

P11011339

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 1 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 5 1975

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 Penn-Marshall Stone House  
AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER E of Harvieland on  
Route 4, Stoney Creek Road at Kentucky River  
CITY, TOWN Harvieland

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

X VICINITY OF Sixth

STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Franklin CODE 073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Reid Bishop, Jr.  
STREET & NUMBER Route 4, Stoney Creek Road  
CITY, TOWN Frankfort VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Franklin County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER St. Clair Street  
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)  
DATE 1975 FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission  
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house and the surrounding farm lie in a bend of Stoney Creek, a branch off the Kentucky River. The place is at the end of a road that winds along the river, then up through knob country and finally down along the Creek to its end at the Penn-Marshall place. Although the route by automobile is almost six miles from Frankfort, by the broader bends of the River it is only about three miles from the capital of the Commonwealth.

The house is located on a low rise in the middle of the bottom land, which is defined by the creek and the high bluffs on the other side of the River to the north and east; hills on the west; the valley extends to the south. At one time there must have been extensive outbuildings, including probably the kitchen facilities, around the house; they are said to have been of log construction, like an interesting old log barn-crib that survives on the neighboring farm. At present, the impressive self-contained block of the house (except for a low modern wing at the rear and a modern porch on the front) stands out by itself on the bottom land, both dominating and harmonizing with the broad but enclosed landscape.

The house is a blunt rectangle whose basic form is broken only by the massive matching chimneys at the ends, with their unusually large square mass rising above the equilaterally-sloping roof. The only windows breaking the masonry of the ends are small lookout windows that light the attic on either side of the chimneys. The front and back walls (it is not known which side was the original entrance, as neither faces the river or the presumed road--if indeed there was land access originally) have three symmetrical bays. The entrances are in the center with extremely widely-spaced windows on each side. The doors, which have been altered, probably originally had four-light transoms but no sidelights. The windows have eight-over-eight-pane sash upstairs, 8-over-12 downstairs. (The original sash and some early panes remain upstairs; those downstairs have been replaced but most survive in storage.)

The original (upper) windows are set back a slight distance into the walls. A recent porch has been added over the east entrance; this will be removed in the near future. Supposedly the former stoop was a millstone. A frame wing has been added across the back; there are plans to make this portion less conspicuous by confining it to the center of the rear wall; in order to prevent the insertion of plumbing and other facilities in the original portion of the house it will be necessary to have them in some such wing.

The most impressive feature of the house is its stone construction. The walls are two feet thick on the first floor, slightly thinner on the second. They consist of squared ashlar blocks of "Kentucky marble," a pale gray compacted stone, said to have been quarried from the bluff opposite the house and brought by ox-cart to the construction site. The edge of the corners of the main block and of the chimneys have knifelike precision. The overall effect of the masonry is uniform without appearing mechanical. The six or seven voussoirs over the lower openings, for instance, are not exactly regular and do not have centered keystones, yet are very neatly fitted. The wood frames around the openings and the very limited extent

(continued)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES      ca. 1810-20 (?)      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Charles Penn (?)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since its construction in the early nineteenth century, this stone house has been the outstanding house in the Bald Knob section of Franklin County. Located in a rich bottom land just downstream from the confluence of Stoney Creek and the Kentucky River, it is remarkably well preserved. Its condition is a reflection of both the skill that went in to its construction and the attention to its maintenance shown by generations of the Penn and Marshall families. Curiously, the place was also the locale of two sensational murders in 1882 and 1918.

The house was constructed probably between 1810 and 1820. Oral tradition dates the construction prior to 1810 but the builder Charles Penn did not come to Franklin County until after the census of 1810, (He is listed in the 1820 census.) All oral sources describe Charles Penn as the builder. Penn apparently designed and supervised the construction which utilized Kentucky River limestone, quarried especially for this house approximately one-half mile upstream by Penn's own slaves and transported to the site by barge and ox-drawn wagons.

