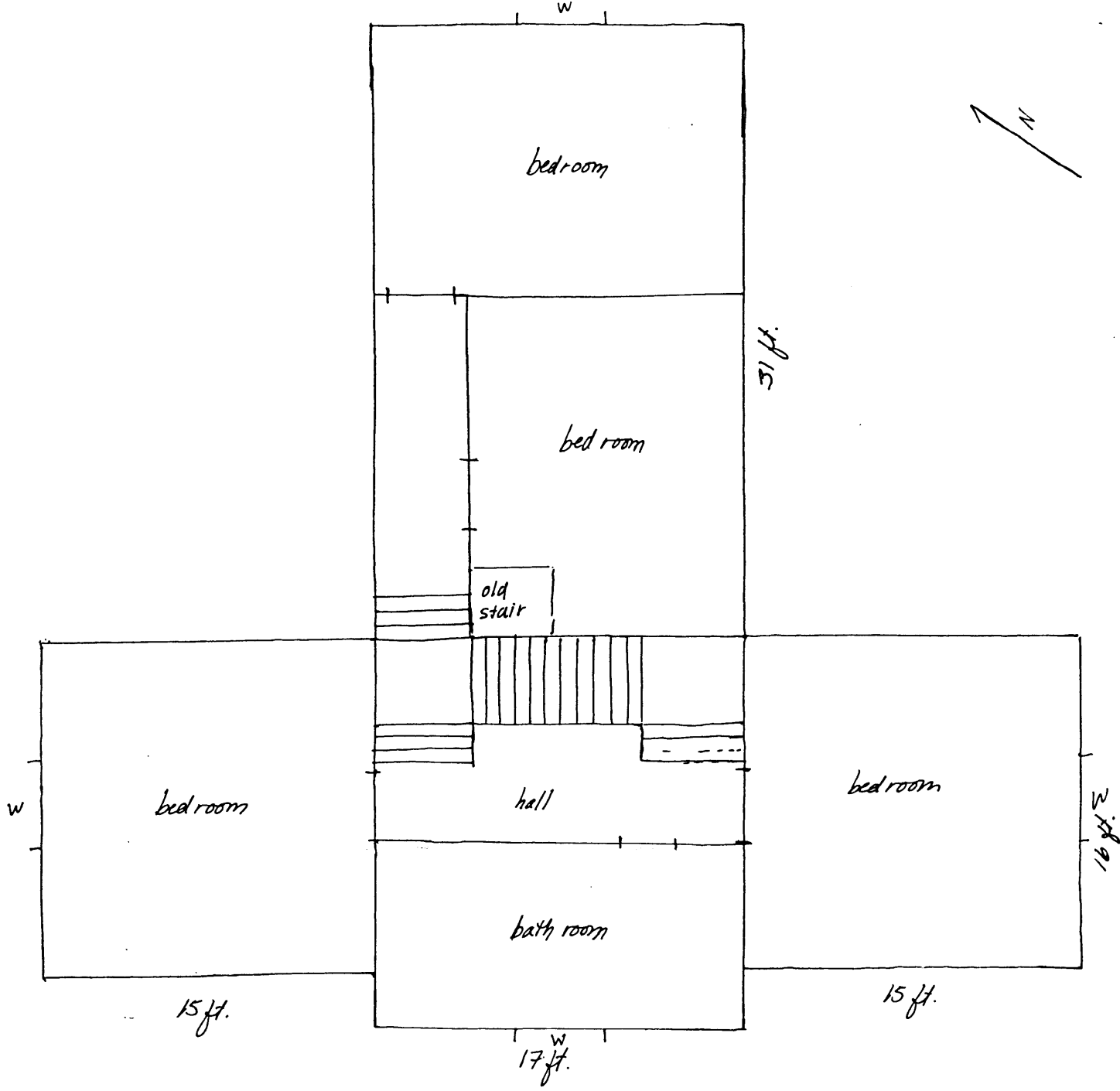
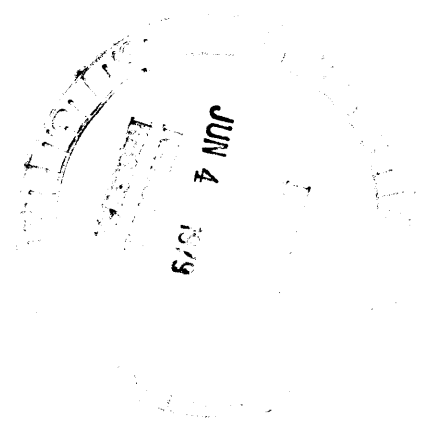


