

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NPS USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John Abbott House

AND/OR COMMON

RECEIVED

AUG 8 1979

PH & MC  
Historic Preservation**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER South side of East King Street (U.S. Route 30) and  
west side of Country Club Road

CITY, TOWN

Abbottstown

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

19th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Adams

CODE

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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

Yvonne R. Hayes

STREET &amp; NUMBER

R. D. #3, Box 281B

CITY, TOWN

Hanover

VICINITY OF

STATE

PA 17331

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Adams County Court House

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Baltimore Street

CITY, TOWN

Gettysburg

STATE

PA

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

9/7/79

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN Harrisburg

STATE  
Pennsylvania

**17 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

**7. DESCRIPTION**

The John Abbott House is two-story wood, stone and brick structure (28 feet x 67 feet at ground level) consisting of the original clapboard sheathed log dwelling at the north end, a south extension incorporating the original stone kitchen, with brick addition, and a one-story wood lean-to.

The direct glass tax of 1798 lists the property (Lot 44), in what was then Berwick Township, as one dwelling house, 28 x 24, wood, two-stories, eleven windows, 147 window lights, and one kitchen, 20 x 20, stone, no windows.

The main block of the house as it exists today is four bays (28 feet) across the main facade (north) and two bays (24 feet) deep. It has a gable roof, wood sheathed with sawn cedar shingles. The main first floor entry, in the easternmost bay of the main facade, is a half glazed, two-light, door with a four-light transom above. Three first floor windows have 9/6 light sash. Four second floor windows contain 6/6 light sash. The east facade (of the original dwelling house) has two windows on the first floor, 9/6 light sash, and two windows on the second floor, 6/6 light sash. These account for the 1798 eleven windows and 147 window lights. At or after the time the south extension was added, the original log construction was sheathed with clapboards on the east, north and west facades. When this was done gable windows, 6/6 lights, were added, both east and west, and another 6/6 light window was installed in the west facade on the second floor of the stair hall.

The two-story south extension incorporates the 20 x 20, one-story, stone kitchen, a 10 foot wide breezeway or "yard" between the dwelling house and the kitchen and an 8 foot area to the west, which may have originally been a kitchen porch or lean-to. Directly south of this western area is a 8' x 7' stone structure (now part of the south one-story lean-to) of the same construction as the original kitchen and which may have been a storage room.

The east facade of the south extension is partly frame construction, with clapboard siding continuing (from the north) across the breezeway area for both stories, and exposed random ashlar stone (both stories) indicating that the original kitchen wall was extended to two stories in height. The wood sheathed area contains a side entry, with a half glazed, two light door with a five light transom above. The side door and transom are almost identical to the front door indicating the front entry may not be original. On the second floor above the side door are two windows with 6/6 light sash. The exposed stone portion of the east facade has two windows on each floor; 9/6 light on the first and 6/6 on the second.

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The west facade of the south extension is entirely of brick for both stories and contains four bays. On the first floor the northernmost bay contains another side entry with a half glazed, nine light, door, but no transom. All windows in the brick area, three on the first floor and four on the second have 6/6 light sash.

The entire south extension has a gable roof, wood sheathed with cedar shingles, and two brick chimneys extending through the roof and at or near the ridge line, with the gable facing south.

The south facade, covered to approximately two feet above the second floor level by the south lean-to, contains a gable window with 6/6 light sash. The gable is sheathed with clapboard. Below the eave line and above the lean-to roof the south facade has been stuccoed concealing the stone wall. On the second floor of this facade, to the west, are a 6/6 light window and a doorway (partially covered by the lean-to roof construction). A stairway to grade from this second floor exit was obviously removed when the south lean-to was built.

The lean-to, 28 feet wide by 13 feet deep, is entirely of wood frame construction with clapboard siding, except for a 7 foot portion of the west side (the stone storage room) and has a standing seam metal roof. The construction indicates the lean-to was added to in two sections: one of 7 feet, corresponding to the width of the stone storage room, and the final section of six feet. There are sliding (top hung) doors on the east and west sides of the latest portion of the lean-to. The south side contains a sliding door to the east and three equally spaced 6/6 light windows.

In addition to the stone storage room, the lean-to contains, at the eastern end a relatively modern brick bake oven with free standing chimney extending through the roof. Existence of an earlier bake oven (perhaps a beehive type) is indicated by a bricked-in flue opening into the main chimney flue in the kitchen's south wall.

It is noted that the original stone lined well located between the dwelling house and the kitchen (east end of the "yard") still exists below the first floor and until recently was the water supply for the property.

The exact date when the original portions of the house was built by John Abbott is not known. A 1744 land warrant issued to Abbott

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mentioned "improvements" and it is known that he was a resident of what was then called Berwicktown in 1747. Abbottstown was founded in approximately 1753. Therefore, the original house probably dates from before 1750. Considering that John Abbott had eight (8) children, born between the early 1730's and 1749, the house may well have been built some years earlier (about 1740). It is known that in 1750 Abbott had a tavern license for the property at Lot 44 and referred to himself as an innkeeper. It is also known that 1798 that there were two buildings on the property as previously described. Since that time the house has undergone a series of alterations and additions both inside and out.

While the exact dates of alterations and additions have not been documented, a physical examination of the existing fabric and approximate dating of the various elements indicates the following probable sequence:

1798-1810: Addition of second story to original kitchen - based on masonry work, windows, shutters, doors and hardware.

