

The West Point Landscape 1802-1860

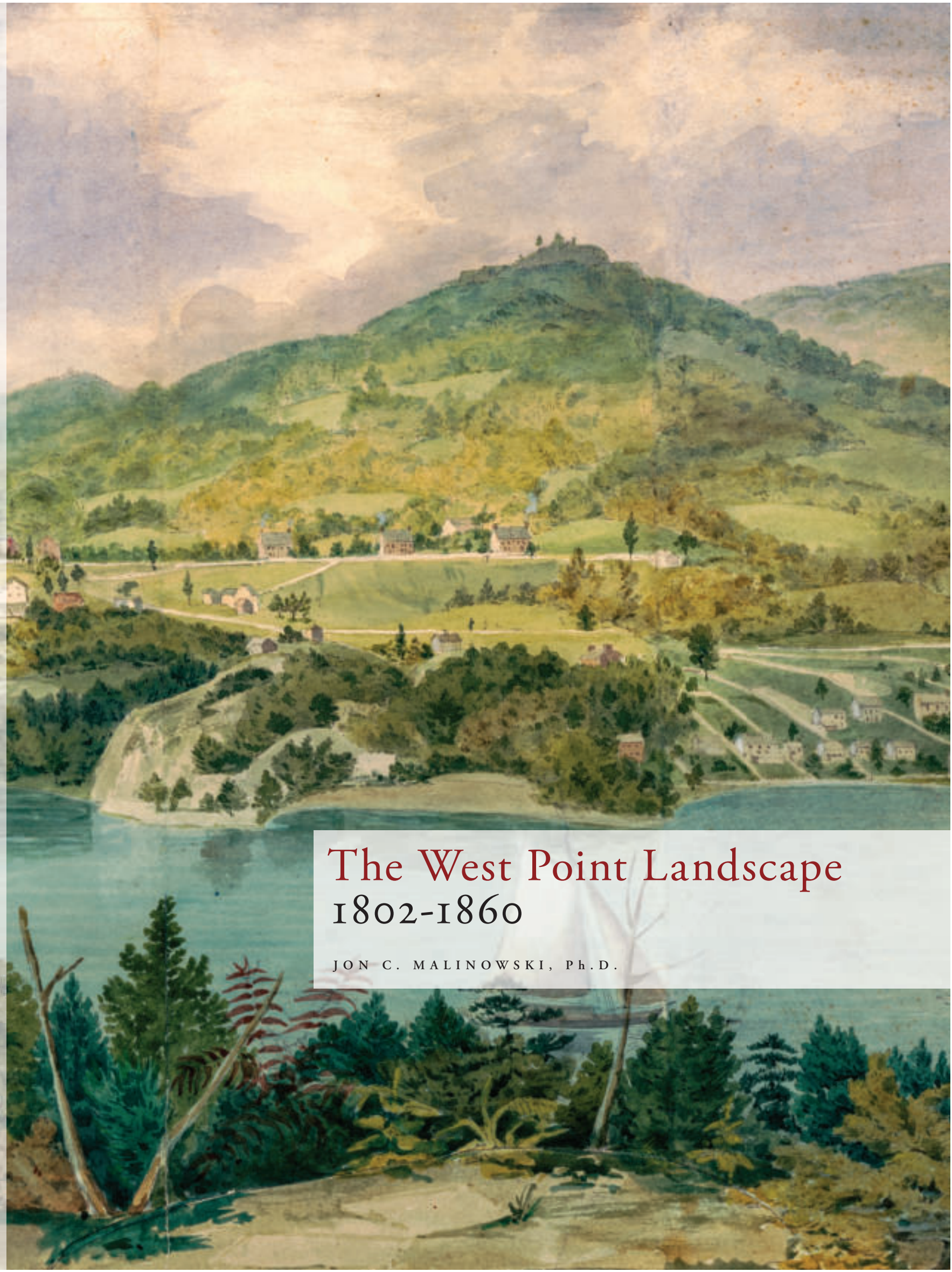
JON C. MALINOWSKI

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JON C. MALINOWSKI, Ph.D.

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WEST POINT
PRESS

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*Facing: Detail from a barracks plan,
1843. NARA*

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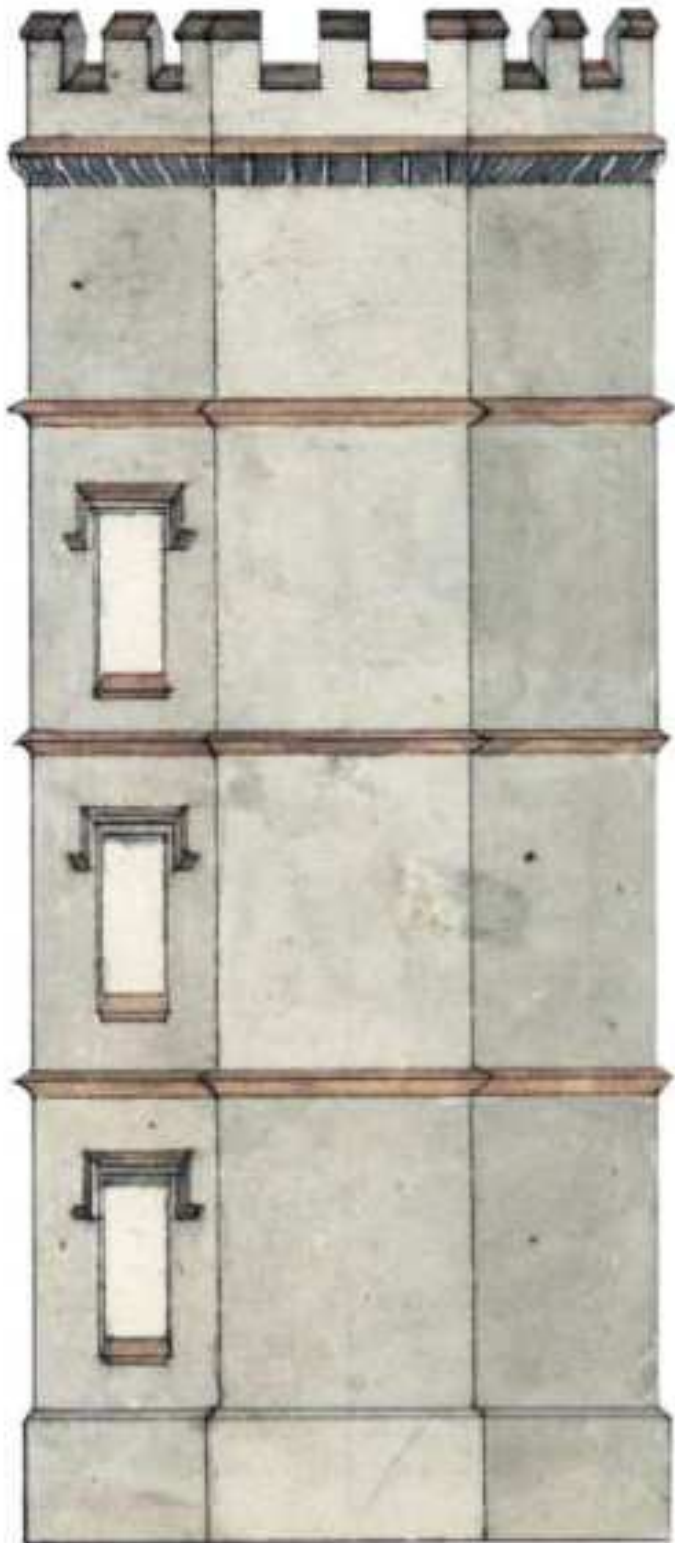
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CONTENTS

- vii Introduction
- ix Prologue: Before 1802
- WEST POINT BEFORE
THE WAR OF 1812**
- 2 The Basemap: West Point in 1802
- 5 The Western Plain
- 8 The Eastern Plain
- 10 The Waterfront
- 11 Kosciuszko's Garden, 1778
- 13 The Long Barracks
- 16 *West Point From the Side of the Mountain*
CHARLES WILLSON PEALE, 1801
- 19 Getting to West Point
- 20 Proposed Wall, 1805
- 21 *A Plan of West Point*
CHRISTIAN E. ZOELLER, ~1808
- 24 Southern Boundary
- 26 Summer Camp, 1814
- 27 Powder Magazine, ~1814
- THE WAR OF 1812
RESHAPES WEST POINT**
- 34 *West Point in the State of New York*
J. G. BRUFFS, 1820–1822
- 35 South Barracks, 1815
- 39 Refectory, 1815
- 41 Mess Hall Expansion
- 42 The Academy, 1815
- 45 North Barracks, 1817
- 48 Octagon Building, ~1818
- 50 Housing Boom on the Plain, 1816–1829
- 52 *A Plan of West Point*
GEORGE WASHINGTON WHISTLER, 1818
- 56 Cadet Monument, 1818
- 58 Wood Monument, 1818
- WEST POINT IN THE 1820S**
- 62 Superintendent's Quarters, 1820
- 65 Professors Row, 1821 & 1826–1828
- 69 The Colors of Early West Point
- 70 Service Areas North, 1820s
- 71 Service Areas South, 1820s
- 73 Kosciuszko Monument, 1828
- 75 Water System, 1829
- 76 *West Point*
T.B. BROWN, 1829
- 78 West Point Hotel, 1829
- WEST POINT IN THE 1830S**
- 84 Cadets' Hospital, 1830
- 87 Gun Shed & Laboratory, ~1830
- 89 Map by Thomas Arden, 1830s
- 90 Cadet Chapel, 1836
- 96 Camptown, 1837
- 98 Academy, 1838
AKA DRILL HOUSE, EXERCISE HALL
- 104 Proposed Expansion, 1839
- 106 Gothic West Point
- 108 Quartermaster Stable, 1839
Dragoon Stable, 1839

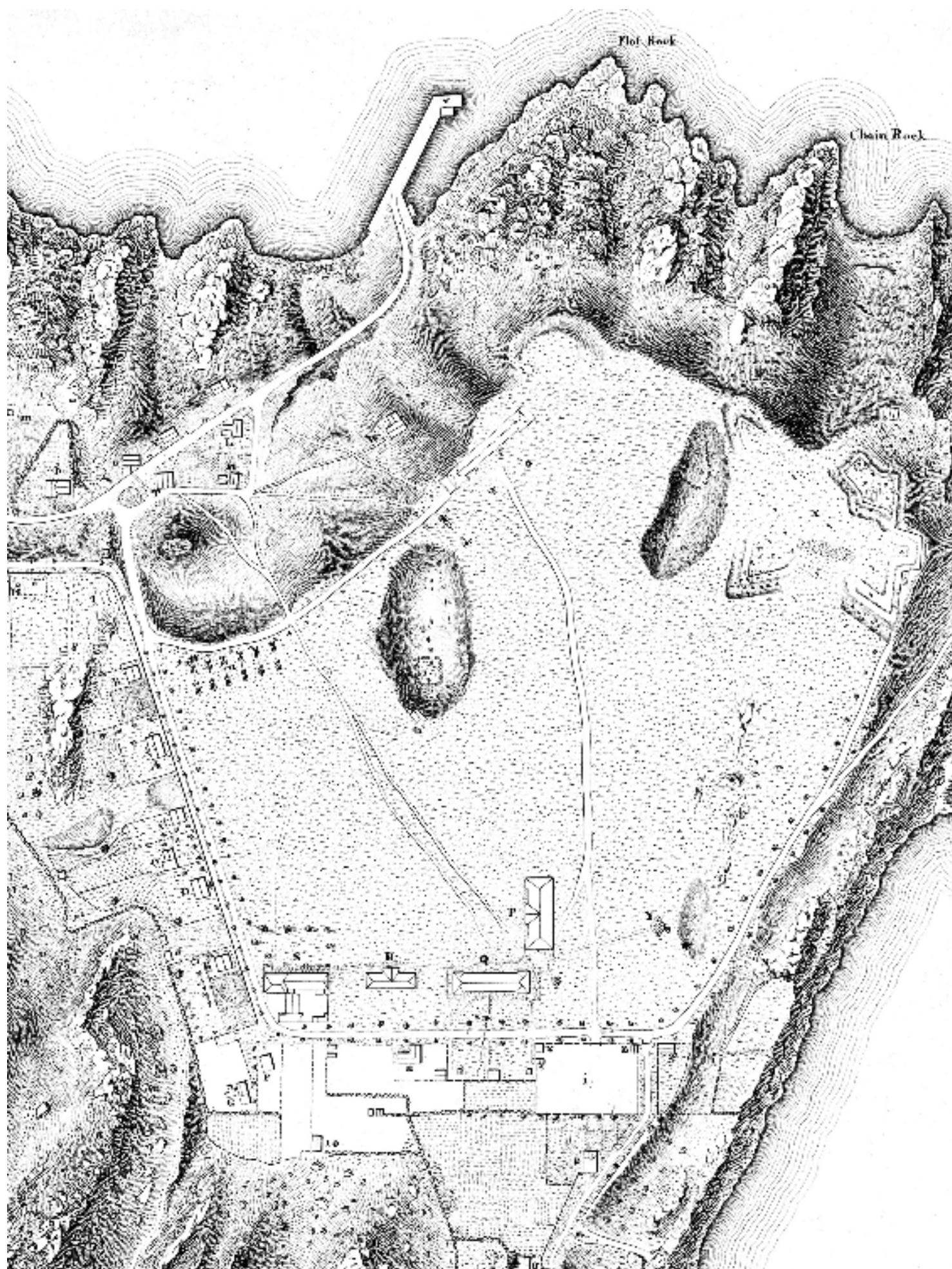
WEST POINT IN THE 1840S

- 112 Ordnance & Artillery Laboratory, 1840
- 116 Library, 1841
- 123 Execution Hollow, 1843
- 124 Trader's Store, 1843
- 125 Cottage, 1849
- 126 Cadet Privy, 1849

WEST POINT IN THE 1850–1860S

- 130 Post Office, 1850
- 132 Guardhouse, 1850
Equipment Shed, 1851
- 134 Soldiers' Hospital, 1851
- 135 Inscriptions, 1847 & 1857–58
- 136 Cadet Barracks, 1852
- 146 *View of West Point*
ROBERT HAVELL, 1848
- 147 Guard House, 1852
- 150 Mess Hall, 1852
- 156 South Dock, 1853
- 158 Riding Hall, 1855
- 161 Summer Encampment
- 163 Soldiers' Chapel, 1856
- 164 Cavalry Stables, 1857
- 167 Quarters 27 & 29, 1857
DEAN'S QUARTERS
- 169 Engineer Barracks, 1858
- 171 Quarters 11 & 13, 1858
- 172 Cavalry Barracks, 1858
Artillery Barracks, 1859

- 174 Confectionery, 1859
- 176 South Gate, 1859
- 178 West Point, 1859
- 179 Miscellanea
- 181 Epilogue
- 182 Notes & References
- 188 Acknowledgments



THREE MINUTES INTO Netflix's 2022 historical thriller *The Pale Blue Eye*, Christian Bale's character, detective Augustus Landor, is driven by carriage onto the grounds of the United States Military Academy (USMA) in the fall of 1830. The Academy shown meets historical expectations. It is gray and Gothic. A mounted officer trots past marching cadets. Colonel Sylvanus Thayer's office is large and appropriate to his position. All of this is wrong.