Fig. 8 Upstairs plan of house
(not to scale)

R.H. Feb. 28
1979



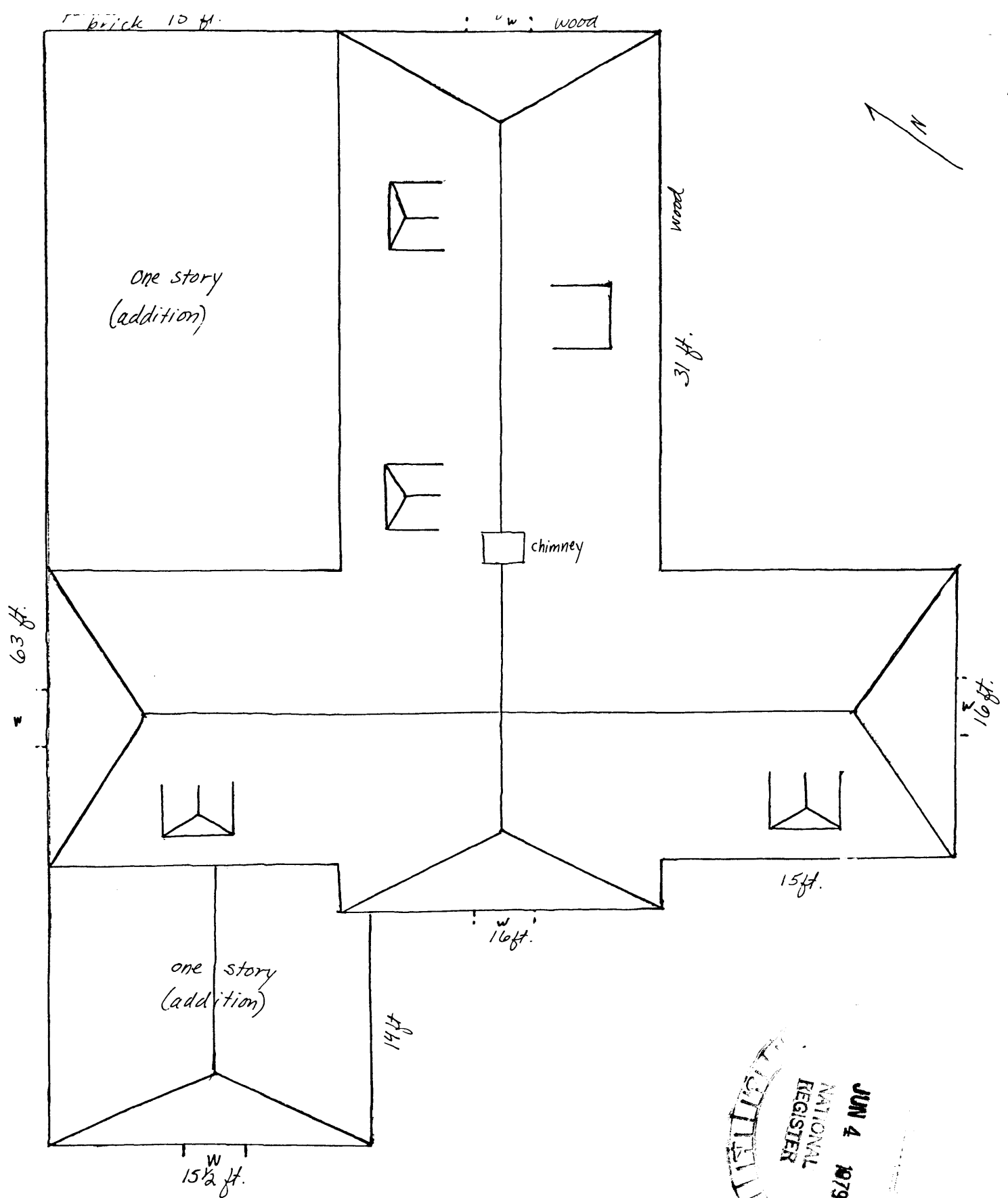