1830-1850: Major alteration combining original house and kitchen into one building, new roof structure, weatherboard siding - based on brick work, roof joists, flooring, doors, trim (mouldings), finishes and hardware.

1915-1930: Removal of rear stairway (exterior) addition of lean-to (1st section) construction of existing bake over, first electrification, first indoor plumbing - based on lumber dimensions, brickwork, wiring and piping.

Post 1945: Addition of last section of lean-to, rewiring, indoor plumbing additions, closing fireplaces - based on lumber dimensions, electrical panels, wiring, bathroom and kitchen fixtures.

It is anticipated that alterations and additions will be more exactly dated by further research and during the process of restoration.

In regard to the interior (see attached floor plans) the millwork, trim and finishes, particularly in the original main two-story house reflect great attention to detail and craftsmanship. Interior work in the southern extension though not so finely crafted, ranges from plain vertical plank enclosures at the rear stair in the kitchen to elaborate fireplace mantel pieces and arched built-in cabinets in the bedrooms.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

The primary significance for the preservation and restoration of the John Abbott House is that it was the original home of the settler and founder of present day Abbottstown. Secondly, from 1750 to at least 1763, the years that John Abbott was known to have had a tavern license, he kept a tavern or "tippling house" where he lived, one of the earliest commercial ventures in the area. Finally, the house itself is a mine-history of the architectural development in the Abbottstown area in the 18th and 19th centuries.

As noted in Eisenhart's A History of Abbottstown (see Item 9, Major Biographical References), John Abbott may have settled on the land as early as 1735. Interest and quit-rent on a warrent issued in 1744 for 200 acres, was payable starting in March of 1737. The property was surveyed in 1746, and a patent deed for a larger area, 506 acres, was granted to John Abbott in May 1762. At this early period the property was in Berwick Township (established between 1744 and 1749) then part of York County. No exact founding date for Abbottstown has been established, although it was undoubtedly in the 1760's. The names Berwick Town or Abbott's Town were used interchangeably in early records, with the popular name "Abbottstown" not made official by Adams County Court until September 28, 1911.

Shortly after receiving the patent for his lands, John Abbott went into the real estate business, selling lots, the first deeds for which are dated October 1763.

In addition to his commercial ventures first as Tavernkeeper, then as a seller of land, John Abbott held many public positions including tax collector (1748), assessor of York County (1749), overseer of the poor for Berwick Township (1753), viewer for a proposed road leading to Baltimore (1753), church vestryman (1762), and supervisor of highways for Berwick Township (1766). See attached "Chronology of John Abbott" prepared by the Adams County Historical Society.

John Abbott's tavern, located on Lot 44, was bordered on the east side by the Baltimore Road (new Country Club Road) which paralleled Beaver Creek now separating York and Adams Counties, and fronted on the Gettysburg-York Road to the north (now King Street). Located

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midway between Gettysburg and York, thirty miles south of Harrisburg and fifty miles north of Baltimore, it is probable that the tavern was well patronized by travelers. Undoubtedly Abbott's tavern operations provided the funds to purchase his 506 acres for which he paid 78 pounds, 8 shillings and 7 pence. Without John Abbott's settlement in the area and his commercial activities, Abbottstown might not exist today.

The architectural significance of the John Abbott House as it exists today is not readily apparent. Although as Eisenhart notes in his "History" (p.22),

"The original house is still standing; it faces King Street. The house was added to by subsequent owners, but the original structure is easily discernable. It was built of logs and covered with weatherboarding. The window frames are made of single pieces of wood, shaped, morticed and fastened together with wooden pins, The shutters have wrought iron hinges extending across their width. The two-story house had open fireplaces; it is still well preserved".

In addition to the original house, all the basic elements of the original stone kitchen, once a separate building, are still intact although a second story has been added. As noted in the description of the house, many additions and alterations have been made over the years. The great majority of the original fabric still exists. However, during the last 25 years deterioration, at an accelerating pace, is becoming more evident. Actions for immediate stabilization and conservation based on the preservation architect's condition survey and recommendations are in progress.

The additions and alterations are themselves architecturally significant for the house grew and developed as Abbottstown did. As such it is typical of the vernacular architecture of the area. Starting with rudimentary and functional shelter to meet living requirements each subsequent addition or alteration not only provided further amenities but also reflected the growth and prosperity of the Abbott and the residents of Abbottstown. The quality and sophistication of later work, particularly in the interior, show a definite concern for architectural character beyond merely meeting functional requirements.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Eisenhart, Willis W., A History of Abbottstown, privately printed, (n.p) 1953, 131 pp.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.4359

QUADRANGLE NAME Abbottstown, Pa.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 33,0 54,0 4,4 16 9,00

B                 
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                              

D               

E                              

F               

G                              

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attached Sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Yvonne R. Hayes and Tomas H. Spiers, Jr., AIA

Aug 1, 1979  
DATE

ORGANIZATION

Owner/Architect (Berger/Spiers)

STREET & NUMBER

R. D. #3, Box 281B / P. O. Box 3742

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Hanover, 17331 / Harrisburg, 17105

(717)637-469 (Owner)

(717)763-7396 (Architect)