Penn settled in this expansive river bottom after coming to Franklin County with his brother Joseph who settled on the opposite (east) side of the river. The two brothers came to Franklin County from Bourbon County, Kentucky, where their parents had settled after moving west from Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in the great wave of settlers who flowed west in the first few decades after the Revolutionary War.

Charles Penn increased his holdings of land and slaves in the nearly forty years of his operation of the Penn farm after building the stone house next to the Kentucky River, which served as the major transportation facility for the farm throughout the 19th century.

Charles Penn died in 1858. His will directed that his widow receive the original farm with the stone house and his slaves. His three younger sons received farms which adjoined the original farm. Upon the death of Mrs. Penn in 1864, Charles Penn, Jr., inherited the stone house, although a James Penn is listed as the owner of the property in the 1882 Atlas of Franklin County (D. J. Lake and Company, Philadelphia) which was published shortly after the murder on July 7, 1882. Johnson's History of Franklin County described Penn's murder as an assassination although it went on to indicate that "the general supposition was that the wife of Penn was indirectly the cause of his death" (p. 202). George Gaines was tried and convicted of the murder.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Franklin County Court Records.

L. F. Johnson, The History of Franklin County, Kentucky (Frankfort: Roberts Printing Co., 1912).

An Atlas of Franklin County (Philadelphia: D. J. Lake Company, 1882).

Carolyn Murray Wooley, "Kentucky's Early Stone Houses," The Magazine Antiques, CV, 3 (March 1974), 592-602.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.5+ acres

Latitude: 38° 15' 28"

UTM REFERENCES

Longitude: 84° 53' 43"

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*NO UTM  
HR*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert M. Polsgrove and Walter E. Langsam, Historian and Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

March, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

401 Wapping Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-4476

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Cedric W. Melton*

TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer 5/14/75*

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*[Signature]*

DATE

*6/5/75*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

*JUN 4 1975*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Penn-Marshall Stone House

CONTINUATION SHEET

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of the openings themselves seem almost minimal compared to the masses of stone around them. The eaves are set directly on top of the walls, with roof timbers set into them without additional framing; the pairs of rafters are marked by incised Roman numerals.

The central hall on both stories is slightly off-center, to allow for the closed stair to one side. This also makes the flanking rooms of slightly different proportion. This variation is more pronounced upstairs, where there is one wall of frame and lath construction; all the others are two-foot thick stone (filled with rubble). There is another closed stair parallel to the one in the hall on the other side of the same wall; it leads to an upper room that was originally separate from the rest of the building, although an opening to the upper hall has since been created. A third staircase leads from the second-story north room to the undivided attic.

Chair railing remains on virtually all walls. Two of the original three mantels remain. One in the north downstairs room is of typical late 18th-century design for Kentucky. A large opening is framed with delicate moldings; the mantel shelf is independent and, although shallow, is carried on multiple moldings. The upstairs mantel is similar but smaller. The downstairs ceilings are nine feet high; those of the second story only seven feet high. The chair railing, the separate dimensions of the rooms, and the depth of the openings all contribute to the sense of lowness. Thus, both inside and out, the structure gives an impression of sturdy strength, almost fortresslike.