Sylvanus Thayer never saw a Gothic building at West Point, nor did Cadet Edgar Allan Poe or Cadet George Meade. The young Ulysses S. Grant was witness to the construction of the first Gothic buildings at West Point, but a decade later, Cadet George McClellan saw Gothic architecture pushed aside for grand Romanesque designs.

West Point's first six decades were a time of great landscape change, and that is the focus of this book. Early histories of West Point often focus on the details of getting the Academy running and honing the curriculum to the needs of a young national Army. Historians rarely go into detail about the physical world of the Academy that future Civil War generals trod every day.

One of these oversights was the seed corn of this project. An oft-cited Academy history includes maps arranged roughly by decade. In reading a 19th century West Point memoir, the author mentioned buildings that I had not seen on the maps included in the history. In

short, the buildings had been built and torn down in the interval between the maps included in the book. Having been trained in the tradition of cultural and historical geographers, I began to realize that the past landscape of West Point was not accurately represented.

Researching the Academy's landscape before the Civil War is challenging. A fire in 1838 destroyed important records. Photos are non-existent until the mid-1850s. Diaries and personal accounts are sporadic. Plans exist for some, but not all, buildings. In other cases, plans survive for buildings that were never constructed or were modified before completion. When Academy records do exist, they most often consist of handwritten letters that are often difficult to decipher.

In addition, authors of West Point histories have not always been diligent about checking the sources used by earlier scholars. Numerous "standard" sources have significant errors.

All this is to say that while I set out to make this the best book on the Academy's early landscape, there are undoubtedly errors, omissions, and oversights. New information will inevitably come to light, and I look forward to corrections and updates.

What follows is a very detailed trip through more than a half-century of West Point landscape history. The main focus is on the buildings that came and, often, went. The period between 1802 and 1860 saw about a half-dozen

Facing: Detail of an 1826 map of West Point by Lieutenant Theophilus B. Brown.

USMA LIBRARY ASC

NOTES

I have generally chosen to use place names and other terms that were used in the time period discussed. This will aid future researchers in finding original sources.

For building dates, I have generally elected to use the date that the building was occupied or finished rather than its groundbreaking. Past books have given the wrong impression that a building was in use years before it was actually occupied.

COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

NARA: National Archives and Records Administration

USMA: United States Military Academy

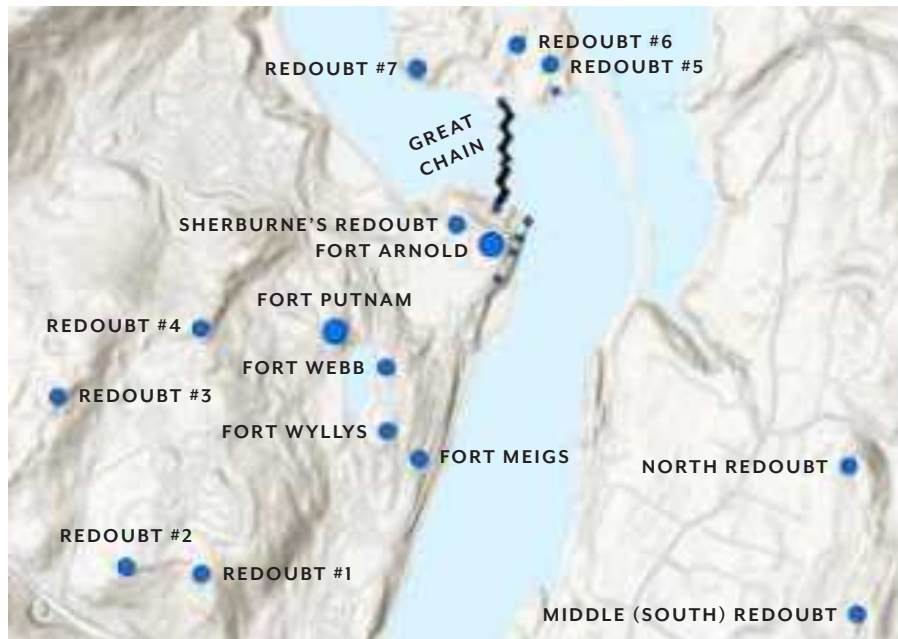
USMA LIBRARY ASC: United States Military Academy Library Archives and Special Collections

Estimate of the Cost of a Chapel to be Constructed for the Use of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

		Dollars and Cents
Marble \$20,000.00	For 5,325 feet of Marble and stone ashlar at \$1.25 per foot for front view of Chapel...	6,656.25
	For 5,325 feet of Marble ashlar for the two sides of Chapel at \$1.00 per foot...	5,325.00
	For 2,856 feet of Marble ashlar for the basement of Chapel at \$1.00 per foot...	2,856.00
	For eight Columns	1,164.00
	For two Porticoes	1,447.00
Common Stone \$2,565.00	For laying the Marble to the thickness of 2 feet 2,100 feet at 60 cents per foot...	1,260.00
	For the Roof	775.00
Lumber \$3,155.00	Planks for the Floor	539.00
	Sleepers and Girders for Floor	652.20
	Scaffolds	220.00
	Chairs	352.00
	Cornices	500.00
Timber \$904.50	For the Roof	996.50
Plastering \$1,700.00	For the Basement and the main body of Chapel	1,700.00
Masonry \$2,000.00	For laying 57,356 feet of Marble and stone at 60 cents per foot	3,441.36
Lime \$152.00	For laying the above quantity of stone to the thickness of 2 feet	954.00
	Total	\$22,697.99

distinct architectural eras in the United States, and USMA adopted nearly every one. The West Point covered in this work is pre-Gothic, Gothic, and post-Gothic West Point, albeit temporary in the last case. This is West Point with almost no horses, and West Point with one of the largest riding halls in the world. This is the West Point of famous generals and everyday workers, many of them immigrants. This is the West Point that grew to capture the imagination of a nation.

This July 1833 estimate for the Cadet Chapel is an example of the kind of sources used for this book. USMA LIBRARY ASC



IN MANY WAYS, the landscape of West Point was set before humans even arrived. Some of the rock in the Hudson Highlands was formed more than a billion years ago. More recently, Pleistocene glaciation brought repeated advances and retreats of ice sheets, with the last retreat about 22,000 year ago. The Plain, the flat area on which much of the United States Military Academy is built, is a kame terrace formed by sediment deposited between a valley wall and a sheet of ice. Some of the exposed stone at West Point bears the scratches, or striations, caused by rocks in the glaciers gouging the ground.

Humans have been at West Point for thousands of years. The Post has about 50 identified prehistoric sites and likely hundreds more. Some have been dated to more than 4,000 years old. When Henry Hudson sailed up the river that now bears his name, the Highlands were the home of the Munsee Indians but likely used by other Native American groups as well.

In the early 1700s, Charles Congreve was granted the land that is now West Point from about Grant Hall north

to Crow's Nest Mountain. In 1747, Colonel John Moore, a prominent New York merchant, bought the Congreve Patent—1,463 acres—and an additional parcel of 332 acres. Moore built a house a few years later. The entire property, including three enslaved persons, was transferred to Moore's son Stephen by will. The will mentions "stock," so there must have been animals raised on the property. One of Stephen Moore's business ventures was timber, so it is possible the West Point land was forested.

During the American Revolution, control of the Hudson became vitally important to the Continental Army cause. After the British destruction of Forts Clinton and Montgomery south of West Point in October 1777, the decision was made to fortify West Point. The site was occupied in January 1778. According to the recollections of a soldier, the Plain was covered with "yellow pine" 10'–15' tall. It is unclear what species this refers to exactly. There were only two houses and a small number of out-buildings, including a barn, dairy, and smokehouse.

The location of the primary forts and redoubts at West Point in 1780 shown on a modern map. The smallest circles are batteries.

USMA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



The buildings shown in red are from Vilefranche's detailed 1780 West Point map. In orange are additional structures shown on Greenleaf's 1779 map. The locations are approximate because both maps have some distortion when georeferencing them to the modern landscape. Greenleaf's map shows extensive tent encampments on the Plain. The location of utility buildings close to the water on the north slope of Post would continue into the 20th century. THE SOURCE MAPS ARE IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE WEST POINT MUSEUM AND THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

One of these buildings was probably a house known as "Moore's Folly", located near what is now the Academy's Rugby Complex. This house is also referred to as the Red House in some documents, but at least two historic maps label it "Read House."

The other house, based on dimensions and other clues, may have been one that survived into the 19th century close to where the Firstie Club is today. First USMA graduate Joseph Gardner Swift called this the "White Quarters."

As the Continental Army cleared trees and constructed defenses, it found that the Plain was not as flat as it is today. Several depressions broke up the terrace. Most notably was a large hole later called Execution Hollow (or Gallows Hollow). Over 30' deep and 200' in diameter, the Hollow was probably a glacial kettle formed when ice retreated from the Hudson Valley 17,000–19,000 years ago. Kettles are created when a block of ice remains buried underground after a glacier retreats. When it eventually melts, a hole remains. Execution Hollow

was located close to the eastern end of the current metal bleachers nearest the Superintendent's House.

There were also hills that have since been leveled. The most prominent was known as Bunker's Hill. It was a small knoll that stood where Ruger Road descends from the Commandant's House towards the Firstie Club (the old Ordnance Compound). In the 1810s, this hill became the site of the flag pole and then hosted the Wood Monument, a 15' obelisk erected in 1818 but relocated to this hill in 1821. The Monument was moved to the Cemetery in 1885, where it remains to this day.

Also note that the land where Shea Stadium now sits was part of the Hudson River in 1802. There were also no fields on the eastern shore of the Academy (now called River Courts), and there was no South Dock. These landscape changes will be discussed in later sections.

Revolution-era "Fortress West Point" included a ring of redoubts, forts, and batteries, but there was considerable construction in the core area of what is now the USMA campus. Exactly what buildings were built at West Point during the Revolution between 1778 and 1783 is difficult to ascertain. Maps from this time are spatially distorted and may only represent strategically important structures. If we look at the approximate location of all the buildings on Moses Greenleaf's 1779 map and a map by Major Vilefranche, typically dated to 1780, it is clear that the West Point landscape of the Revolution established the primary land use patterns that, to some degree, continue to the present.

Comparing maps by Major Vilefranche and Moses Greenleaf, dated 1780 and 1779 respectively, with a detailed 1782–83 panorama by Pierre L'Enfant, shows a bit of a building boom. By 1783, the major areas of development are set that will carry over into the early 19th century when the Academy is established. They include the east and west sides of the Plain and the northern slope to the river.

The general story of the period from 1784 to about 1794 is one of infrastructure



decline. The number of personnel stationed at West Point was small, and only a handful of buildings were needed or maintained.

Landowner Stephen Moore repeatedly sought compensation for losses as a result of the Government occupying his land and demanded rent. The amount owed Moore was too high for a young, cash-poor country. Eventually, Congress approved funds to buy the land outright and the Government formally purchased West Point from Stephen Moore in 1790. The deed was signed September 10 and Moore was paid \$11,065, far less than owed.

In 1794, a new Corps of Engineers and Artillerists was established and one or more companies was stationed at West Point. This led to some investment in infrastructure, including improvements to storehouses and to a powder magazine at Fort Clinton. The Old Provost (jail) on the edge of Execution Hollow

was converted in the 1790s to serve as officer quarters and a classroom for the new Corps of Engineers and Artillerists, but the officers burned it down in protest in April 1796. Improvements were also made during this time to laboratory space, used for testing gunpowder, etc.

According to first graduate Swift, Major Rivardi built the barracks on Trophy Point depicted above. Because there is clearly a structure on the same site in L'Enfant's 1782–3 panorama, however, it may be that Rivardi rebuilt or renovated the barracks, rather than building them from scratch.

Thus, when the Government decided in 1801 to move forward with the establishment of a formal military academy, the landscape that the first cadets found was one shaped by nature, early settlers, the Continental Army, and the early forces of the U.S. Army. The next six decades would bring continual change.

A panorama from across the river by Pierre L'Enfant, dated to 1782–83, shows considerably more buildings than the Villefranche or Greenleaf maps. Most notable is a large barracks on what is now called Trophy Point. This is on the same site as Long Barracks, which survived into the 1820s. The barracks may have been rebuilt in the 1790s. It also shows several buildings on the west side of the Plain running on an axis from today's Superintendent's House to Washington Hall. It is likely that several of these buildings lasted into the 19th century. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

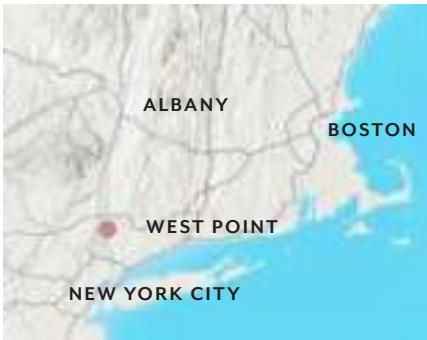
WEST POINT BEFORE THE WAR OF 1812





"View from West-point up the River." June 1801. Artist: Charles Willson Peale.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY



Above: The United States Military Academy is located at West Point, NY, in Orange County, about 48 miles from the southern tip of Manhattan as the eagle flies. It is shown here on a contemporary highway map of the Northeast.

Below: Detail of View of Fort Putnam by Thomas Cole, 1825. This view is from Buttermilk Falls (Highland Falls) about where the current South Gate is located. PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART

Facing: West Point in 1801–1802 had three main activity areas. MAP BY AUTHOR

WHEN JOSEPH GARDINER Swift, the United States Military Academy’s first graduate, arrived at West Point in October 1801, he entered a landscape shaped by both the Revolution and the eras before and after the War. While the Academy was not officially opened until July 4, 1802, military personnel had occupied the Post continuously since the end of the conflict with Great Britain.

West Point was much smaller at its founding than it is today. In fact, the U.S. Government did not even own the land that Fort Putnam stood on, and the southern boundary was at about Brewerton Road (between today’s Grant and Pershing Halls). South of this line was the property of Thomas North, who operated a tavern that would challenge the patience of Academy officials.

West Point in 1801–02 had three main activity areas. The first included Fort Clinton and the Long Barracks. Fort Clinton was in ruins, but the powder magazine inside the walls was somewhat

“We reached West Point at dusk. The name of this place had raised many pictures to my imagination of Revolutionary history—the treason of Arnold; the fate of Andre. It was a calm October evening; the only sound was that of the cow bell. This sound at West Point has no doubt left a pleasant remembrance with many a cadet. To this day the sound of the cow bell revives the evening of my first landing at West Point.”