**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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

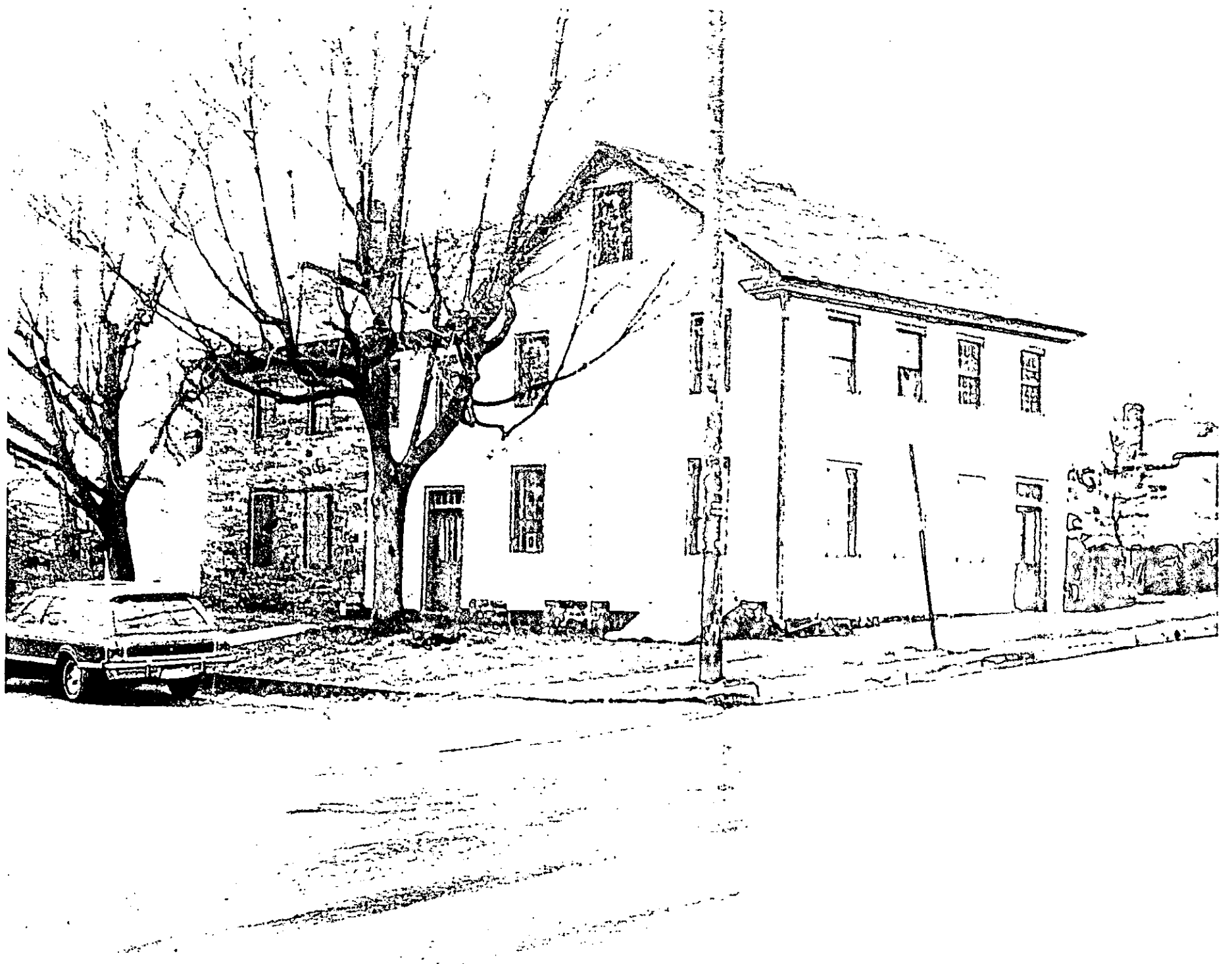
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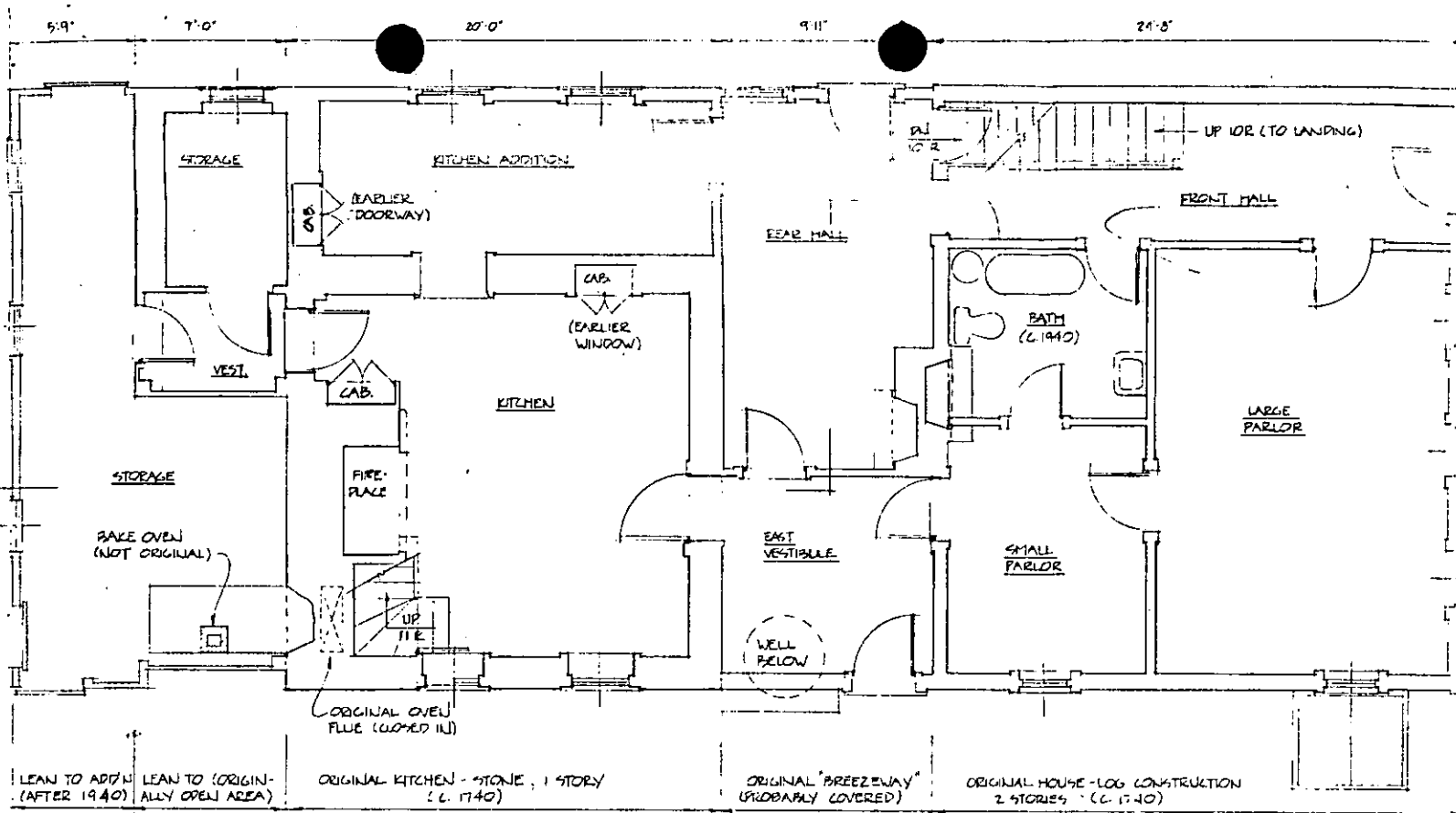
ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