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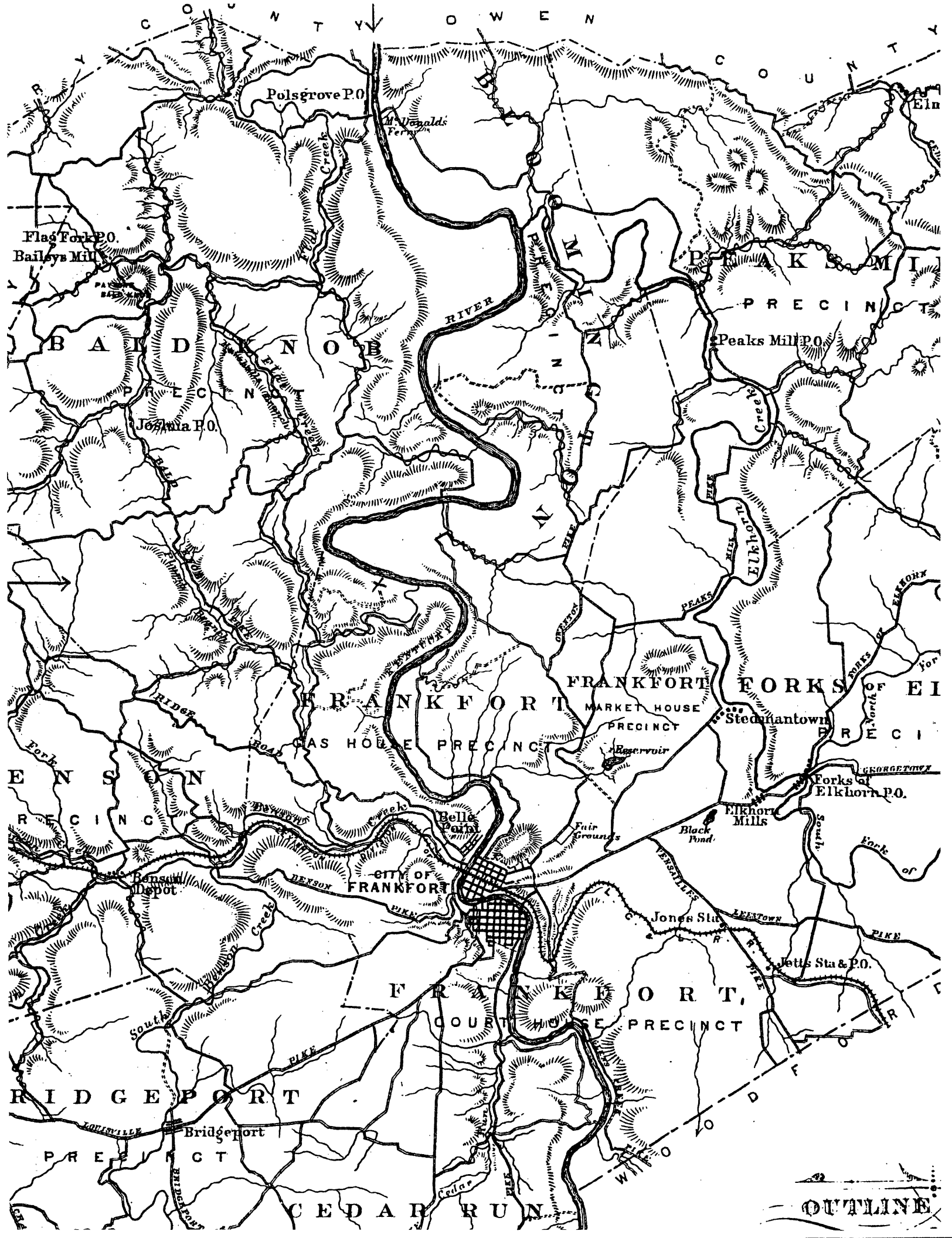
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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The property passed through the hands of a number of owners after being sold by County Commissioner Posey in 1888 to settle outstanding claims. It was purchased by Curtis Marshall in 1909 and became the property of his son Elmer in 1924 who maintained it until 1973. Curtis Marshall came under suspicion for abetting Field Ethington in the murder of Ethington's brother Joe. Joseph Ethington, a recluse, was murdered on the Curtis Marshall property in 1918 but Field Ethington's accusation of Marshall did not stand up in court. Six years after the Ethington murder and trial, Curtis Marshall's son Elmer became owner of the property which he held until c. 1940.