— JOSEPH GARDNER SWIFT,
USMA CLASS OF 1802, CULLUM #1





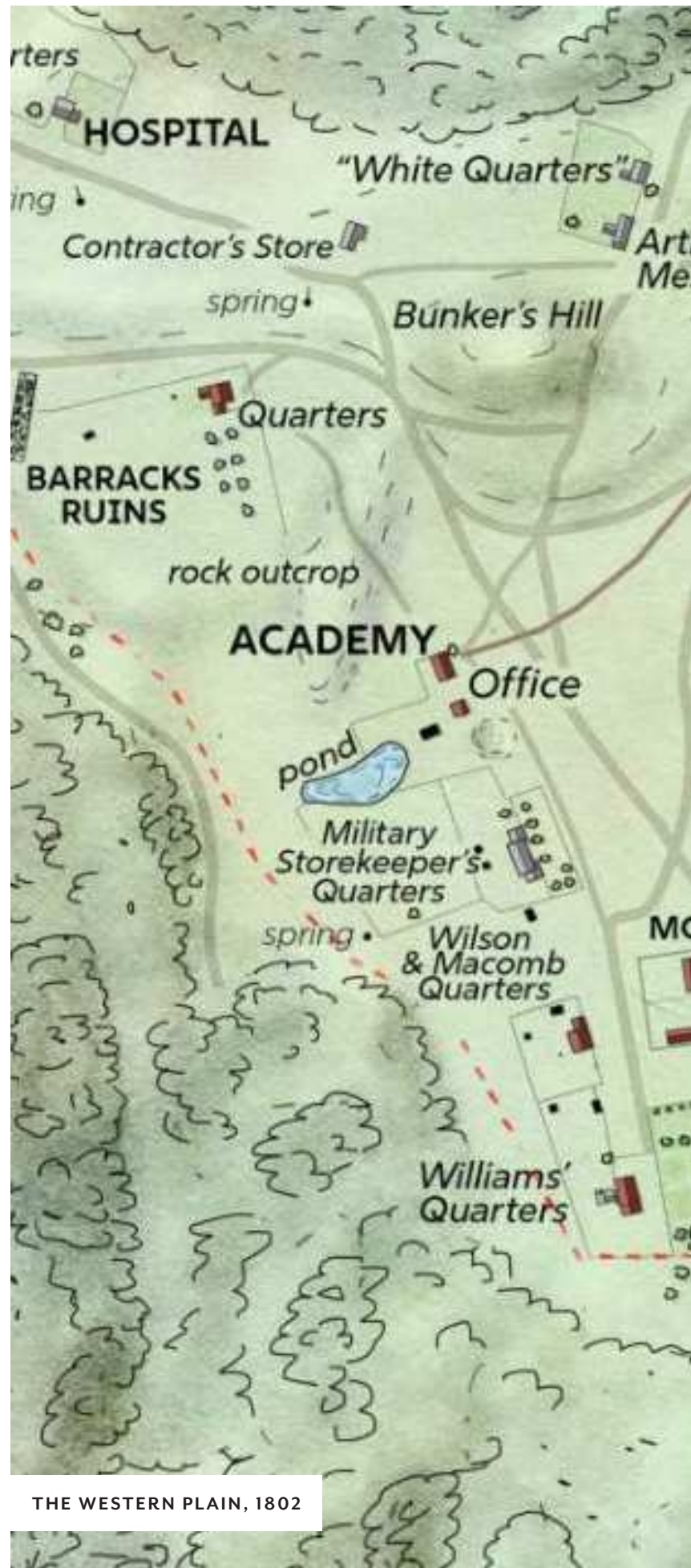
maintained and had stores of old gunpowder. The Long Barracks, a two-story structure, held both cadets and soldiers. Its uncertain date of construction will be discussed.

The second main area of the 1802 Academy was at the base of Crown Hill (also called Fort Putnam Hill) on a line between what is now the Superintendent's House (Quarters 100) and the Mess Hall. In this area were several houses, the Academy, and administrative buildings. A small pond occupied an area near the current Superintendent's Garden and in front of Arvin Gymnasium.

The third built-up area was on the hillside between the Plain and the Hudson River. Most buildings here were between the present Firstie Club and the Department of Public Works building. The dock was located approximately where there is now a helipad. The main buildings in this zone included military stores housing Revolutionary War artifacts, a small hospital, several sets of quarters, and a contractor's store.

In the middle of the Plain, at the edge of Execution Hollow, were the ruins of a building known as the Old Provost. The exact location and history of this building will be discussed in a later section, but inaugural Academy graduate Joseph Gardner Swift refers to its location as being on the "west margin" of Execution Hollow.

The following pages will explore the morphology of the West Point landscape from its official opening in 1802 until the dawn of the Civil War. This is the West Point of Thayer, Grant, and dozens of key figures in U.S. history. It is also the landscape of thousands of soldiers, servants, and tourists who made the location famous.



The Western Plain was one of the three main activity areas at West Point in 1801-1802
MAP BY AUTHOR

THE WESTERN PLAIN



EXECUTION HOLLOW

Sometimes called Gallows Hollow. As mentioned earlier, this large depression in the Plain was likely a glacial kettle. The hole was about 32' deep and 200'–300' across. Were people executed in Execution Hollow? Graduate Albert Church, USMA Class of 1828, stated that Revolutionary War veterans told him they had seen men hanged in the Hollow. Additionally, a veteran of the Revolution mentions in an 1840s deposition that he had witnessed two men shot in a "basin." The concavity was gradually filled in over the course of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and no longer exists.

OLD PROVOST RUINS

This stone building likely had been a prison built during the Revolution (which would make sense given its location on Execution Hollow). The term "provost" historically meant a warden or bailiff and was commonly used to denote a jail. In 1781, Brigadier General John Paterson wrote to Major General William Heath that the "new provost" was not finished. He also refers to a "lower floor" which suggests that the building was at least two stories. Boynton, in his mid-nineteenth century history of West Point, refers to it being two-storied and stone. In 1794, this building was used as a classroom building after George Washington established a school for artillerists and engineers. It was also officers' quarters. It burned down under suspicious circumstances in April 1796. Alexander Hamilton implied years later to Joseph Gardner Swift that disgruntled instructors were responsible. There are no known depictions of a complete Old Provost, but Peale's 1801 watercolor of West Point, discussed later, shows what appears to be ruins on the west side of Execution Hollow. The location depicted is an approximation.

ACADEMY

A two-story, wood-frame building used for classes, chapel services, dances, and other events. The second floor had what Swift referred to as "the long room." In June 1801, this building was shown painted a yellow ocher hue in a Charles Willson Peale watercolor, see pages 17 and 18. Peale's depiction suggests the building had at least two chimneys. The building was "put in order" by Major John Lillie according to his daughter Mary Ann (see Gilman, 1869). She is quoted as saying, "It was about as large as a country school-house, and I well remember going to see it. The seats and forms were painted green." Frustratingly, historian Crackel says the building was constructed before 1780 while Pappas says the late 1790s.

OFFICE

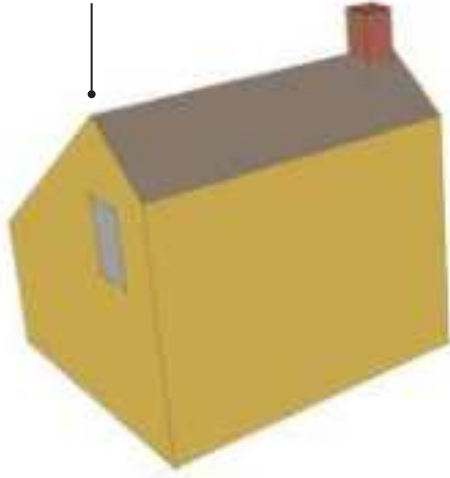
This small building was a saltbox house, meaning that the front of the house was two stories but the rear only one, resulting in a long, sloping back roof. It appears to have been at least partially painted yellow when Swift arrived in 1801. This building later was the quarters of Superintendent Alden Partridge (1814–1817). Next to this building was a small depression that had the remains of a mound built to honor the Dauphin of France, Louis Joseph, born in October 1781. Because France was an ally during the Revolution, there were numerous celebrations for the French heir, including a large fête at West Point.

MILITARY

STOREKEEPER'S HOUSE

Possibly built during the Revolution, this was certainly one of the oldest houses at West Point in 1802. George Washington was said to have slept here. It was a two-story building with one-story wings on each side. The second floor likely had

In the 1810s, this saltbox would become Superintendent Alden Partridge's quarters.



The Academy was used for classes, chapel, and social events. Swift, the first graduate, refers to a "long room" on the second floor.



Above: Academy & Office, This graphic shows the approximate size and shape of the 1802 Academy and the small saltbox office. The windows shown in gray are seen in Charles Willson Peale's 1801 watercolor. The number and location of other windows and doors are unknown, and thus left blank.

Middle: A ca. 1870 photo of the Military Storekeeper's House, more often called Mrs. Thompson's House, after the left wing had been removed. It is unknown whether the windows and doors were in the same location in 1802.

2LT JOHN PITMAN/USMA LIBRARY ASC



Bottom: A ca. 1870 photo by John Pitman said to show the building that once was North's Tavern. This is likely only a portion of the structure at its largest. USMA LIBRARY ASC

a porch with a piazza on the ground level. In 1802, this house was occupied by Major George Fleming. A veteran of the Revolution, he had taken control of West Point when Major General Henry Knox was made Secretary of War in 1785 and in 1802 was serving as the Military Storekeeper.

Years later, one wing was removed and used as a school. In the mid-nineteenth century, the main building became known as “Mrs. Thompson’s House.” Thompson, widow of Revolutionary War veteran and West Point Military Storekeeper Captain Alexander Thompson, had for years been allowed to provide meals to a small group of cadets as an auxiliary mess. She originally lived near where the Firstie Club now stands, but when that building was constructed (ca. 1840) as an ordnance compound, Thompson and her daughters were allowed to move into this building. Her family provided meals to select cadets until about 1873 or 1874.

B O U N D A R Y

The Academy’s property boundary is approximated by the red dashed line in the figure on pages 4–5. Historian George Pappas indicates that there was a “tumbledown” wall on the perimeter, but his source is unclear.

Q U A R T E R S

Little is known about this building from 1801. Slightly later accounts describe it as wooden with dormers and six chimneys. It was set up to house two families. A center hallway divided the quarters, and map layouts suggest each side of the house had a small addition presumed to be a kitchen. Swift’s memoir suggests that Major John Jacob Ulrich Rivardi lived here before being sent on to Fort Niagara.

W I L S O N & M A C O M B Q U A R T E R S

In 1801, this frame building was occupied by Lieutenants James Wilson, Jr., and Alexander Macomb. Wilson was the son of Declaration of Independence signer and Supreme Court Justice James

Wilson. Macomb would distinguish himself at the Battle of Plattsburgh in 1814 and become Commanding General of the United States Army from 1828 to 1841. This building was later used as a laboratory (meaning a place to make explosives and ammunition), a library, and a post office.

W I L L I A M S ’ Q U A R T E R S

Possibly built during or just after the Revolution, these quarters had been occupied by Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Rochefontaine in the 1790s. Rochefontaine was Commandant of the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers when it was established at West Point in 1795. In 1802, the home was occupied by Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Williams and family. Williams, the Academy’s first Superintendent, was a grandnephew of Benjamin Franklin, represented the Continental Congress in France during the Revolution, and would twice serve as Chief of Engineers.

The building was two stories with a small, one-story addition on the southern end and a long addition in the back. The home had gardens and Colonel Williams liberally distributed flowers, fruit, and vegetables to his neighbors. Peale’s 1801 watercolor of this house (from the back; see page 18) indicates that the main part of the structure was painted yellow and the rest of the building may have been unfinished. There are at least four chimneys visible. The main part of the house appears to have had white (or light-colored) shutters.

N O R T H ’ S T A V E R N

This tavern, owned and operated by Thomas North in 1802, had been in operation since 1797 and was a constant headache to Academy officials. A 1798 order banned soldiers and non-commissioned officers from frequenting the public house without permission. There was also a small riot between patrons and post troops on July 4, 1800. In terms of what the building looked like at the time, there is little evidence. Decades later a section of the building was moved. A photo taken after

the move shows a two-story house with a possible third floor under a gambrel roof. In 1819 (some sources say 1816), it became Gridley’s Tavern (“Old Grid’s”) and was operated by Oliver Gridley. The Academy purchased the property in 1824, closed the tavern, and the structure briefly served as a hospital. A section remained and was used as quarters for decades.

M O D E L Y A R D

Joseph Gardner Swift’s memoir refers to a model yard at this location with a “miniature fortress in wood, used in lectures on fortification.” Peale’s June 1801 watercolor of this area (page 18) shows fencing around two covered pavilions. Later, Swift and Cadet Walker K. Armistead (Class of 1803) planted elm trees around the site, some of which remained for over a century. By 1808, there appears to be no buildings on the site, but the trees planted are clearly visible on an 1808 map.

B U N K E R ’ S H I L L

This knoll no longer exists, having been leveled in the late nineteenth century. It was a small, pointed hill that later had a flagpole and then hosted the Wood Monument after about 1821. The hill was later known as Monument Hill. The name Bunker’s Hill (or Bunkers Hill) is seen on maps from 1808 until about 1820. It is not known what the hill was called, if anything, in 1802. The hill was modified in the 1840s and then leveled in the 1880s to make way for the road that descends to the waterfront from the intersection by the Commandant’s House. The excavated material was used to fill in part of Execution Hollow.

FORT CLINTON

Visitors to the remains of Fort Clinton today might think that the fort was constructed of stone, but most of the original fortification, completed between 1778–1780, was dirt and wood. By 1802, the walls had decayed to the point that Joseph Gardner Swift referred to the Fort as “dilapidated” with portals reminiscent of Dante’s *Inferno*. Inside the walls was a magazine that held very old powder. Swift mentions four cannons being present. The entrance to the Fort was on the western side of the structure and bordered by a depression. Years later, upper-class cadets would attempt to push plebes into this depression while they stood guard in the vicinity. Class of 1848 graduate John C. Tidball refers to this area as Shag Hollow.



Above: This detail from Zoeller’s 1808 map of West Point shows the sizable depression just to the west of Fort Clinton.

Right: Charles Willson Peale’s 1801 watercolor clearly shows why the Long Barracks was sometimes called the “Yellow Barracks” by contemporary writers. There appear to be multiple staircases to reach the second story, which had piazzas (porches). It also shows one or two outbuildings and what might be a fence. The outbuilding was likely a privy. The barracks had no water or other plumbing. AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY. USED WITH PERMISSION.

LONG BARRACKS

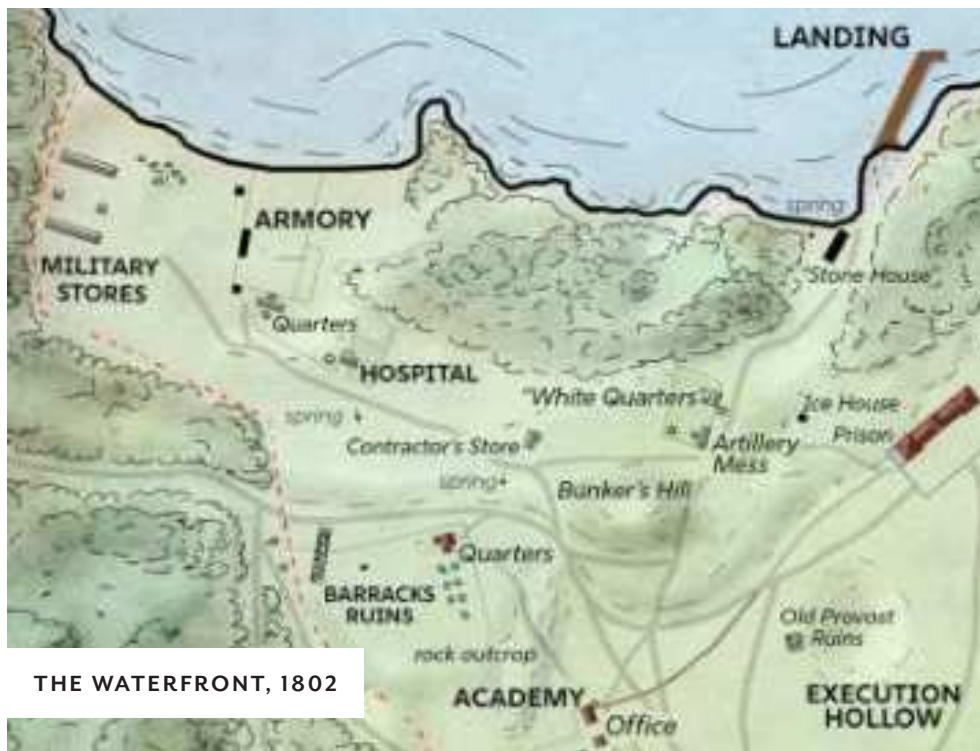
Also known as the “Yellow Barracks” (and on one 1790s drawing, the “Blue Barracks”). From 1802–1815, this was the primary housing for West Point cadets. The building was about 250’ long with two stories, the second level reached by external stairway(s). In 1801, the building was painted yellow. On the western end, a one-story addition served as a jail. See a more detailed discussion of the Long Barracks on pages 13–15.