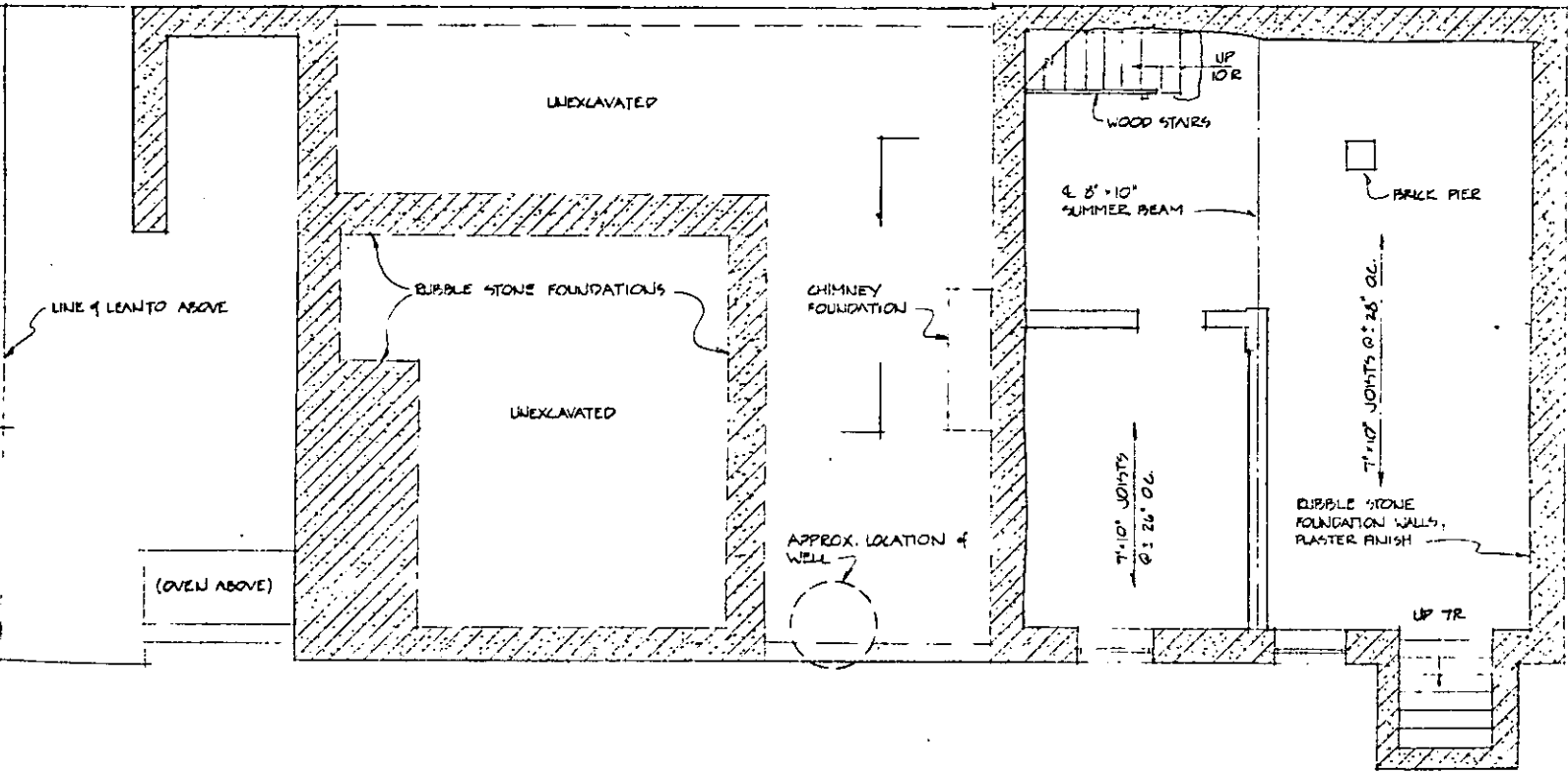




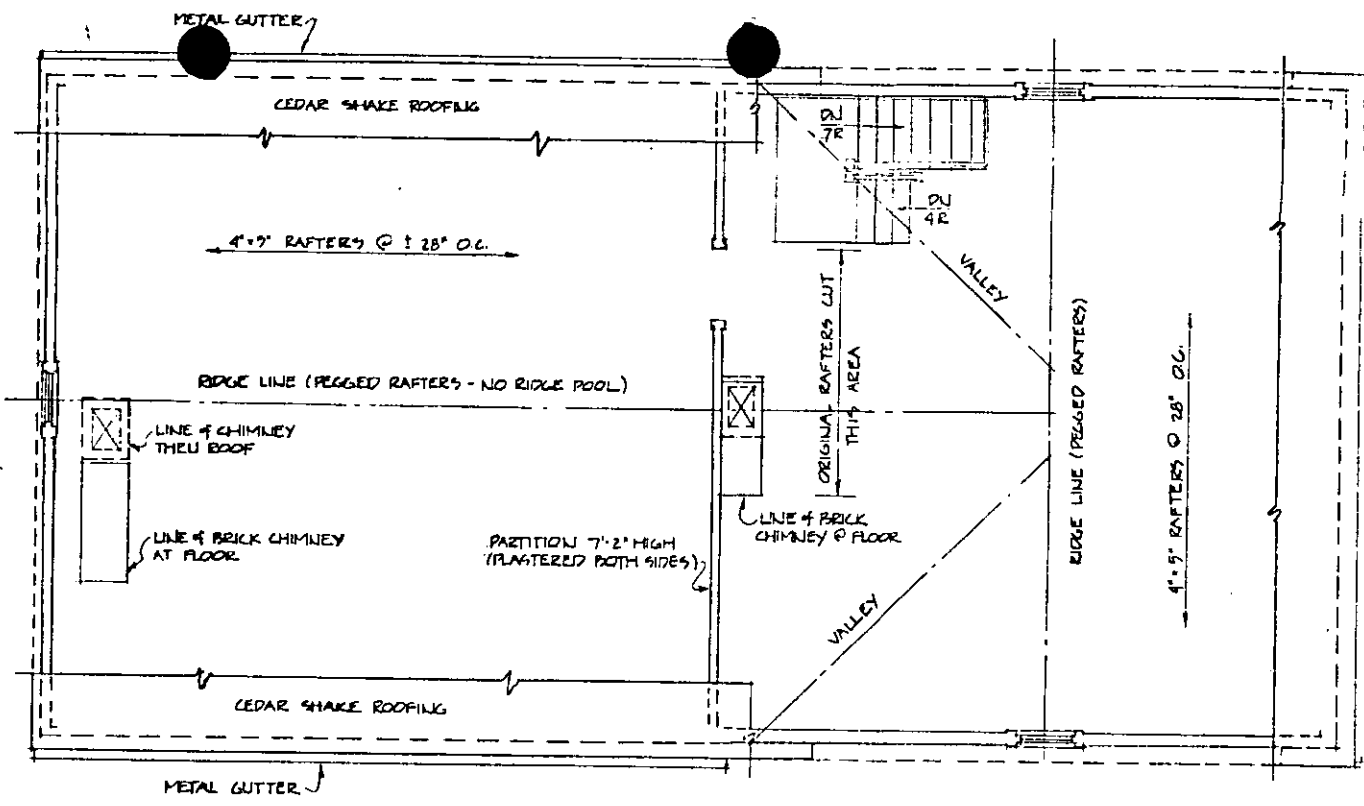




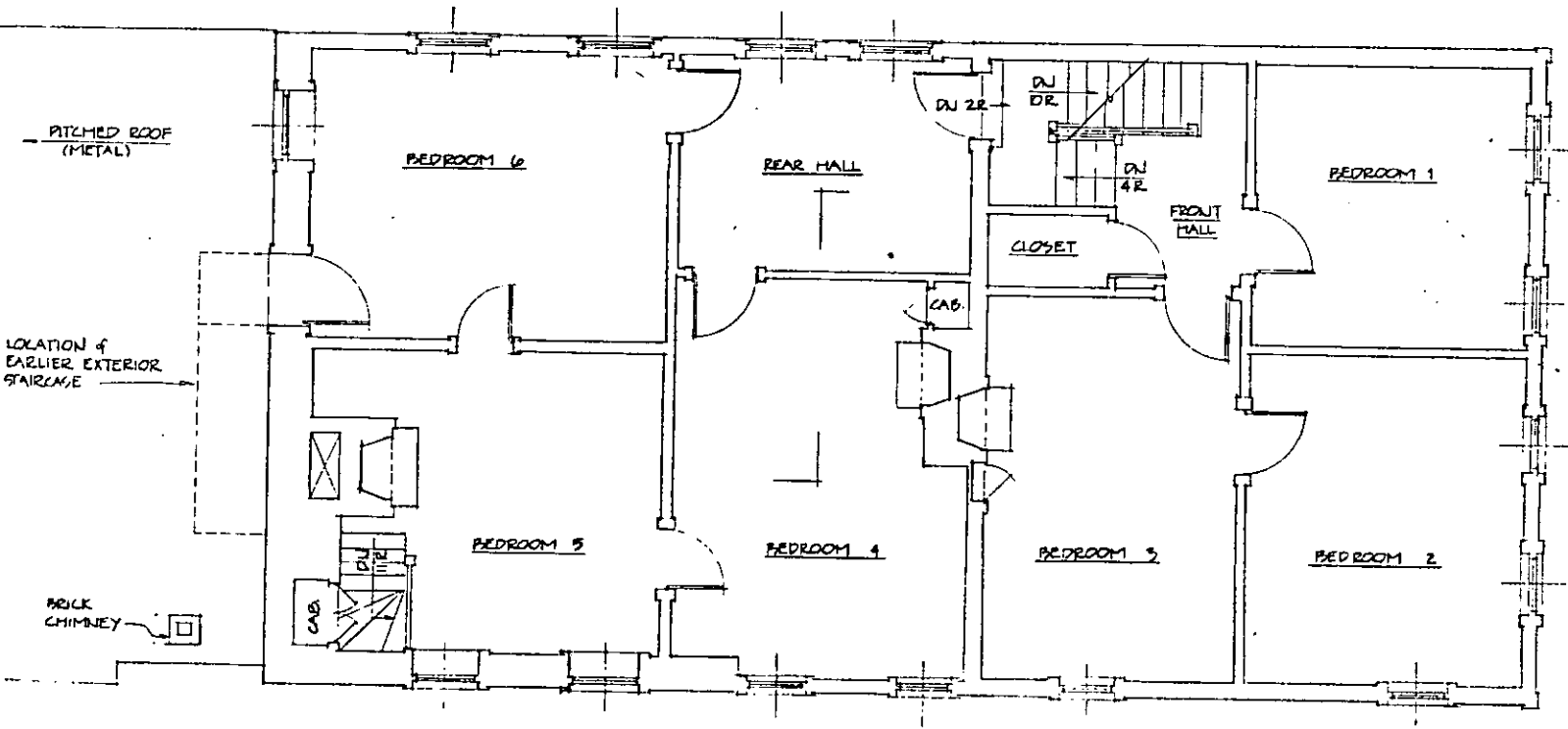