In layout, construction, and the few ornamental details, the house conforms to the earliest type of stone houses described by Carolyn Murray Wooley in her recent article on "Kentucky's Early Stone Houses." A large proportion of the builders of these houses were of Scotch-Irish stock and came to Kentucky through Pennsylvania or North Carolina, unlike the Penns who migrated from Maryland. Of the houses illustrated by Mrs. Wooley, the one that the Penn stone house most closely resembles, however, is the stone cabin of Cyrus McCrackin in Woodford County (adjacent to Franklin County along the Kentucky River). McCrackin came to Kentucky in 1775 from Pennsylvania. His smaller dwelling has two rooms on different levels to follow the slope of the site, but the massive square end chimneys set partially outside the wall with a projecting horizontal course just below the top and flanked closely by lookouts, the quality of the masonry and particularly the treatment of the corners, and above all the broad low proportions--all match corresponding features of the Penn house. Thus, with its sturdy, fortresslike character, the Penn-Marshall stone house seems to reflect the earliest, almost primitive, yet powerful, phase of stone construction in Kentucky.



Flag Fork P.O.  
Baileys Mill

Polsgrove P.O.

McDonald's Ferry

Josanna P.O.

Peaks Mill P.O.

GAS HOUSE PRECINCT

MARKET HOUSE PRECINCT

Stedantown

Benson Depot

Belle Point

Fair Grounds

Black Pond

Elkhorn Mills

Forks of Elkhorn P.O.