THE PLAIN

There is little doubt that the eastern side of the Plain was a less manicured landscape than it is today. Albert Church, USMA Class of 1828, writes, “*The plain, at this time, was much more rough and uneven than now; especially the part just south of the present camp ground, which was nearly covered with large rocks.*” The “camp ground” Church refers to is the location of the present soccer fields and baseball field near Lincoln Hall. Before Camp Buckner was established, cadets spent their summers on the Plain.

For years, graduating cadets would gather at a boulder in this area on their last night and have a bonfire fueled by their barracks furniture and personal possessions. In the early 1800s, furniture was not always provided and therefore cadets would buy their own. Tidball refers to this boulder as “Cremation Rock” because cadets would burn their drawing boards here after completing their studies on the topic. The rock was located where the baseball field is now. An 1894 *New York Times* article implies that the bonfire boulder was eventually removed by explosion.



The Eastern Plain and Waterfront were two of the three main activity areas at West Point in 1801-1802. MAP BY AUTHOR

This area of the Academy comprised functional buildings and storehouses. A handful of quarters also were found here. In terms of the physical landscape, much of the area was meadow and not forested. Low-lying areas close to the River could be wet. Vegetation would have been much younger as a whole. Because West Point was largely deforested during the Revolution, many areas near the River were covered with brush and small-to-medium – sized trees. American Chestnut trees, now absent because of the chestnut blight of the early twentieth century, were common at West Point. There were likely more elms than today as well.

The areas now occupied by Shea Stadium was part of the Hudson River (see image on the bottom of page 9). The historical shoreline roughly follows Tower Road in front of Gillis Field House and Townsley Road next to Shea Stadium.

MILITARY STORES

These two long buildings were painted yellow. Inside were arms taken during the Revolution when Burgoyne surrendered, items from the Battle of Saratoga, and two “grasshoppers” taken by General Nathanael Greene in South Carolina (Swift uses “Green”). A grasshopper was a British field cannon made of brass and was a high-tech item in its day. These stores were under the control of Major George Fleming.

ARMORY & ARMORER’S QUARTERS

The Armorer in 1802, Zebina Kinsley (Swift uses “Kingsley”), was married to Anna “Annie” Duncan, daughter of James Duncan. The Duncans owned land that is now in the area of Buffalo Soldier Field at West Point. Kinsley’s son, Zebina J.D. Kinsley, USMA Class of 1819, taught tactics at the Academy for years and later

ran a preparatory school called Kinsley’s Classical and Mathematical School on the land his mother had inherited.

HOSPITAL

This was a wooden frame house, possibly painted yellow. Joseph Gardner Swift states in his memoir that the surgeon was Dr. Nicholas Jones, brother-in-law of Lieutenant Robert W. Osborn.

CONTRACTOR’S STORE

This building is not mentioned by Swift in his memoir, and therefore its existence is uncertain. However, the Academy’s Centennial literature states that Henry Garrison kept a store at West Point from 1795 to 1812 and this building is shown on an 1808 map as the “Contractor’s Store.” Later maps show it as the “Old Contractor’s Store.” Berard states that this building was later used as barracks. Subsequently, Garrison served as a judge across the Hudson River in Phillipstown.

“WHITE QUARTERS”

Swift describes this as being on the brow of the hill above the dock. Its location is close to the current Firstie Club. In 1801, it was the residence of Lieutenant Osborn and his wife, sister of the Surgeon, Dr. Jones. It is unclear if “White Quarters”, as named by Swift, refers to the color of the building or to the name of a previous resident. White was a rare house color at the time. This may have been the pre-Revolution house of landowner Steven Moore.

ARTILLERY MESS

This was the quarters of Lieutenants William Wilson and Lewis Howard and a mess where some cadets were invited to dine. Joseph Gardner Swift famously was invited to join this mess upon arrival in 1801, causing an argument between

him and Mr. George Baron, an English-born instructor. Baron passed along an order through a servant forbidding Swift to dine here, which angered the young man. When Baron insulted Swift, the future Superintendent attacked the professor and Baron fled, bolting himself in the Academy and exchanging “coarse epithets” with Swift from the second floor. Swift was ordered to apologize. Baron was arrested for an unknown crime in November 1801 and left in December after being court-martialed.

“STONE HOUSE”

It is unclear whether Swift is referring to a quarters or to a storehouse located near the dock. Later maps show storehouses here, which makes sense for holding items without carrying them up the hill or until they could be properly moved. There are later accounts of houses near this dock.

LANDING

This was the primary dock, although Gees Point (also Gee’s Point), now part of Flirtation Walk, to the east was also used as an unofficial landing. However, other docks along the waterfront are also mentioned in documents from the time. While arriving at West Point was not particularly difficult, getting baggage up the hill generally required hiring an official or unofficial porter. If a porter was not available, a traveler’s bags might stay at the dock overnight or longer. When Class of 1828 graduate Albert E. Church arrived in the summer of 1824, the porter was a one-armed veteran with a prosthetic iron hook designed for his duties.

KOSCIUSZKO'S GARDEN, 1778

WHILE STATIONED AT West Point from 1778 to 1780, Polish military engineer Thaddeus Kosciuszko created a small retreat for himself in some rocks overlooking the Hudson River. He marked a spot in the same area on his 1779 map of West Point. Dr. James Thatcher's journal for July 28, 1778, recalls:

Here I had the pleasure of being introduced to Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a gentleman of distinction from Poland. Having recently arrived in our country, he is employed in the engineer department, with the rank of colonel. He has amused himself while stationed on this point, in laying out a curious garden in a deep valley, abounding more in rocks than soil. I was gratified in viewing his curious water fountain, with spouting jets and cascades.

This terrace retreat is discussed here because Joseph Gardner Swift, first Academy graduate, and First Lieutenant Alexander Macomb, future Commanding General of the U.S. Army, repaired and expanded Kosciuszko's Garden. Swift wrote in his memoirs:

Early in this summer of 1802 Lieutenant Macomb and myself repaired the dilapidated garden of Kosciuszko, relaid the stone stairway to the dell, and opened the little fountain at the base of "Kosciuszko's Rock" in the garden; planted flowers and vines and constructed several seats, which made the spot a pleasant resort for a reading party.

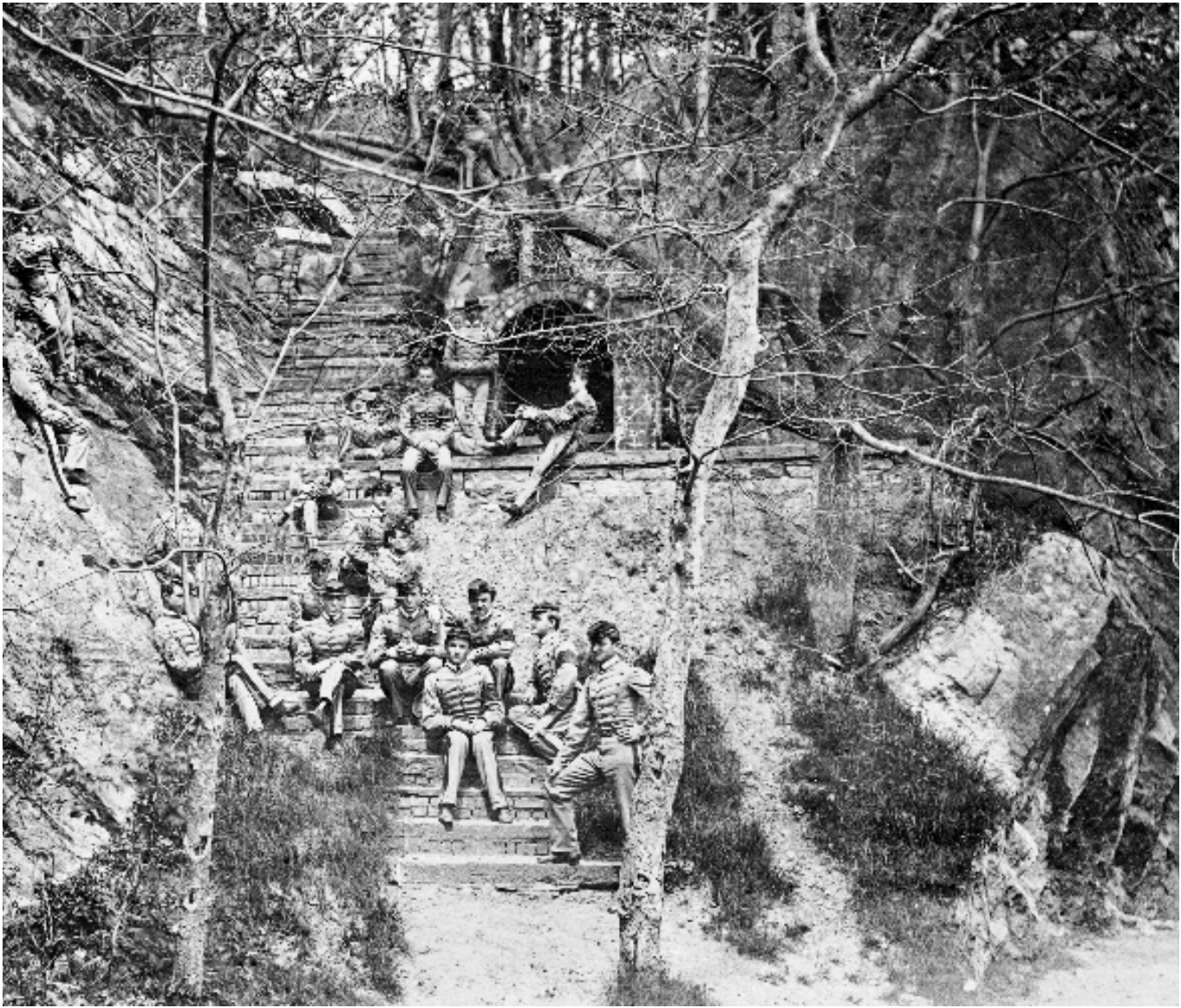


Kosciuszko's Garden from an 1861 article about West Point. THE ART JOURNAL

Throughout the nineteenth century, there are numerous mentions of the Garden and it was certainly a required stop for any visitor of the day. In June 1817, President James Monroe met with Academy officials in the Garden and discussed the Pole's virtues. In the late 1820s, extra funds from the construction of the Kosciuszko Monument, originally conceived to be located in the Garden, were used to add a marble basin.

Most nineteenth century guidebooks mention this memorable spot and many include engravings or photos of the place. It seems to have gone in and out of a state of disrepair. Here is an 1834 description by Samuel L. Knapp:

After a fatiguing walk to Fort Putnam, a ruin examined by every visitor at the Point, I sought the retreat called Kosciuszko's Garden. I had seen it in former years, when it was nearly inaccessible to all but clambering youths. It was now a different sort of place. It had been



A photo by John Pittman from about 1870–1871 shows cadets relaxing in Kosciuszko’s Garden. USMA LIBRARY ASC

NOTE

Throughout the decades, “Kosciuszko” has been spelled many ways by writers.

touched by the hand of taste, and afforded a pleasant nook for reading and contemplation. The garden is situated in the shelvy rocks which form the right bank of the Hudson, about fifty or sixty rods southerly from the point on which the monument erected by the Cadets to the memory of Kosciuszko now stands. You descend by a well graveled path-way, about eighty feet, not uncomfortably steep, then by flights of steps forty feet more, when you reach the garden—which is a surface of rock, through the fissures of which spring a scanty and stunted vegetation. The garden is about thirty feet in length, and in width, in its utmost extent, not more

than twenty feet, and in some parts much less. Near the centre of the garden there is a beautiful marble basin, from whose bottom through a small perforation, flows upward a spring of sweet water, which is carried off by overflowing on the east side of the basin towards the river, the surface of which is about eighty feet below the garden. In the afternoon, and in fact for a greater part of the day, the retreat is sunless, and if the wind is southerly, a breeze comes up the river to make the spot delightfully cool.

THE LONG BARRACKS



This ink wash of the Long Barracks, likely by Archibald Robertson, was probably painted around 1792–1795 based on the labeling of buildings on the back. Note that only one staircase is shown. Some later engravings show multiple stairs. The barracks are referred to as the “Blue Barracks” on the back of this work. WEST POINT MUSEUM

AS MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, this old, wooden structure was also called the “Yellow Barracks” and was the primary cadet housing before 1815. It stood on Trophy Point on the ground between today’s Battle Monument and the section of the Great Chain. It was about 250’ long and two stories high. The second level was accessed by external staircases. An addition on the western end served as a jail at times.

There is great confusion about when these barracks were built and misinformation about their destruction. Joseph Gardner Swift refers to the Long Barracks as having been built by Major John Jacob Ulrich Rivardi. Rivardi, a French-born engineer, arrived at West Point in 1795.

However, an ink wash painting of West Point showing the Barracks (with only one set of external stairs) has a label on the back indicating a house occupied by “Capt Howe.” This is very likely Bezaleel Howe, who was stationed at West Point as a recruiter from 1791 until early 1795. Howe held the rank of Captain from about 1792 until early 1795. Thus, the Barracks seem to have existed before Rivardi’s arrival. There is official

correspondence between West Point and the War Department in 1795 about the need for barracks repairs rather than a call for new barracks. As a side note, the Robertson inkwash has these barracks labeled as the “Blue Barracks.”

Furthermore, a panorama of West Point by Pierre L’Enfant that may be from the Revolution (perhaps 1782–1783) shows a long building of similar shape on the same site. Therefore, it is unclear if the barracks were constructed during the Revolution and renovated by Rivardi or torn down and rebuilt.

The most likely scenario is that the Barracks date from the Revolution and were significantly repaired and altered by Rivardi. Additional stairways on the front are one likely addition. Inconsistencies in the shape of the building between the Robertson inkwash and later depictions do not rule out the possibility of an extensive rebuild.

As described on the following page, the Long Barracks was consumed in a conflagration on February 20, 1826. There was no effort to rebuild and just a few years later the West Point Hotel was constructed near the site.