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2  
**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**  
1/4" = 1'-0"



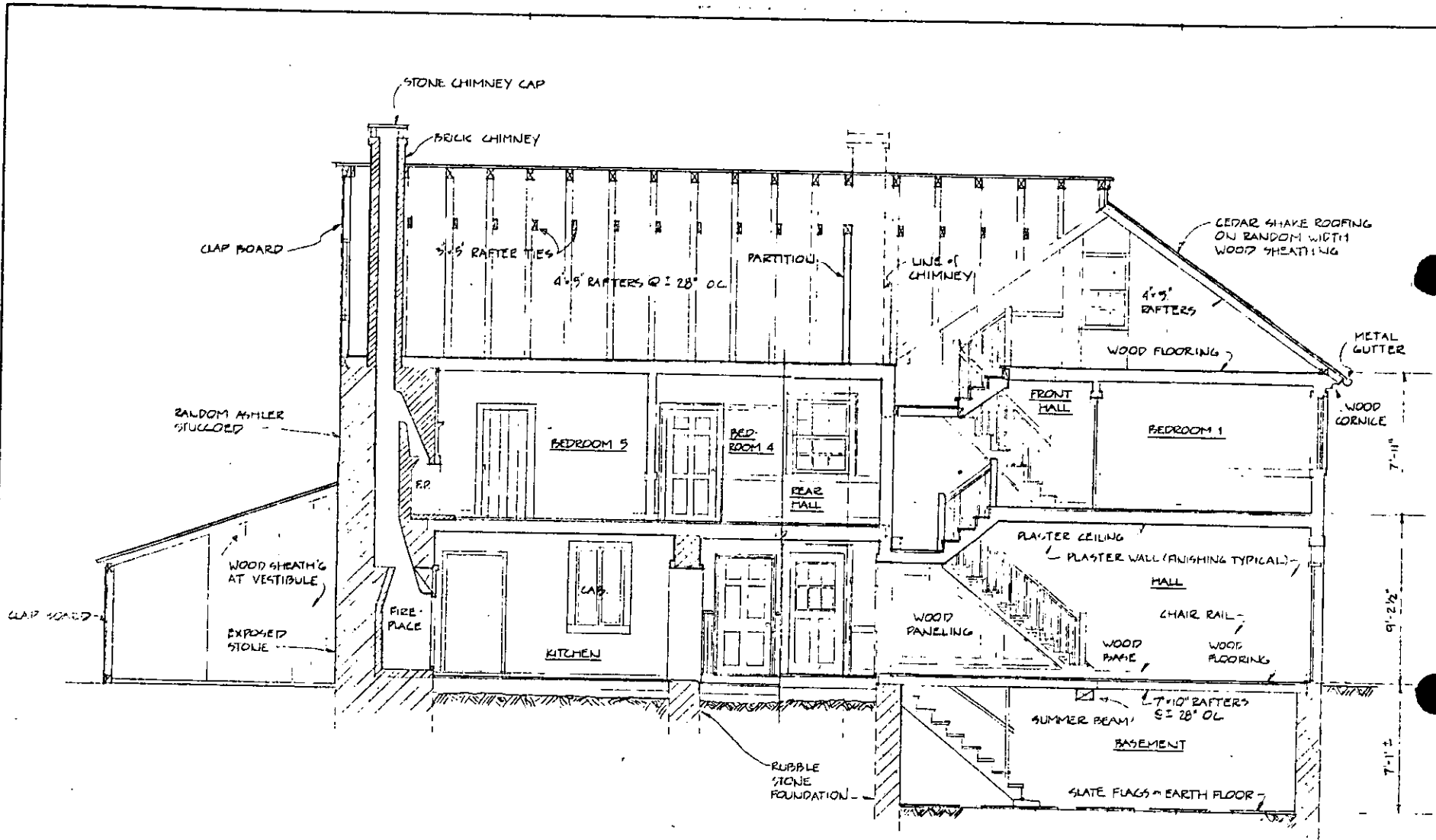
MD-1  
1  
**BASEMENT PLAN**  
1/4" = 1'-0"