Bridgeport

OUTLINE

Penn-Marshall Stone House circled  
below

# FRANKFORD & MARY

PF  
Sec



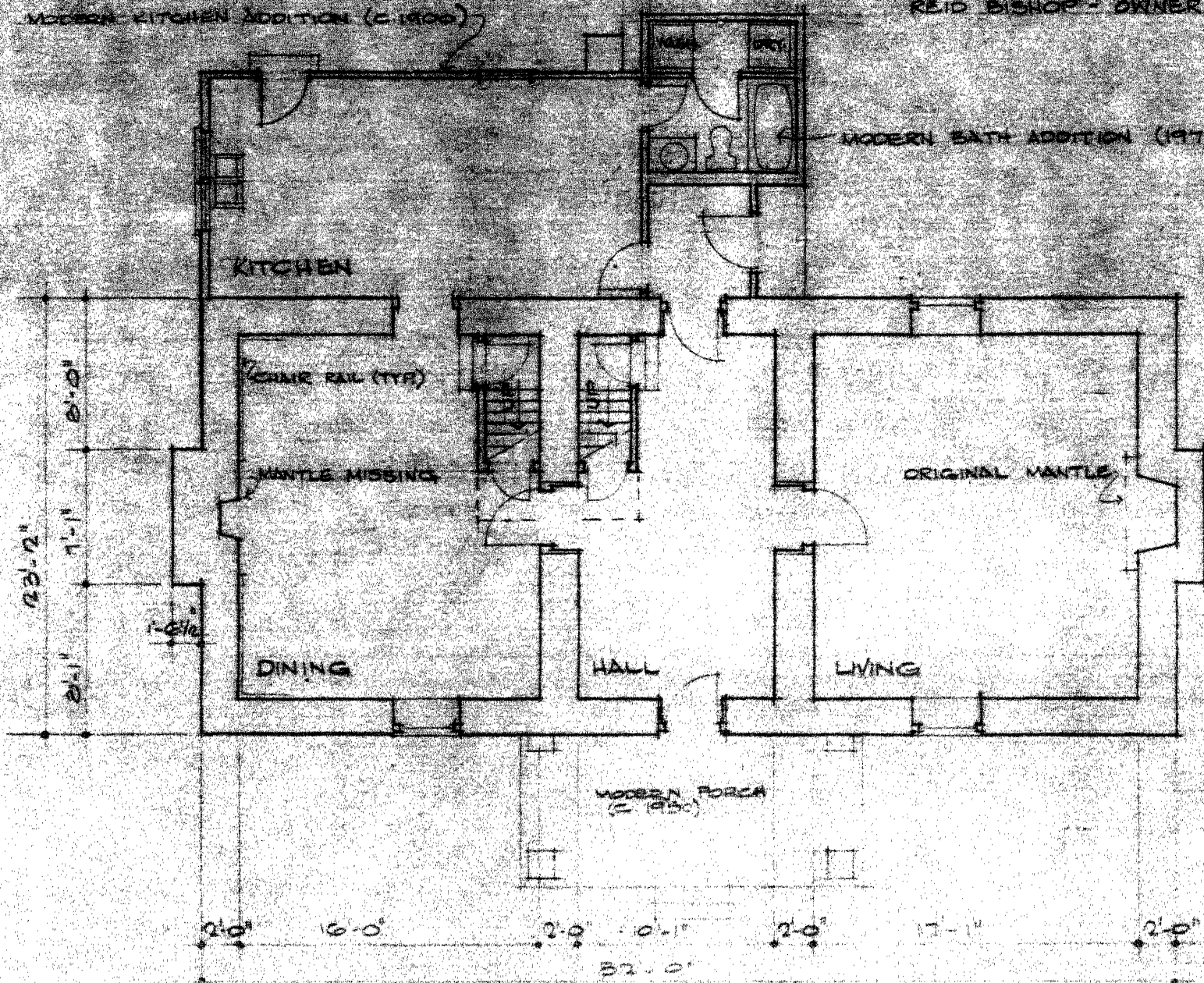


PENN - MARSHALL HOUSE

REID BISHOP - OWNER

MODERN KITCHEN ADDITION (C. 1900)

MODERN BATH ADDITION (1972)



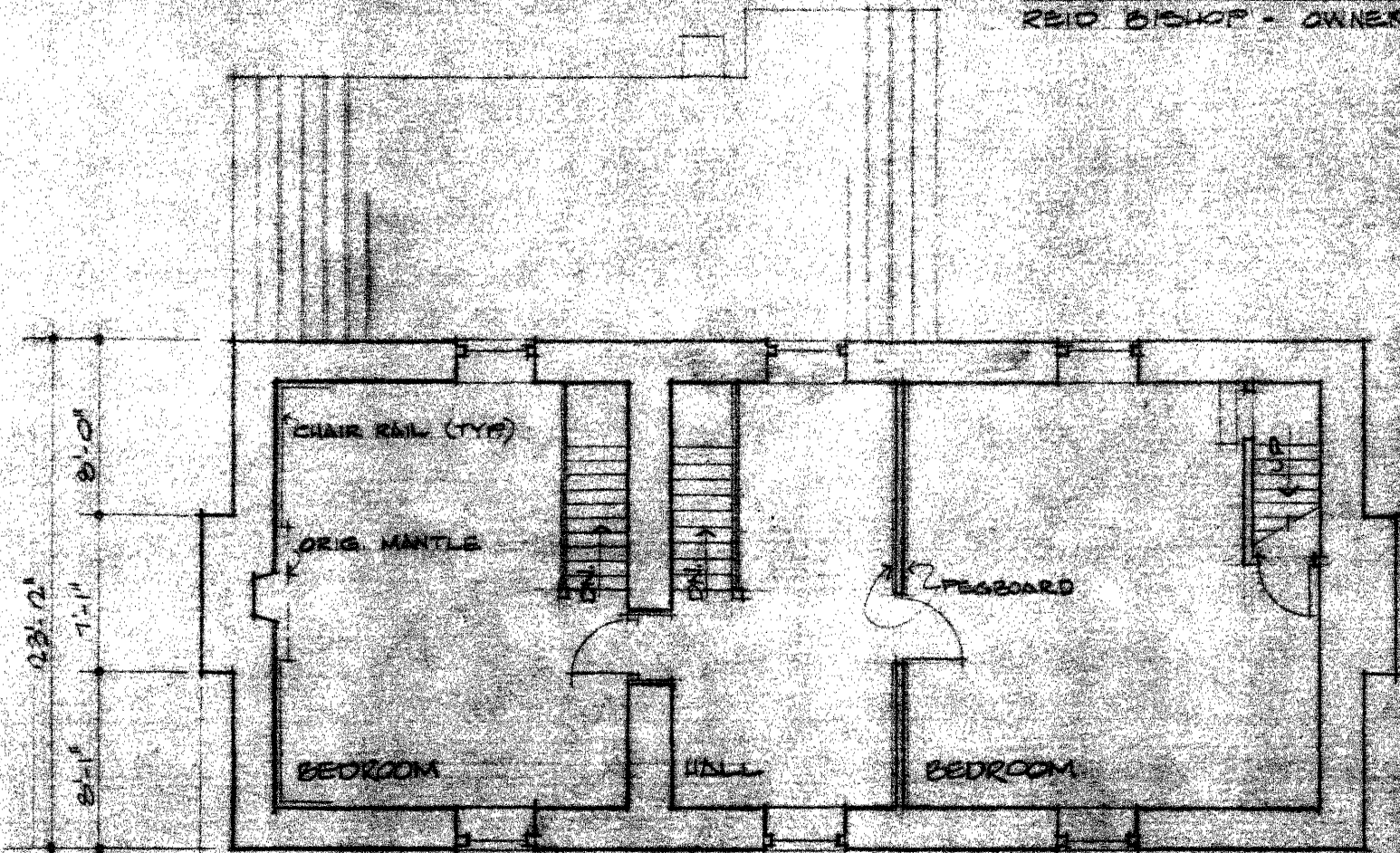
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1/8" = 1'-0"