CADET LIFE IN THE LONG BARRACKS

Some of what is known about the Long Barracks comes from a recollection provided by George Ramsay. Ramsay's account also provides insight into how the fire that destroyed the Barracks a few years later may have been started.

The barracks of 1814–15 stood upon the site of the present hotel—a building in length about two hundred and fifty feet—and was known as the Yellow Barracks, although, at the time, all the buildings on the Point were painted yellow. It consisted of two stories with wings, with corresponding centre of intermediate proportions. The upper floor was reached by a high flight of steps with “stoops.” The rooms were large, but without any conveniences. There were no wells or pumps, and the water for drinking and washing was derived from the natural springs flowing from the hillside, and I well remember how slippery and dangerous these hillsides were in the cold winter mornings, when creeping down, “jug” in hand, it was difficult to maintain one’s foothold. The duty of water-carrier generally devolved upon me by virtue of my juvenility, as did the privilege of making the fires, sweeping the room, shoveling the snow, and all other small “chores,” as they were called round about us, necessary to my complete military education, and which from my inaptitude, it was thought, had been neglected. In time, I became an earnest worker, and after having been taught how by a Vermont room-mate, I found it quite a pleasure to make in early morning a rousing wood-fire, and I would often get up before reveille for this purpose. There were no furnaces or stoves, and wood was burned in open fireplaces—sawed and split and brought to the barrack rooms by their respective occupants; a “saw and buck” in each room was indispensable.

— George Ramsay,
USMA Class of 1820

THE LONG BARRACKS FIRE

On February 20, 1826, the Long Barracks burned to the ground. Aeneas Mackay, the Academy's Quartermaster, sent the following letter to Quartermaster General Thomas Jesup:

I have the honor to report to you that about 5 o'clock this morning the Barracks occupied by Company A of the 2° Reg of Artillery stationed at this post and the Military Academy Band, took fire and in the course of two hours was burnt to the ground. The fire was communicated by a stove pipe and it being a very old and an entirely wooden building it was impossible with the means present to save it. I have made temporary provision for quartering the Troops in an old store house and other out buildings about West Point.

USMA Graduate Albert Church recalled the fire in his memoirs, and it is among my favorite anecdotes about this era. His recollection of the date being 1827 is completely wrong, but he writes:

On a cold winter's morning in 1827 [sic], about 2 o'clock, this building took fire, and before many cadets could get there, was burned to the ground. Those of us who were in time, did excellent service in carrying families of women and children in their beds, as they had slept, to the lawn in front of the burning mass. Before a line could be formed to the pump in front of the North barrack and I think before a single pail of water was thrown upon it, the whole building was in flames, and with nearly all its contents, save the men, their families, and the largest and most confused collection of large rats that I ever saw, was consumed, even the guns of the soldiers in the guard-room.

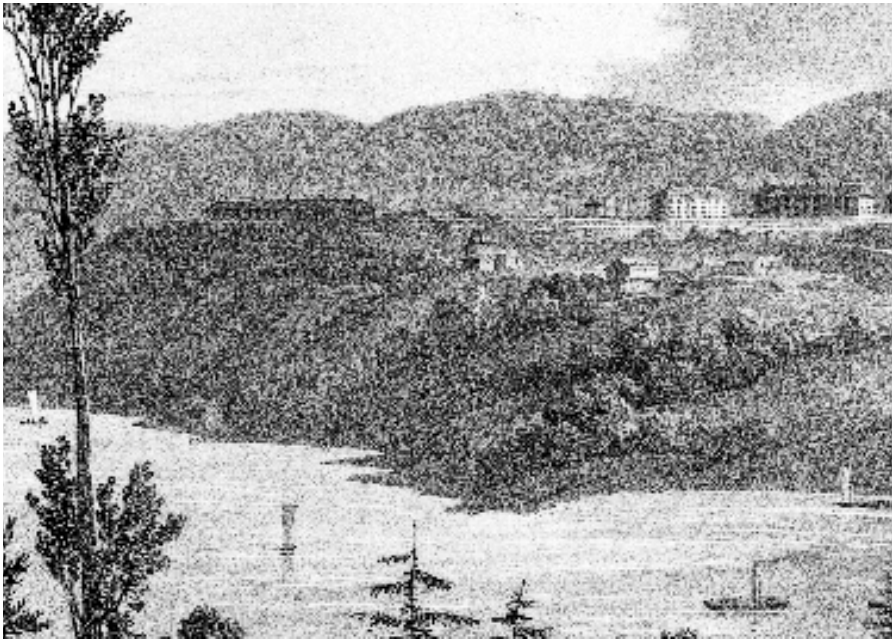
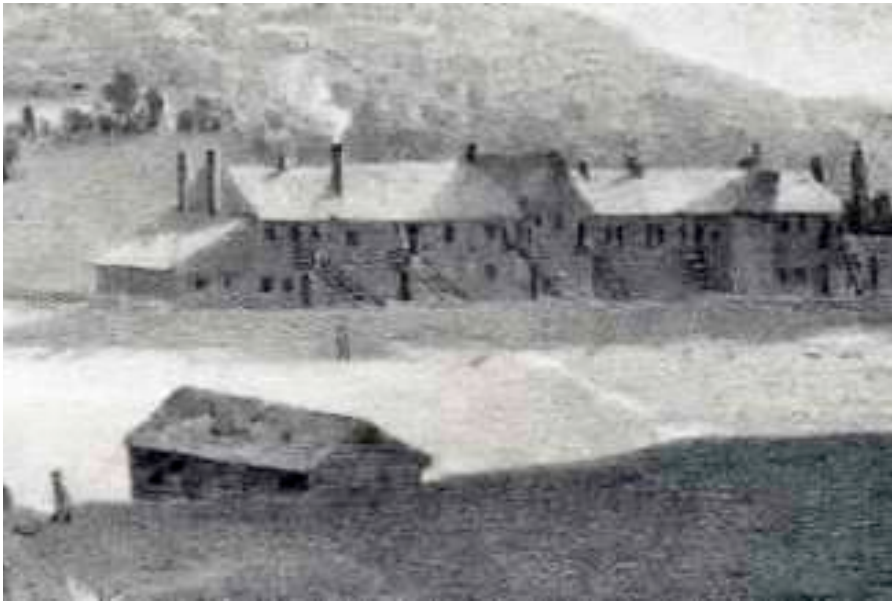


The Long Barracks was located on a site northeast from the present Battle Monument toward the Trophy Point overlook.

Samuel Heintzelman, Class of 1826, recorded in his diary the following for February 20, 1826:

This morning, a short time before day, we were alarmed by the cry of fire. The Artillery Barracks was on fire. It had just commenced at the guard room; for the want of water we were not able to extinguish it, and it burnt to the ground by 8 o'clock. The guard was asleep. It snowed a little during the day.

Newspaper reports trickled out around the country after the fire. Many of them misidentify the fire's date by quite a few days, but Mackay's letter is quite clear that the fire happened early on the morning of Monday, February 20, 1826. Note that some histories mention the fire as happening on December 26, 1827, but this date is unsupported by the evidence and likely comes from Church's bad memory.



Top: This is a portion of an 1828 engraving by Jacques-Gérard Milbert titled “West Point at the Moment of Exercise.” By the publication date of this engraving, the Long Barracks had burned to the ground (1826). The artist clearly shows six separate stairs to the second floor and a distinct central section. The extension on the left (west) side is the jail.

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Middle: This 1828 etching by Frenchman Jacques-Gérard Milbert must be based on an early sketch because the Long Barracks had burned by this time. Based on the buildings shown, this represents 1818–1825.

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Bottom: This is a section from an early 1820s etching by John Hill and a painting by W.G. Wall. The artist was on the shore of the Hudson near the West Point Cemetery. The Long Barracks' dramatic location on the edge of the Plain is clear. The wind in the winter must have been tremendous! The West Point dock (now North Dock) is visible along with an early steamboat. The white color of the building is a mystery but is probably due to a colorist working from an etching and not an original painting.

SPENCER COLLECTION,
NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

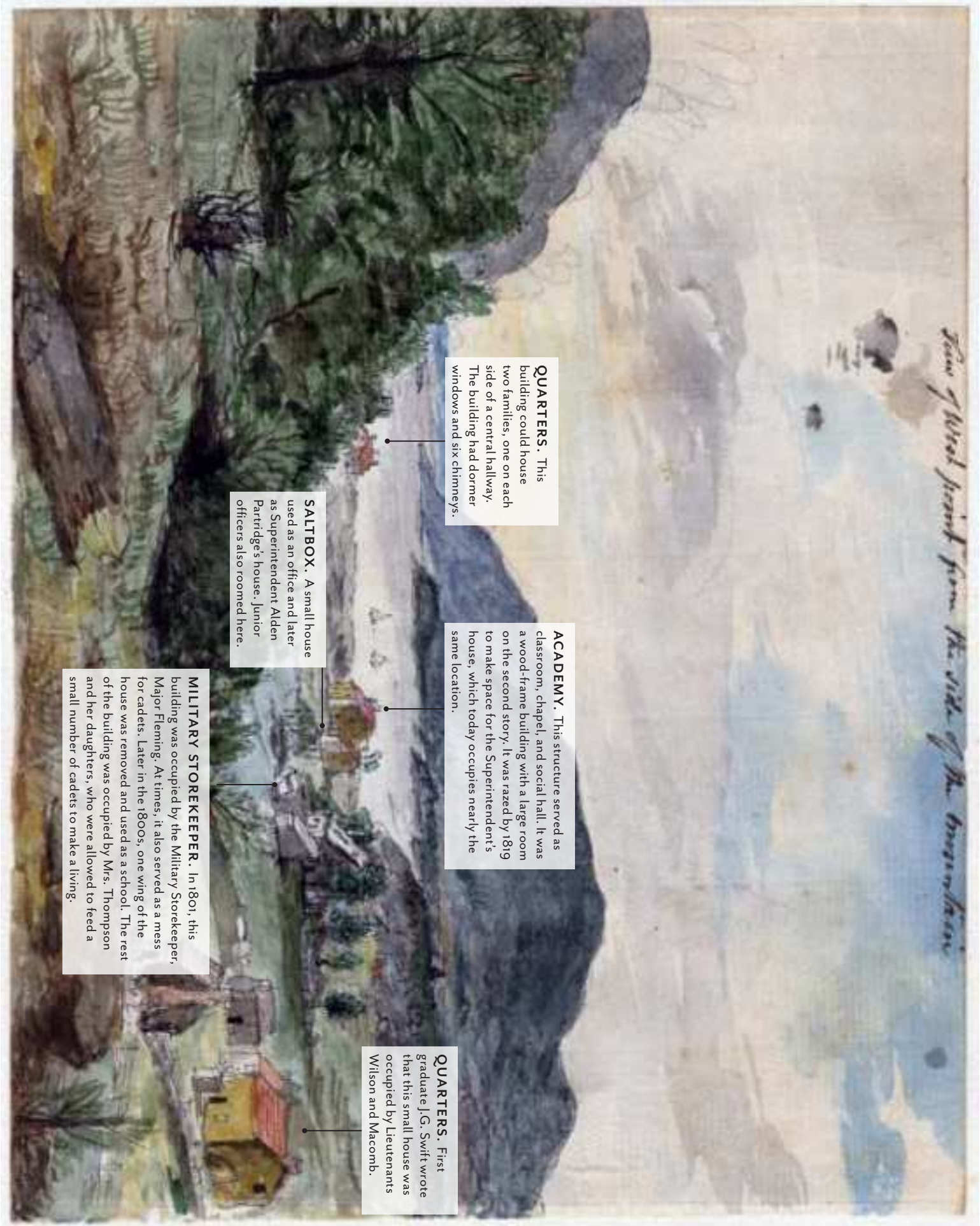
WEST POINT FROM THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN

CHARLES WILLSON PEALE, 1801

CHARLES WILLSON PEALE (1741–1827) was a renowned painter, entrepreneur, and naturalist. He took up painting after a failed career as a saddle maker and had the opportunity to study in England under Benjamin West for three years. During the American Revolution, he completed portraits of Founding Fathers such as Franklin, Jefferson, and Hamilton.

In addition to art, Peale had a passion for natural history and science. In June 1801, he came to the Hudson Valley to purchase a mastodon skeleton found on a farm near Newburgh. Peale was friends with Major George Fleming, the longtime Military Storekeeper at West Point, and stayed with Fleming's family for a night. During his visit, Peale made several watercolors of his surroundings. Crucially, he climbed to an area behind what is now the Cadet Chapel and painted the Plain. This two-panel work, now in the collection of the American Philosophical Society and shown on pages 17 and 18, is a priceless record of West Point on the eve of its formal beginnings as the United States Military Academy for several reasons:

1. The painting is one of the only non-map depictions of the structures on the western margin of the Plain (except Major Fleming's quarters, which lasted, in pieces, to the photography era). The rest of these buildings were torn down in the 1810s and 1820s.
2. It shows the colors of the buildings. Clearly, yellow was a popular choice. Yellow ochre was an inexpensive paint color because it was made with common clay. White was relatively rare in early America because the common white paint, lead white, had to be made by a complicated process of corroding strips of lead to collect white pigments. Yellow remained a common West Point color for another 20–30 years. At least six buildings in the Peale painting are painted in a yellow ochre hue. The Military Storekeeper's House and several outbuildings appear to be unpainted, which would not be uncommon.
3. It shows a number of outbuildings, many with chimneys. These were likely occupied by servants and single military personnel or served as functional buildings such as kitchens and workshops. It also shows a structure near Execution Hollow that may be the only depiction in existence of the Old Provost, which burned down in 1796. Alternatively, the structure may be an ice house known to be in this location for decades.



View of West Point from the side of the mountains

QUARTERS. This building could house two families, one on each side of a central hallway. The building had dormer windows and six chimneys.