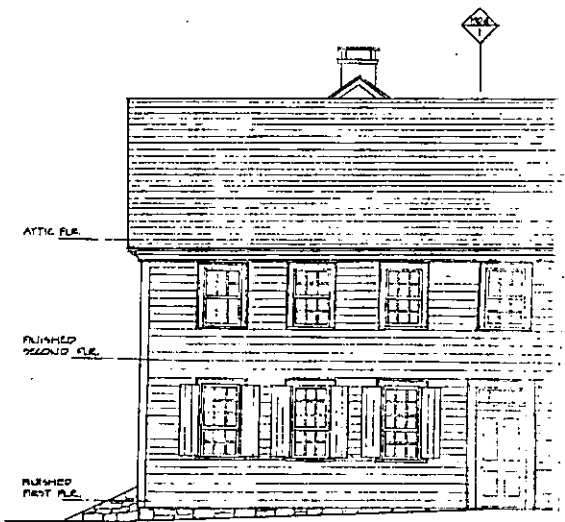
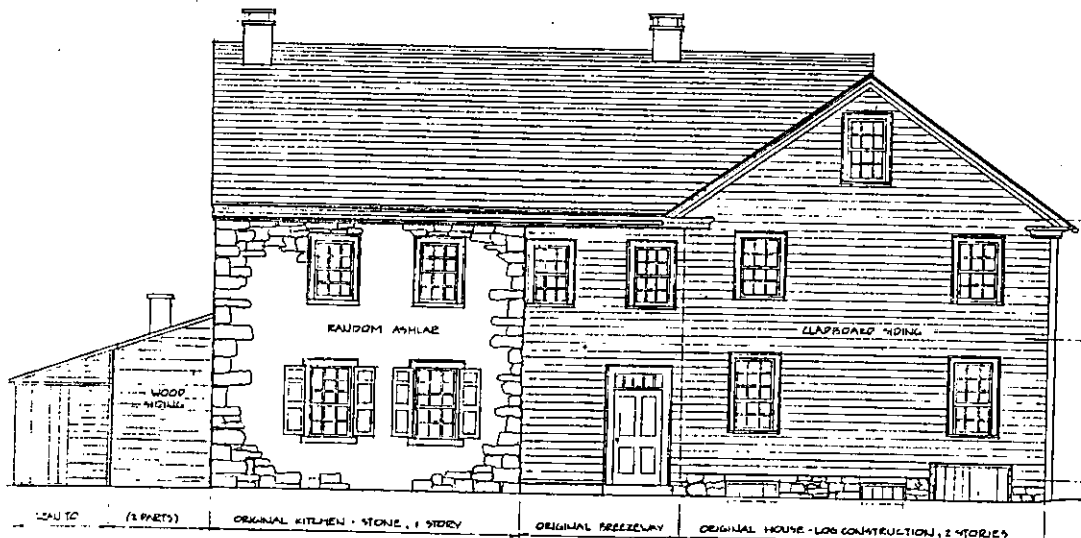
MD-2  
2  
ATTIC FLOOR PLAN  
1/4" = 1'-0"





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1  
SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
1/4" = 1'-0"