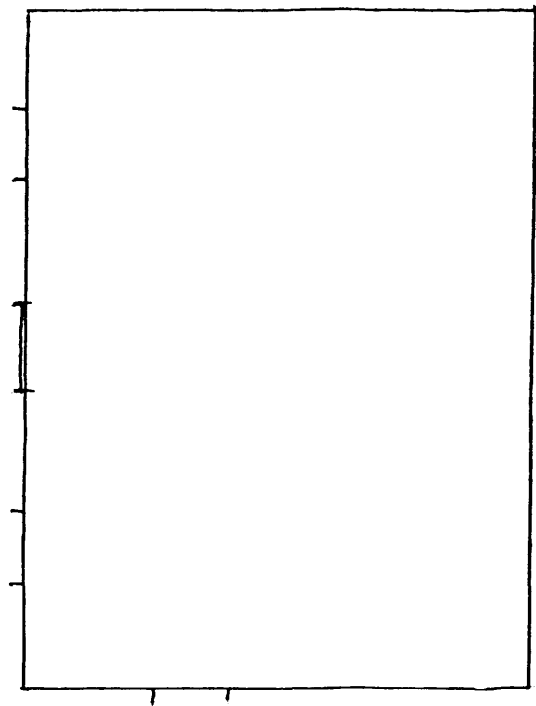
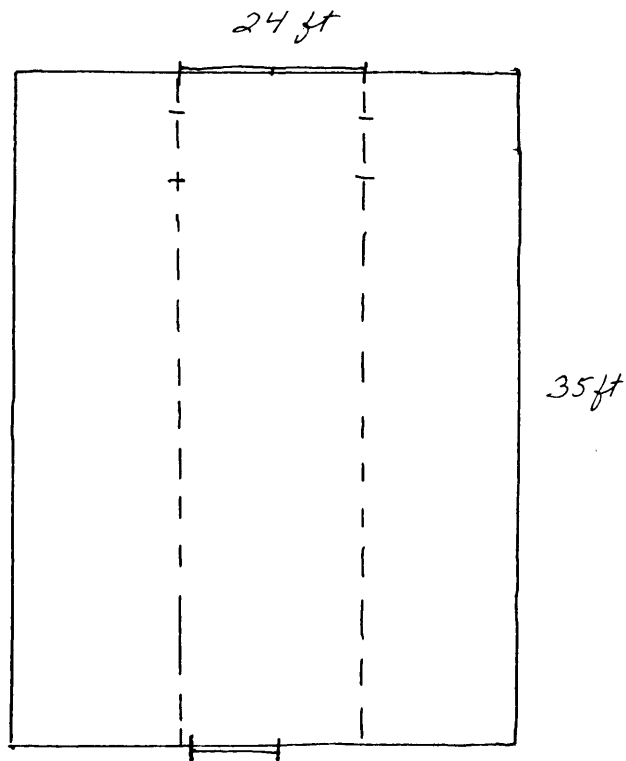


Fig. 9 Roof plan of house (not to scale)