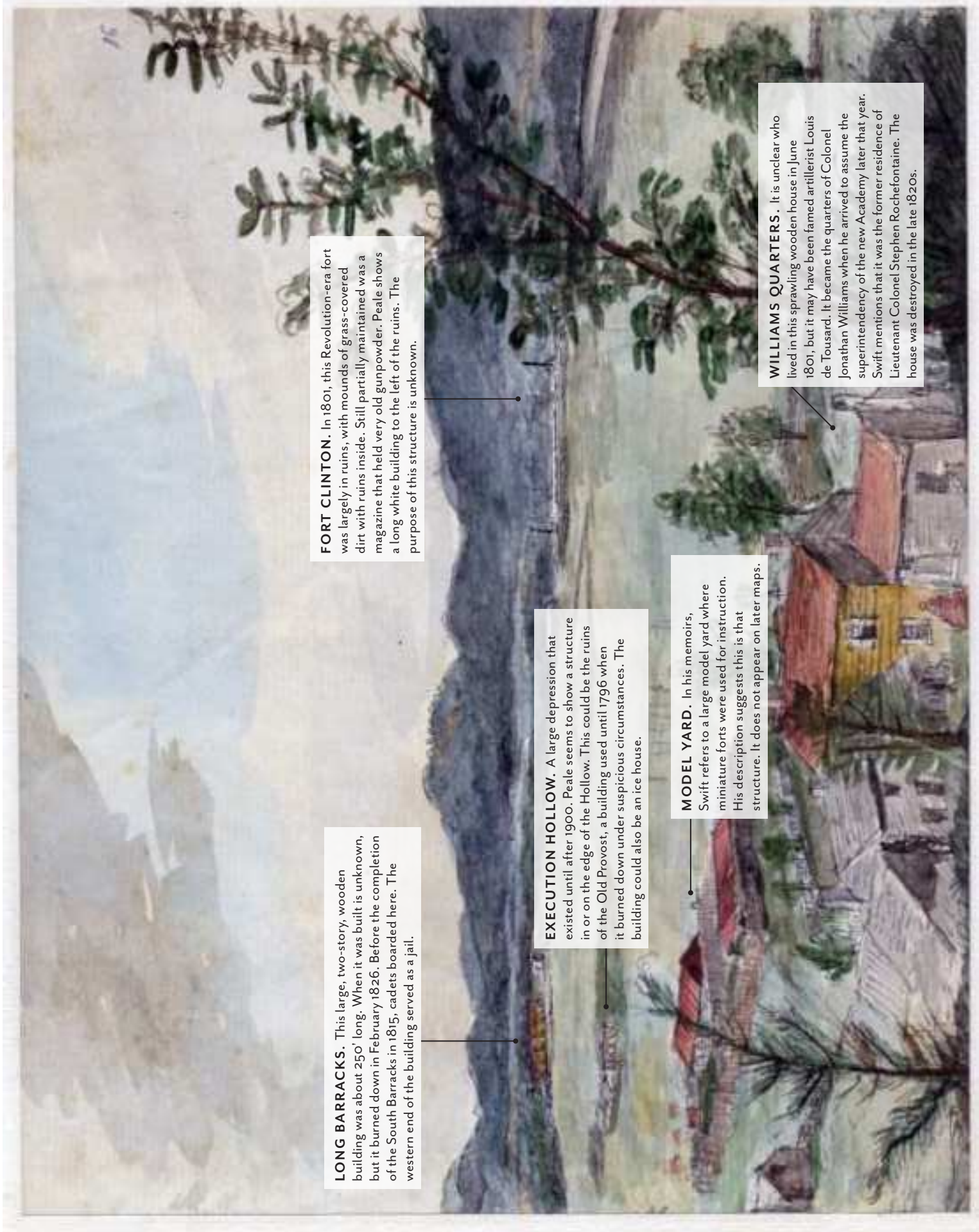
SALTBOX. A small house used as an office and later as Superintendent Alden Partridge's house. Junior officers also roomed here.

ACADEMY. This structure served as classroom, chapel, and social hall. It was a wood-frame building with a large room on the second story. It was razed by 1819 to make space for the Superintendent's house, which today occupies nearly the same location.

MILITARY STOREKEEPER. In 1801, this building was occupied by the Military Storekeeper, Major Fleming. At times, it also served as a mess for cadets. Later in the 1800s, one wing of the house was removed and used as a school. The rest of the building was occupied by Mrs. Thompson and her daughters, who were allowed to feed a small number of cadets to make a living.

QUARTERS. First graduate J.G. Swift wrote that this small house was occupied by Lieutenants Wilson and Macomb.

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FORT CLINTON. In 1801, this Revolution-era fort was largely in ruins, with mounds of grass-covered dirt with ruins inside. Still partially maintained was a magazine that held very old gunpowder. Peale shows a long white building to the left of the ruins. The purpose of this structure is unknown.

LONG BARRACKS. This large, two-story, wooden building was about 250' long. When it was built is unknown, but it burned down in February 1826. Before the completion of the South Barracks in 1815, cadets boarded here. The western end of the building served as a jail.

EXECUTION HOLLOW. A large depression that existed until after 1900. Peale seems to show a structure in or on the edge of the Hollow. This could be the ruins of the Old Provost, a building used until 1796 when it burned down under suspicious circumstances. The building could also be an ice house.

MODEL YARD. In his memoirs, Swift refers to a large model yard where miniature forts were used for instruction. His description suggests this is that structure. It does not appear on later maps.

WILLIAMS QUARTERS. It is unclear who lived in this sprawling wooden house in June 1801, but it may have been famed artilleryist Louis de Tousard. It became the quarters of Colonel Jonathan Williams when he arrived to assume the superintendency of the new Academy later that year. Swift mentions that it was the former residence of Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Rochefontaine. The house was destroyed in the late 1820s.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.
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STEAM BOAT.			
For the Information of Passengers.			
The Steam Boat will leave New-York for Albany every Saturday afternoon, exactly at 5 o'clock, and will pass			
West-Point	about 4 o'clock	Sunday	morning.
Newburgh	at 7	do	do
Poughkeepsie	at 11	do	do
Esopus	at 3	do	in the afternoon.
Bea-Hook	at 4	do	do
Catchill	at 7	do	do
Hulton	at 9	do	do

An 1808 ad from the New York Evening Post showing a 5 p.m. departure from New York City and a 4 a.m. arrival at West Point.

HOW EXACTLY DID a cadet get to West Point in the Academy's first decade? Nearly all cadets came by way of the North River, a.k.a. the Hudson River. Typically, the young man would get to either New York City or a Hudson port such as Poughkeepsie or Albany, and then find passage on a sloop, the single-masted sailing vessels that carried nearly all cargo on the Hudson for over a century. Based on earlier Dutch ships, sloops were typically about 65'–75' long and could carry one hundred tons.

When approaching West Point by the River, it would have been typical for the sloop to approach the dock but not stop. Passengers disembarking would be placed in a rowboat tied by rope to the sloop and rowed to the dock, where passengers would jump out and throw their luggage ashore before the rope lost slack. It could be a dangerous and harrowing process.

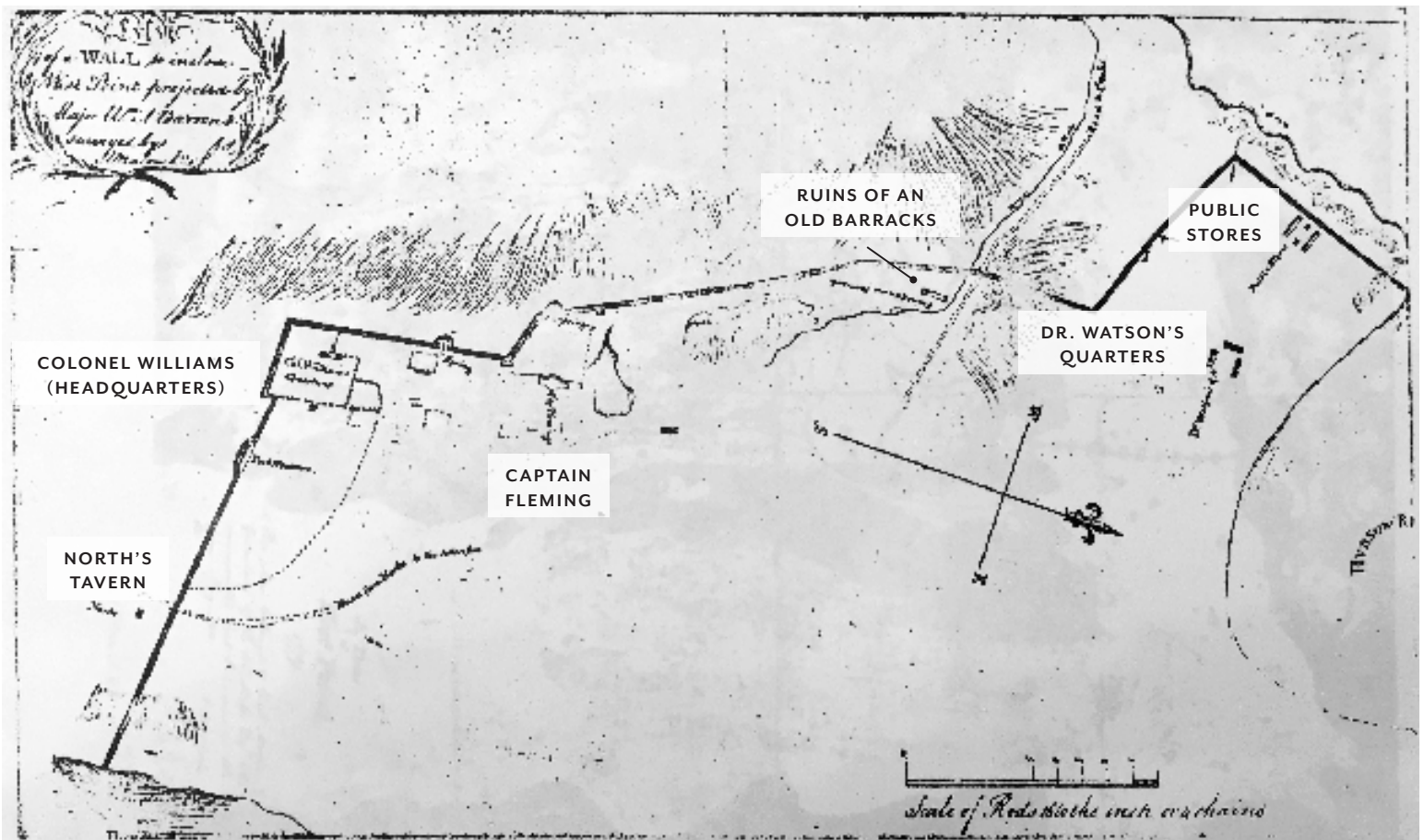
Presumably, people also came to West Point by road. On the West Point side of the Hudson, roads were not great and were often walked. Joseph Gardner Swift, after temporarily taking over West Point in 1807, mentioned going on foot over the Highlands to New Windsor. If roads were used on the east side of the Hudson, travelers would hire or find a boat to cross to West Point.

The east side of the River had active stagecoach routes between New York City and Albany from 1785–1850, when the railroad put many stages out of business. Some visiting West Point most certainly took stages to towns on the east side of

the River and then found a boat to complete the journey. In the winter, stages often replaced wheels with skids and traveled right up the Hudson River itself. Stagecoach travel was faster than walking but quite grueling as the vehicles had no shock absorbers of any kind and the roads were often in horrible shape. In the right conditions, it was possible to walk across the ice from Garrison or Cold Spring to West Point.

In 1807, inventor Robert Fulton and politician and financier Robert Livingston built and launched the *North River Steamboat*, known now as the *Clermont*. The successful maiden voyage departed from New York City on August 17, 1807, and by September of the same year, commercial passenger service began. West Point was a regular stop for the *Steamboat*. In 1808, the fare was \$2.50 from New York and took 11 hours, arriving at 4 a.m. From Albany, the passage took 23 hours, arrived at 7 a.m., and cost \$4.50, about \$110 in 2024 dollars. Because of the high cost, passenger sloop travel persisted for a couple more decades on the River. Eventually, steamboats were cheap and fast and sloops operated as cargo vessels almost exclusively. West Point continued to rely on sloops for delivery of bulk items, such as building materials.

PROPOSED WALL, 1805



Above: A map of a proposed wall to enclose the United States Military Academy, ca. 1805, by Major William A. Barron.

USMA LIBRARY ASC

Below: This enlargement from a 1790s inkwash believed to be by Archibald Robertson shows the barracks near the present site of Professors Row and close to where the above 1805 map shows barracks ruins.

WEST POINT MUSEUM



THE MAP ABOVE, believed to be from 1805–1807, by Major William A. Barron, shows a proposed boundary wall for the young Academy. In July 1805, Secretary of War Henry Dearborn asked Colonel Jonathan Williams, USMA Superintendent, for an estimate of a five-foot-high dry stone wall. In September 1805, the Secretary issued an order for the construction of the wall. It was completed, with minor deviations from this plan, over the following few years.

This map is notable because it shows ruins of barracks in the area of the current houses along Professors Row. Barracks in this area are clearly indicated on more than one Revolutionary War map, but after the War, there is little evidence of them. An ink wash from the 1790s shows a barrack in this

area, but there is no indication that the building was used after the founding of the Academy.

THE EARLIEST KNOWN detailed map of West Point buildings after the formal establishment of the Academy is a map by the Teacher of Drawing Christian E. Zoeller, believed to be from 1808. Zoeller, who was Swiss or German, taught from 1808 to 1810 and from 1812 to 1819. He died in 1821 in Little Rock, Arkansas. The map, located on page 22, is in the collection of the USMA Library.

HEADQUARTERS

As in 1802, in 1808 this was the home of Benjamin Franklin's grandnephew Jonathan Williams (1751–1815). Williams had been the Academy's first Superintendent, serving from 1801 to 1803. He vacated the position in 1803 and was reappointed in 1805, overseeing the Academy until 1812. During his second superintendency, he also oversaw the development and construction of New York City's defenses. The Williamsburg section of Brooklyn is named for Williams.

One of the interesting aspects of this building is the addition on the back. It is rarely depicted on early maps with the same shape. The inset on the right of this page shows the building as drawn on 1808, 1815, 1817, and 1826 maps. It is not known if the building changed shape or whether the cartography is imprecise.

Between 1808 and about 1820, the house is consistently shown with trees and/or gardens in the front. This was, of course, not uncommon with early American homes. Gardens at this time were for aesthetics, for food, and for

growing herbs and flowers used in medicines or for household cleaning. Zoeller's map clearly shows a fence or wall around both the house and the garden areas.

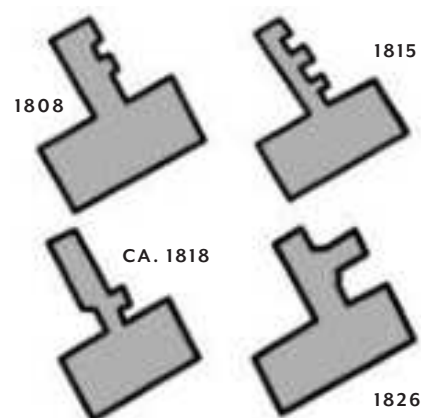
LABORATORY

This building, alluded to by Joseph Gardner Swift when discussing West Point in 1801, was used as a laboratory. Given its proximity to the "Artillery Butt" and accounts by Swift, the Laboratory was a place to make rockets, mortar bombs, etc.:

Soon after his appointment he made good progress at his books, and became our principal in the laboratory, in which place [George] Bomford and myself had a narrow escape. A rocket had taken fire while in the mould and driving, the flame from which reached the floor above, upon which, on cartridge paper, was a mass of gun powder. Both of us sprang to the window and became jammed for want of space for both, and there struggled until the rocket was exhausted.

LIBRARY

In 1802, this was used as quarters for officers. By 1808, it was the Library. This change likely occurred in 1807 given Swift's statement, "I commenced the formation of a library for the Academy, and employed Samuel Campbell, of New York, to import the books..." Campbell was a prominent bookseller and paper merchant in New York City. Technical books were almost entirely from Europe



The shape of the Headquarters building on four different West Point maps.



Facing: Excerpt from Zoeller's map
USMA LIBRARY ASC

at the time and cadets were expected to be proficient in French.

Note that the model yard that was in front of this building in 1802 is gone in 1808, replaced by a ring of elm trees that Swift claims to have planted with Cadet Walker K. Armistead (Class of 1803). If they were planted while Armistead was a cadet, these trees were planted before March 1803, but Armistead was stationed at West Point after graduation until 1806. The elms stood on the site for decades and into some of the 20th century.