MD4 SECTION  
 1/4" = 1'-0" 0 1 2 3



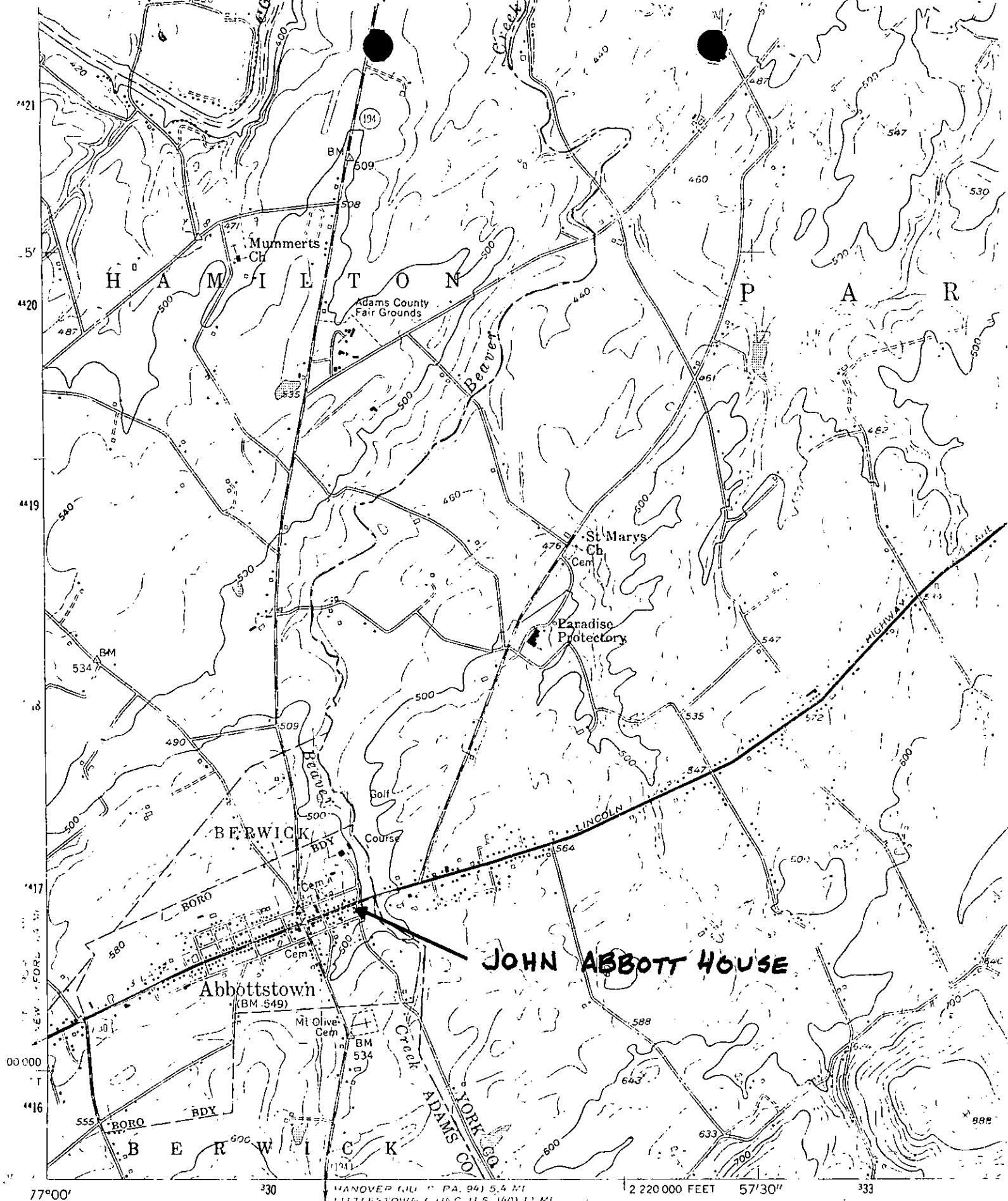

**EAST ELEVATION**  
 1/4" = 1'-0"


**NORTH ELEVATION**  
 1/4" = 1'-0"

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

BEGINNING at a steel pin at a mark in concrete at a post along the property line of King Street, said steel pin at a mark in concrete being set back twelve and three-tenths (12.3) feet from the curb line of said Street; thence along the property line of King Street, North eighty-three (83) degrees thirty (30) minutes East, one hundred three and thirty-hundredths (103.30) feet to a steel pin at the curb line of Country Club Road; thence South six (6) degrees thirty (30) minutes East, one hundred eighty-three and eighty-hundredths (183.80) feet to a railroad spike at the Northern boundary line of Fleet Street; thence along the Northern boundary line of Fleet Street, South eighty-three (83) degrees thirty (30) minutes West, one hundred three and thirty-hundredths (103.30) feet to a steel pin at lands now or formerly of Harry Kessell; thence along the same North six (6) degrees thirty (30) minutes West, sixty-eight and thirty-hundredths (68.30) feet to an iron pipe on the line; thence continuing along said line, North six (6) degrees thirty (30) minutes West, one hundred fifteen and fifty-hundredths (115.50) feet to a steel pin at the mark in concrete and place of BEGINNING. CONTAINING 18,987 square feet, as per survey of J. H. Rife, R.E., dated October 14, 1971.



HANOVER (1:250,000) PA. 94 5.4 MI  
 LITTLESTOWN (1:50,000) U.S. 1460 12 MI.

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
 Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
 Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1953  
 Polycon projection, 1927 North American datum

**ABBOTTSTOWN  
 QUADRANGLE**

N 4416 900

84' E 330540