R.H. Feb. 28 1979



Basement plan



Main floor plan



Fig. 10 Plans of corn crib
not to scale

n.h. Feb. 28
1979

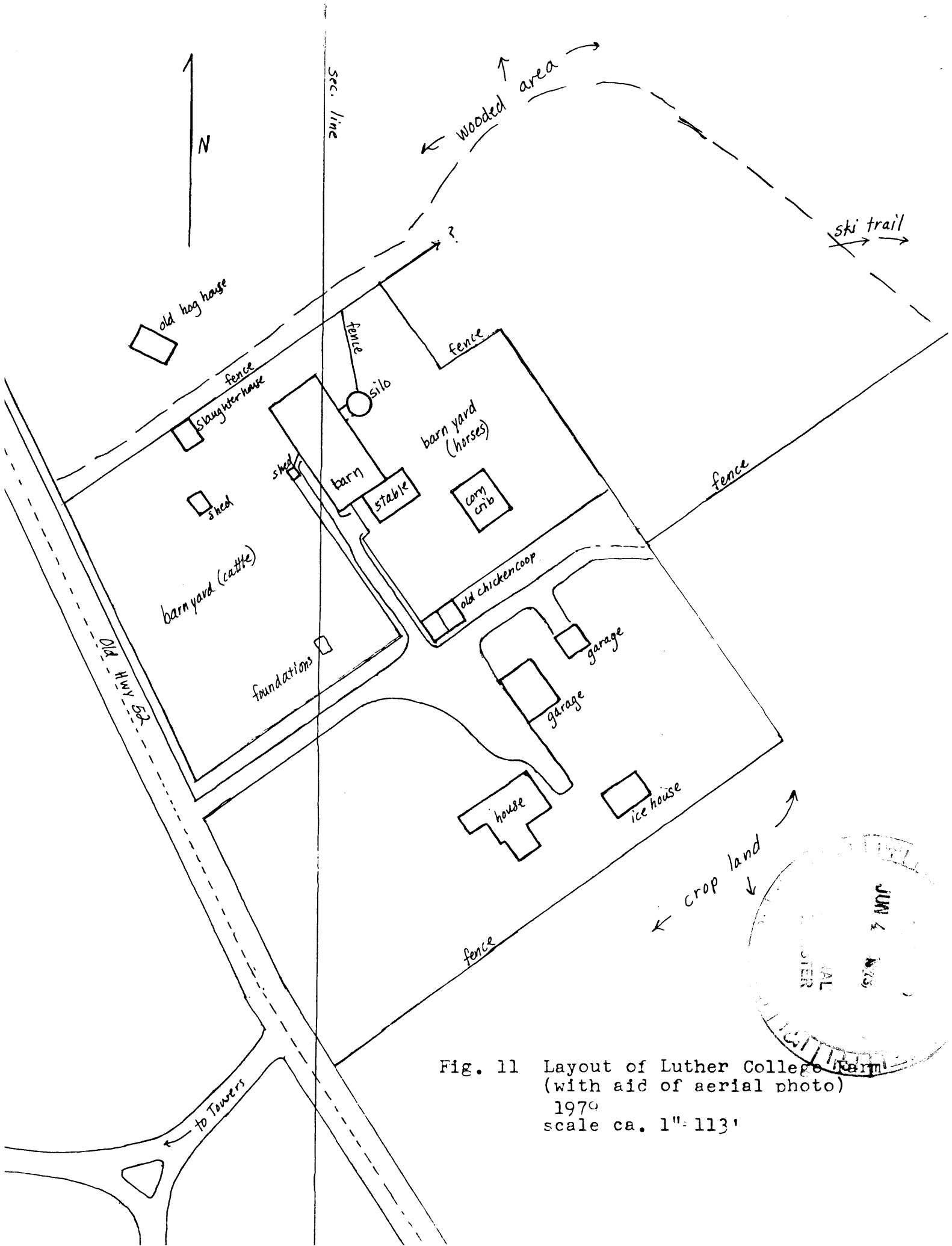


Fig. 11 Layout of Luther College farm
 (with aid of aerial photo)
 1970
 scale ca. 1" = 113'