MILITARY STOREKEEPER'S QUARTERS

In 1808, this would have been the quarters of Captain Alexander Thompson, a veteran of the Revolution, who succeeded George Fleming in 1806. He served until his death at West Point in 1809. His son, Alexander Ramsay Thompson, graduated in 1812, served in the War of 1812, and was killed in 1837 at the Battle of Lake Okeechobee during the Second Seminole War.

This building is consistently shown with trees in front. The spring behind the house at the base of steep terrain was located near the southern most entrance of today's Arvin Gymnasium.

ACADEMY

This building, as in 1802, was a multi-purpose facility used for diverse activities, including instruction and chapel. Not clear is what the small saltbox next to it was used for at the time. The small depression between the saltbox and the Military Storekeeper's Quarters is visible on Zoeller's map. Labels on a different map from the late 1810s indicate that the building next to the pond was a workshop.



Grave of a Revolutionary War soldier found at West Point and reinterred at the New Windsor Cantonment site in 1965

PHOTO BY AUTHOR

THE ACADEMY'S SOUTHERN boundary in 1808 continued to border the property of Thomas North. The boundary wall was approximately on a line running through today's Pershing and Bartlett Halls.

ARTILLERY BUTT

A butt is a mound of earth, and sometimes wood or other material, into which artillery pieces can be fired. This allows cannon and other pieces to be fired without fear of an errant projectile. If the butt is of a consistent material, it can be used to calculate a shell's velocity.

NORTH'S TAVERN

This combination tavern, restaurant, and inn was still operated by Thomas North in 1808.

KOSCIUSKO'S GARDEN

This small retreat, created by Thaddeus Kosciuszko (often, as here, spelled "Kosciusko"), was repaired by Joseph Gardner Swift and Lieutenant Alexander Macomb in the first decade of the nineteenth century. The Garden still exists today and is discussed in a previous section.

THE PLAIN

Today, the Plain is relatively flat, but Zoeller's map highlights that its eastern margin was more hummocky than it is now. At least two depressions are showing (one being near the "Burying Place"), as well as the boulders previously discussed.

EXECUTION HOLLOW

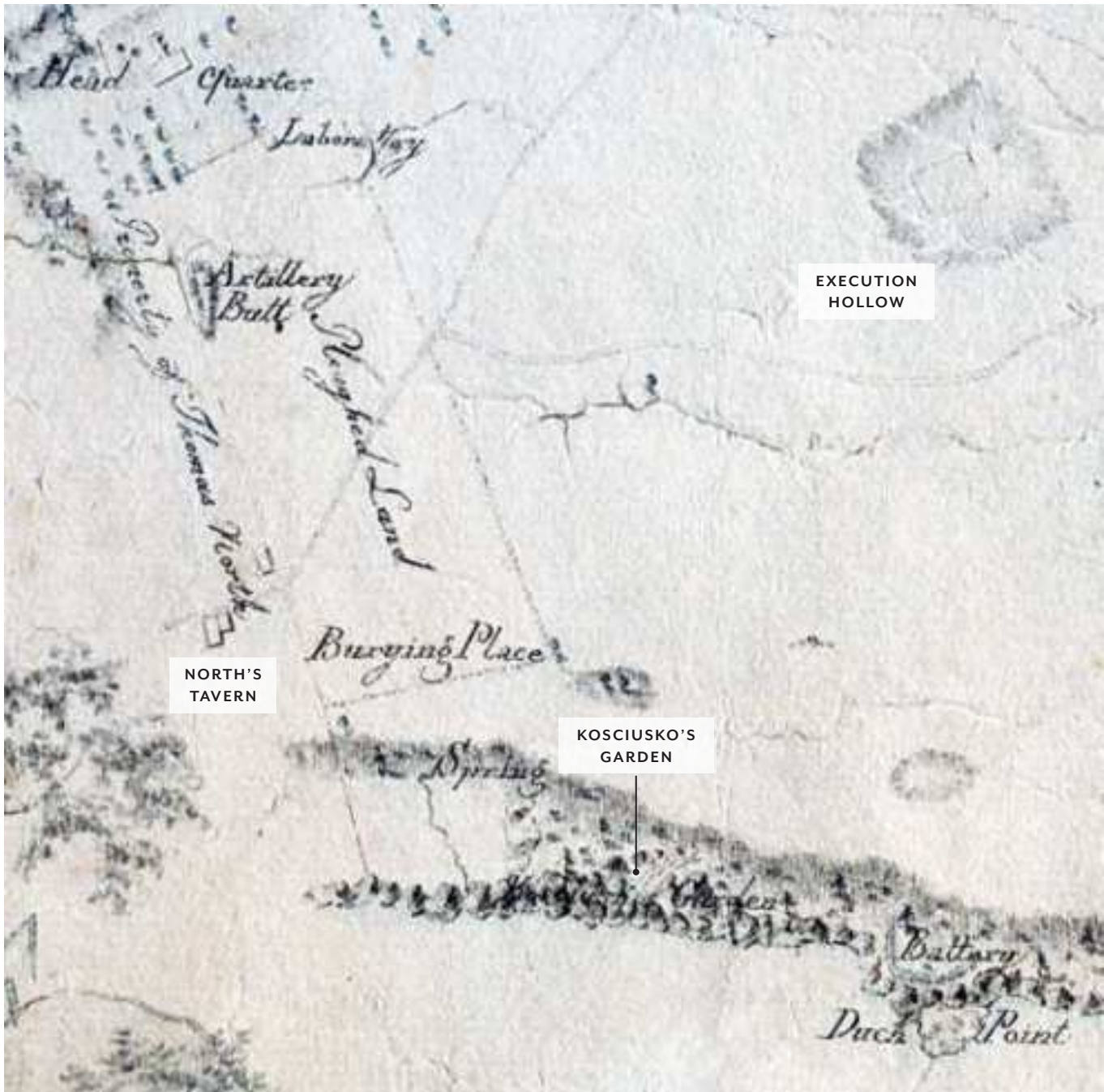
The square feature in the bottom of Execution Hollow cannot be definitively identified. Later accounts mention an ice house in the depression, but an 1818 map also by Zoeller shows the ice house on the slope of the depression rather than at the bottom. Since a cadet memoir from the 1820s mentions skating here, perhaps the bottom was walled to encourage pooling of water. There is no indication of the Old Provost present in 1802.

BATTERY

The battery above Duck Point is what is now known as Knox Battery or Battery Knox, originally built in 1778.

DUCK POINT

This small, rocky outcrop still exists, but has been minimized by land reclamation along the line of the Hudson. Duck Point today is where the modern road along the shore ends in a small loop. None of the fields that now hug the shoreline were present in 1808.



Excerpt from Zoeller's map
USMA LIBRARY ASC

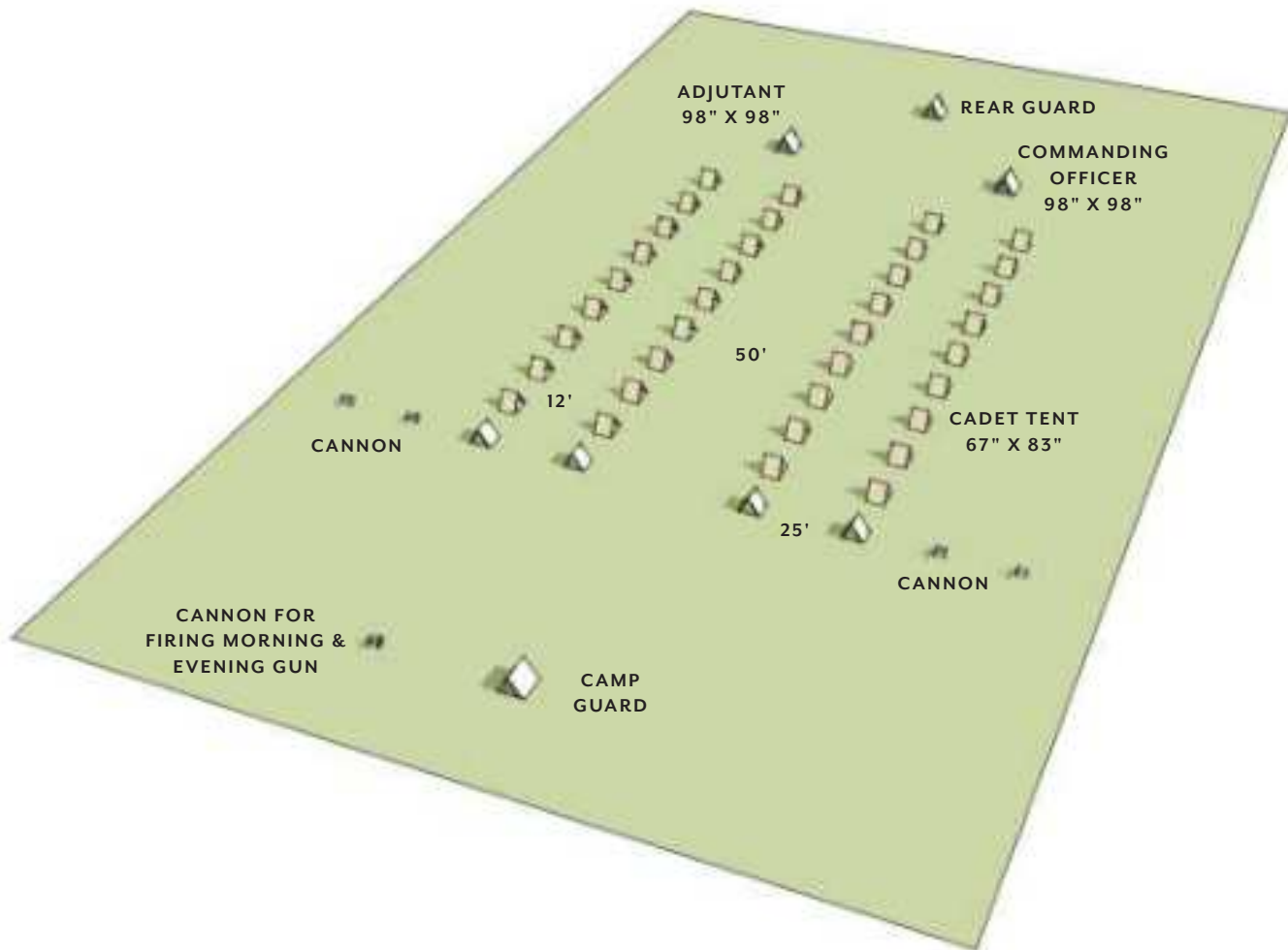
BURYING PLACE

Because of the large number of soldiers stationed at West Point during the Revolution, and the presence of smallpox and other diseases among troops, graves were common on Academy grounds. Yet, the place indicated in the enlarged section of Zoeller's map above seems to have been a common gravesite as it is labeled the same way on maps even a decade later. A body found in this area was reburied at the New Windsor Cantonment in 1965.

PLOUGHED LAND

It is unclear if this area was plowed for cultivation or just cleared. It is shown with a fence or wall around it. Maps from 1815–1818 show the area in a very similar way. By about 1818, this area transitioned into a functional space with a woodyard and support buildings.

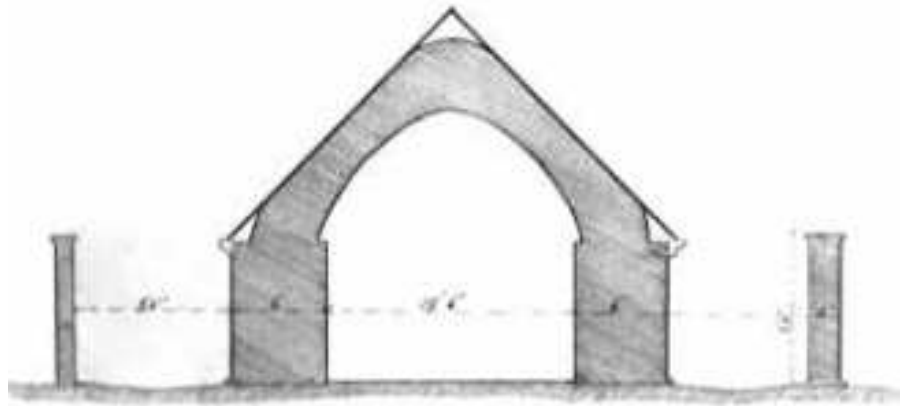
SUMMER CAMP, 1814



IN 1812, CONGRESS prescribed that cadets would be encamped for three months a year. The graphic on this page shows the arrangement of the camp in 1814 based on a plan in the holdings of the New York Historical Society. At this time, the camp was likely on the Plain just east of where the Superintendent's House is today. By the end of the 1810s, the Summer Camp had moved to a area near Fort Clinton, where it remained for over a century.

According to the 1814 plan, cadet tents were 83" by 67". Height is unknown, but most likely the 5'8" to 7' range. The large guard and officers' tents may have been walled tents. In his memoirs, Albert Church, who arrived at West Point in 1824, recalls that they had no tent platform or tent fly. The ground was covered with a simple oil cloth and a ditch was dug around the tent to aid drainage. As there were no sentry boxes for guards, cadets had to stand for hours directly in the hot sun.

POWDER MAGAZINE, ~1814



RECORDS OF WHEN this building was constructed are inconclusive. An 1840s map says it was built before 1814 by Superintendent Alden Patridge, but he was not yet in charge at the Academy, although he may have been a stand-in during Swift's absence, as he was later. Another account has Scottish-born Alexander Mearns bringing the bricks for the building to the Academy in 1807–1808. The Powder Magazine is not on Zoeller's 1808 map but is on Cadet John Webber's 1815 map.

As implied, the building seems to have been made of brick. Its dimensions were about 120'x27' according to plans. The main powder magazine had 6' thick walls and a space approximately 15.5'x105' for internal storage. The entire structure was surrounded by a wall of varying thicknesses. In the summer of 1844, a slate roof was added. It is unclear when the structure was demolished. It can be seen on a map from 1859 but not on maps from the 1870s.