PENN-MARSHALL HOUSE

REID BISHOP - OWNER



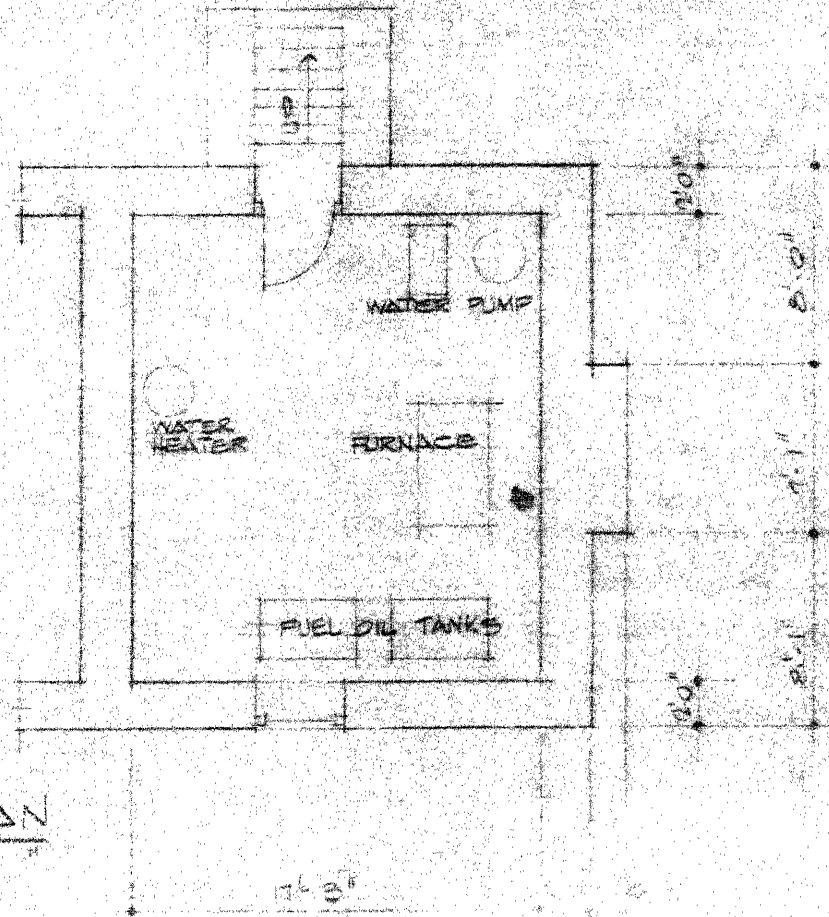
23'-2"  
8'-11"  
7'-11"

10'-0" 16'-2" 20'-4 1/2" 11'-0" 19'-0 1/2" 2'-0"  
52'-5 1/2"

SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
6'-7 1/2" x 52'-5 1/2"

PENN - MARSHALL HOUSE

REID BISHOP - OWNER



BASEMENT PLAN

11'-3" x 11'-1"