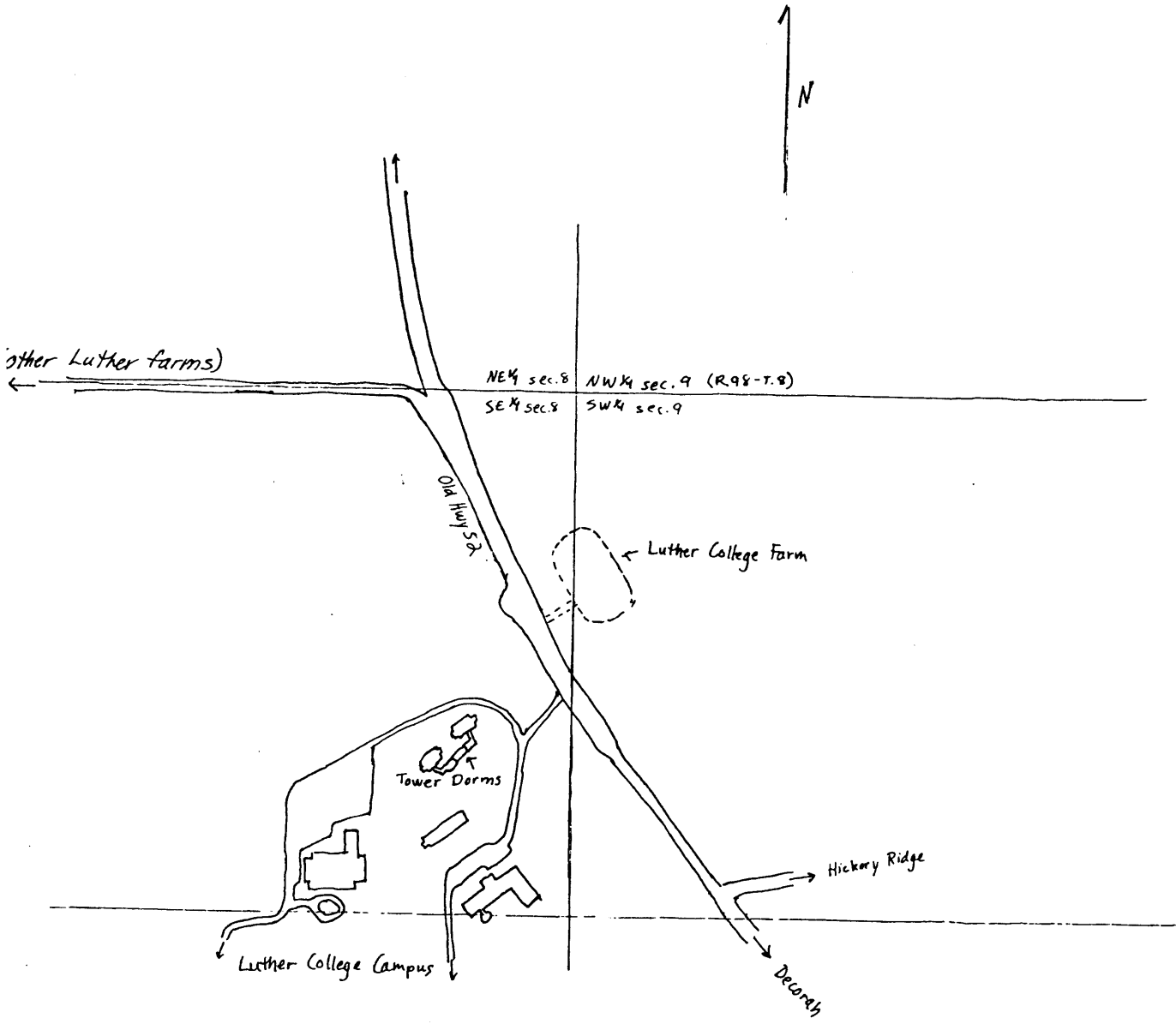
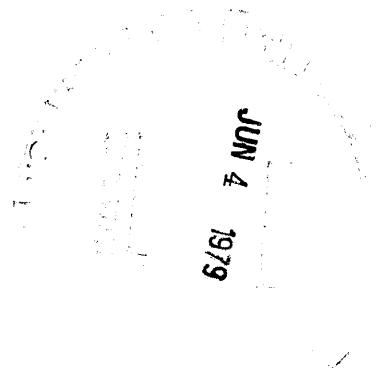


Fig. 12 Location of Luther College Farm
 taken from property plot of Luther College
 Jan., 1972 Erdman Engineering Service
 scale ca. 1" 640'



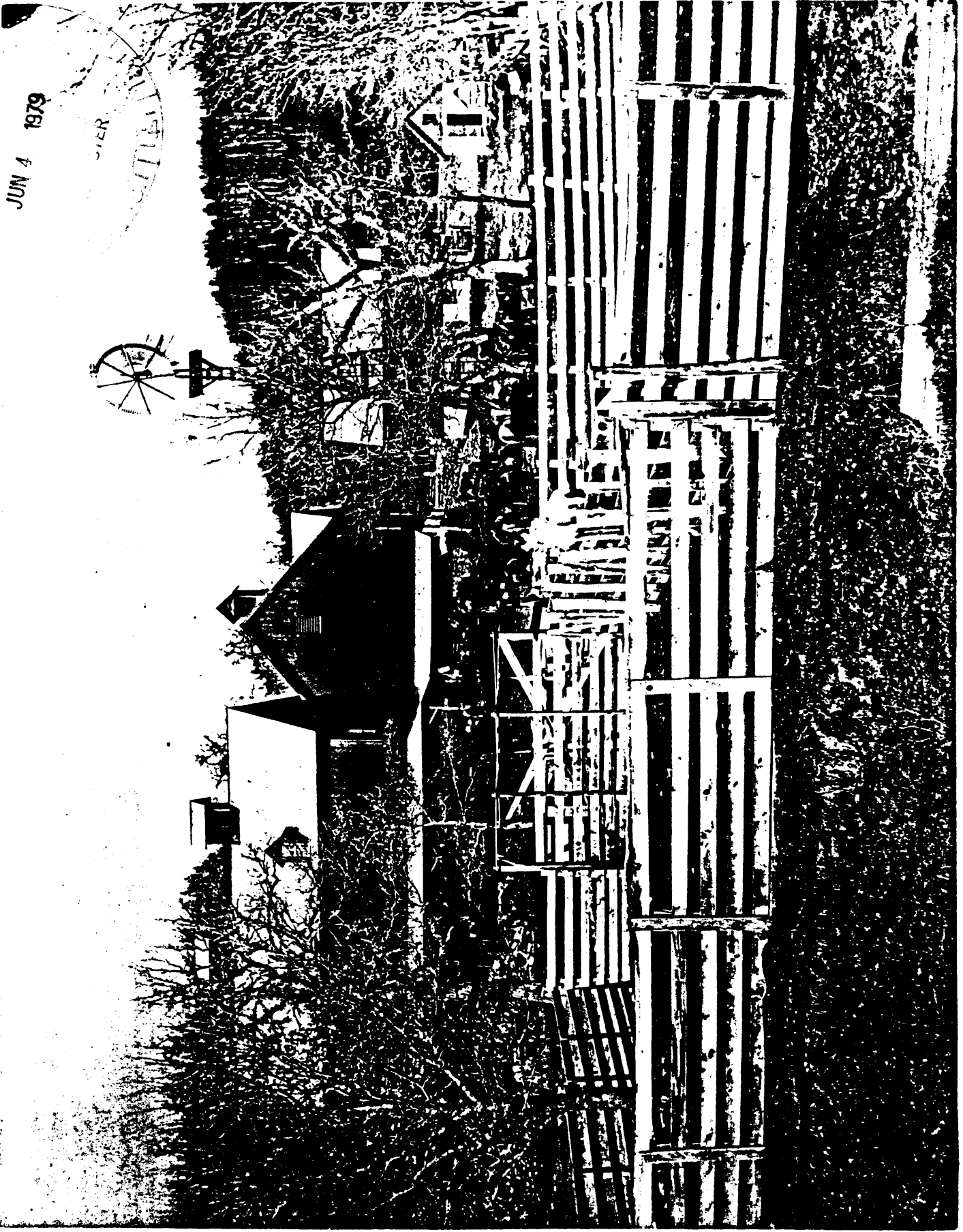


Fig. 13 Photocopy of early 19th century photograph of barn and outbuildings (courtesy of Mrs. Harold Meyrick)