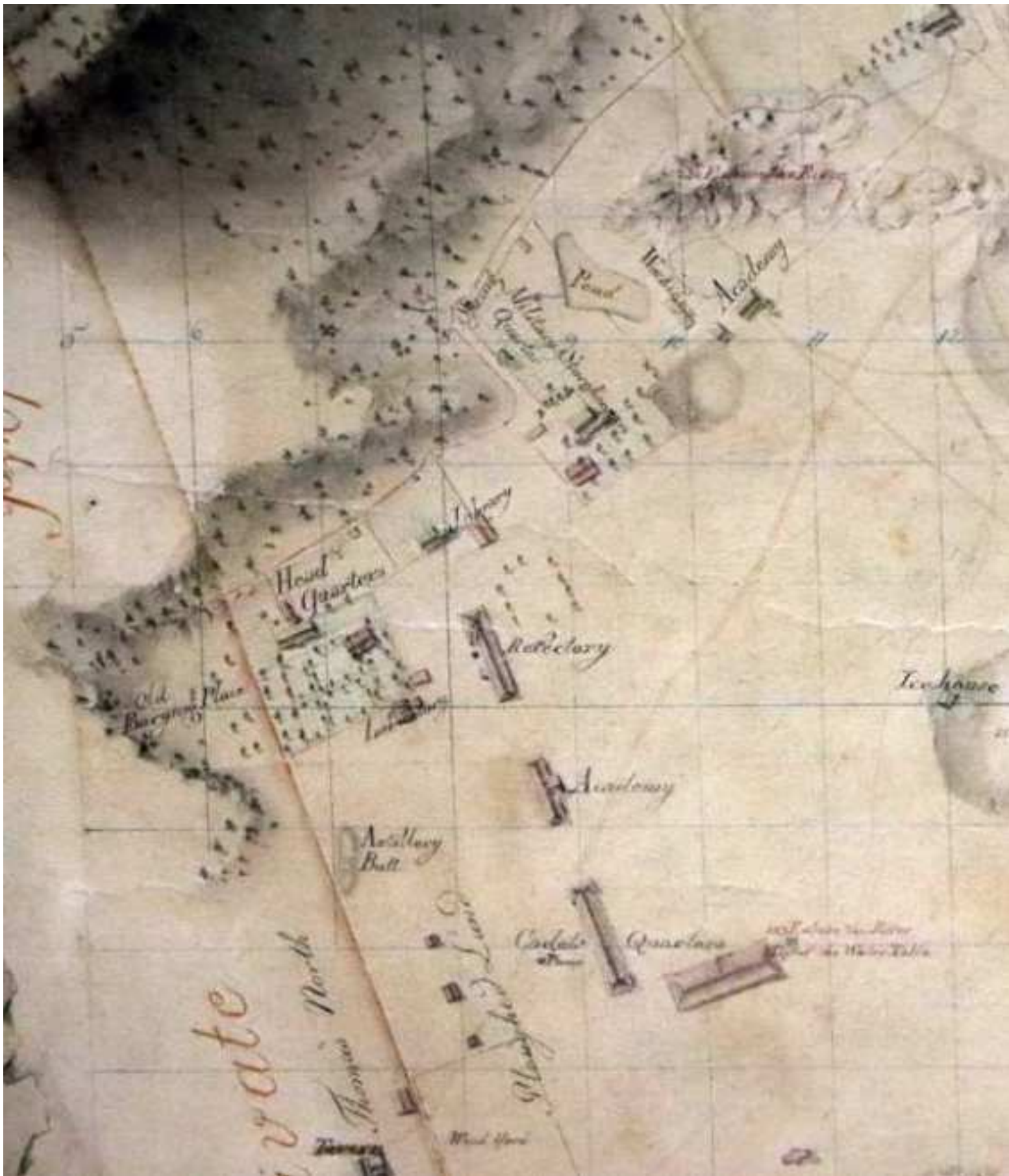


Top, left: The Magazine was located near the present Department of Public Works building.

Top, right: An 1844 cross-section of the Powder Magazine and the outer walls. This plan also shows the slate roof added in 1844. NARA

Bottom: A 3D recreation of the Magazine, which appears to have been constructed of brick based on plans drawn in 1844 now in the National Archives.

THE WAR OF 1812 RESHAPES WEST POINT





"A Plan of Westpoint, State of Newyork." 1818. Cartographer: Christian E. Zoeller.

THE WAR OF 1812 RESHAPES WEST POINT

THE WAR OF 1812 ushered in the first real era of construction for the young Academy. In April 29, 1812, Congress passed laws that formalized the structure and size of the Academy (250 cadets) and authorized funds for building construction.

REFECTORY (AKA COMMONS / MESS HALL)

This building was finished in 1815 and will be discussed in detail on the following pages. It is often referred to as the Commons in addition to the Mess Hall or the Refectory. The structure served as a mess for cadets as well as quarters for the Steward and a makeshift hotel for Academy visitors. The western section of the building had a cellar. In 1815, cadets would have eaten on both the first and second stories.

BAKE HOUSE

Completed with the Refectory in 1815, this brick building had a large oven and boiler. It also had prep space separate from

the oven with a baker's table, a kneading trough, and a "meal box." The foundation was stone and mortar and the roof was slate. The size of the building is a bit unclear because of discrepancies between the builder's and mason's notes, but the evidence suggests 25' by 20'.

Some of the dimensions were:

Meal box: 8.5' long by 3.5' wide by 2.5' deep. No bottom.

Baker's Table: 11' by 3' with a backboard; all made of clear plank.

Kneading trough: 6.5' long by 2' wide by 1'8" deep.

BARRACKS

Soon to be known as the South Barracks, this large, three-story building was 180' by 44'. It had officer quarters and some offices in the east and west ends with forty-eight cadet rooms in between. Twenty-four rooms faced south and twenty-four had northern exposure. Each floor of cadet rooms had a porch ("piazza") with the upper floors accessible by a central staircase. The wings had cellars. The

Right: A digital recreation of The Academy (discussed on page 32), built in 1815 and destroyed by fire on February 19, 1838.

Facing: West Point in the period following the War of 1812. MAP BY AUTHOR







Above: The year 1815 saw the completion of three large stone buildings in West Point's core area.

Facing: West Point's northern slope changed little in the Academy's second decade with the exception of a new dock and a large powder magazine.

building was constructed of stone and had a slate roof. The building will be discussed in detail on the following pages.

THE ACADEMY

Constructed in 1815, but after the Barracks and Refectory and perhaps finished in 1816, this building housed laboratory space, offices, a chapel, and the library at various times. It was 124'6" long and 47'5" at its widest. See the following pages for more details. The building was destroyed, along with many official USMA records, in February 1838.

PRIVY (" NECESSARY ")

Perhaps because it was considered distasteful, no maps from the period identify the location of the privies. Hence, this is an educated guess given their location near the pump and the barracks. The records are clear that two "necessaries" were built in 1815. One was wood with

dimensions 19' by 9'. It had four stalls with double seats, thus eight seats in total. The structure had a pine frame with "plain weather" siding painted yellow and rested on a stone and oak foundation. The hipped roof had 18" shingles that were "lead"-colored (probably wood). The building was heated and had a chimney. Records also indicate a second stone and brick privy, possibly closer to the Refectory, was also built in 1815. Digging for this privy is listed in the mason's notes under the section for the Mess.

POST OFFICE

Previously quarters and a library, this building was, for a short time, the post office. It would soon be torn down.

MILITARY STOREKEEPER

Until the Refectory opened, Isaac Partridge (the Superintendent's uncle) fed cadets in this building (1814–1815). The

perceived nepotism in this relationship was a stain on the Superintendent. Alden Partridge was court-martialed on several charges in 1817.

MR. MASSON'S QUARTERS

François Désiré Masson was the first teacher of French, serving from 1803 to 1810. He also taught drawing. When he left in 1810, his brother Florimond Masson took his position as French instructor. It is Florimond who presumably inhabited this house, although sources say he left the Academy in January 1815.

HEADQUARTERS

The small saltbox now served as both the main office and the Superintendent's quarters. The Superintendent at this time was Captain Alden Partridge. He served from 1814 until his removal in 1817. Some cadets may have boarded here as well.

OLD ACADEMY

With the opening of The Academy, the old Academy seems to have been used as a public space, for chapel, and for cadet recitations. Berard (1886) says dance classes

were held here in 1816. Already old and in disrepair, it would only survive a few more years. Sylvanus Thayer lived here as Superintendent from 1817 to 1820.

PLOUGHED LAND

As in Zoeller's 1808 map, this area is referred to as plowed land in 1815, but there is no discussion of whether it was cultivated or what was grown. Accounts from about a decade later refer to a cadet garden in this location. Therefore, it is very possible that this was a garden for the Refectory.

NORTH'S TAVERN

With the opening of the new Barracks, North's was only 100 yards from over a hundred teens and young adults. It was easy for them to sneak out at night for a drink or a meal. However, North's remained a necessary evil because new cadets and other guests had very limited lodging choices, and thus the beds available there were vital. With the size of the Corps increasing and West Point's fame growing, visitor space at North's or in the Refectory was scarce.

DOCK

The Academy's Centennial notes that a new dock was installed in 1812.

MAGAZINE

This powder magazine does not exist on Zoeller's 1808 map. Berard (1886) states that the stones were brought to West Point for the magazine in 1807 or 1808 by an Alexander Mearns, grandfather of famed ornithologist Edgar Alexander Mearns, but biographies of the elder Mearns generally report his settlement in the West Point area around 1815. Given War Department records have several letters discussing the construction of a new powder magazine at West Point in 1812, this building is likely from that year. It was torn down mid-century.

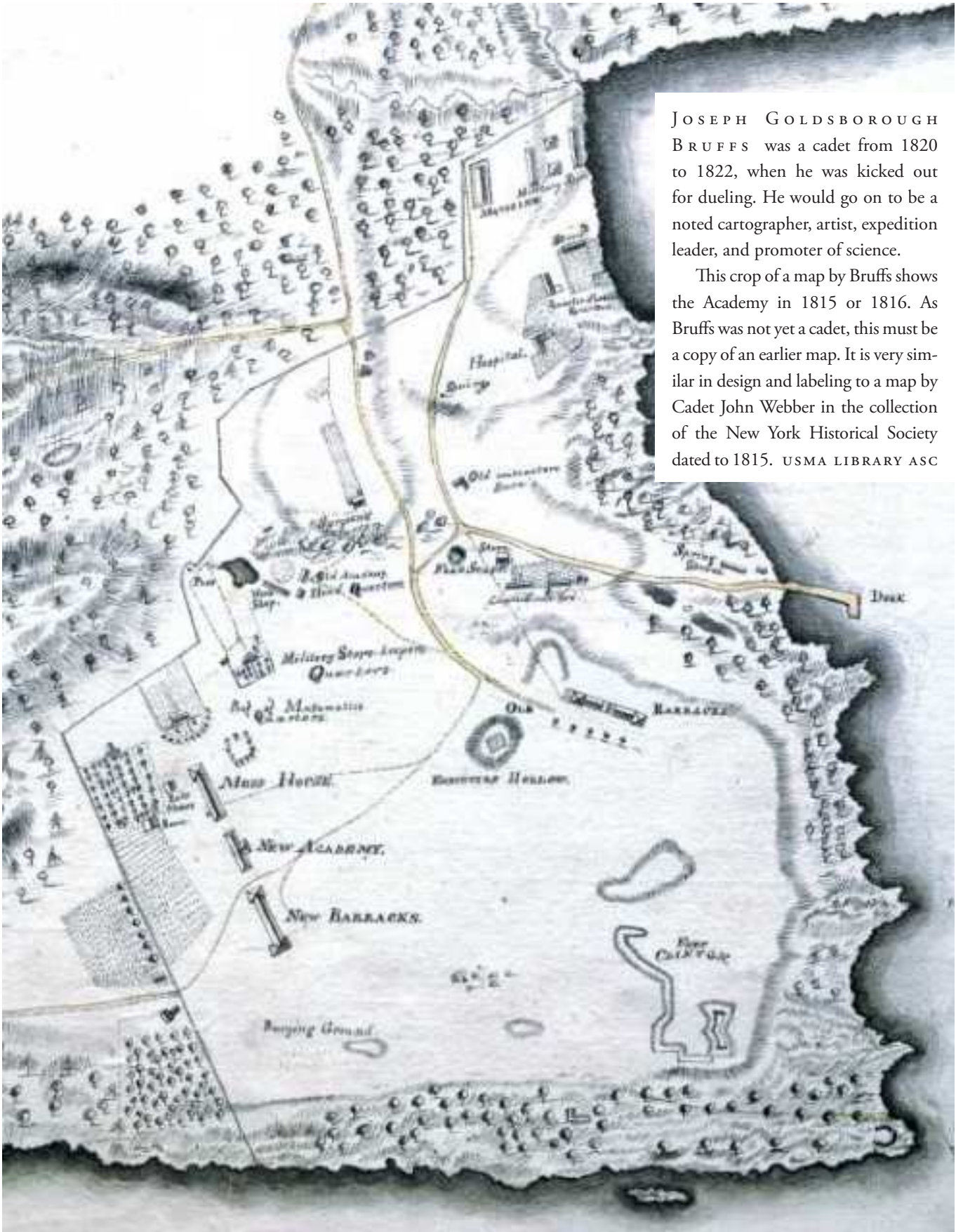
MILITARY STORES

The two long storehouses near the River were controlled by the Government and not local authorities, but in 1815 the two smaller buildings between the larger stores were transferred to the Academy for its use.



WEST POINT IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

J. G. BRUFFS, 1820-1822



JOSEPH GOLDSBOROUGH BRUFFS was a cadet from 1820 to 1822, when he was kicked out for dueling. He would go on to be a noted cartographer, artist, expedition leader, and promoter of science.

This crop of a map by Bruffs shows the Academy in 1815 or 1816. As Bruffs was not yet a cadet, this must be a copy of an earlier map. It is very similar in design and labeling to a map by Cadet John Webber in the collection of the New York Historical Society dated to 1815. USMA LIBRARY ASC

ALTHOUGH CONTRACTED FOR in 1812, the War complicated funding and it was not until 1814 that adequate funding allowed construction of the South Barracks go forward. The builder was Jacob Halsey and the mason was Thomas T. Woodruff, both operating out of New York City.

The building was built of gray/blue stone with wood floors and a blue slate roof, a rarity at the time in the United States. The shape of the roof was complicated and is not always depicted exactly the same way on early maps. The structure was shaped somewhat like a barbell with two wings connected by a skinnier middle section. The wings were three stories with cellars and the middle section was also three stories but lacked a basement. The wings were each 25' by 44' and the middle section 130' by 25' (plus piazzas). Therefore, the entire structure was 130' long and 44' deep.

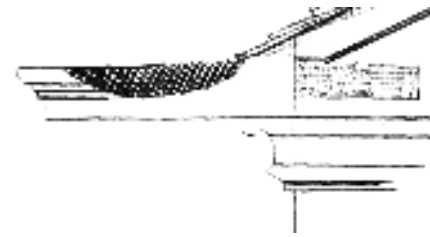
Forty-eight rooms occupied the middle section, sixteen to a floor. Half of the rooms faced north and half faced south. Rooms were about 14' by 11' and typically held three cadets. Each level of the middle wing had a piazza (porch) extending from wing to wing. The only way to get to the opposite side of the building was through a center passage where the only cadet staircase was found. The wings, occupied by officers or used for offices, had their own stairs. The wings had two apartments per floor. The stairs were lit by skylights. Later, spiral staircases seem to have been added to the outside.



The barracks were heated by fireplaces connected to twelve chimneys. The consensus seems to be that the building was very cold. In the early years, cadets had to cut it and then carry firewood to the floors. Woodboxes on each piazza were utilized. Fires in the building were common and a bucket brigade was always at the ready. Later, the fireplaces may have been converted to burn coal. All the windows and the doors of cadet rooms had shutters to help keep the cold out in the winter and the heat out in the summer. Water was available at a pump several yards to the south of the building. Whiskey barrels were used in the 1820s to store water for cleaning.

There were no privies in the building. A 19' by 9' "necessary" was completed with the barracks and was likely about a couple hundred feet south of the site. A building in that vicinity is nearly always unlabeled, indicating it might be the privy.

The area in front of the South Barracks on the north side was low and prone to becoming waterlogged. Cadets sometimes skated here. In 1825–1826, a zone around the building was paved with flagstone to make it more useful for formations. Much of this stone came



Top: This 1818 drawing of the South Barracks by Zoeller shows the location of the water pump. It was used for decades after the Barracks were demolished.

WEST POINT MUSEUM

Bottom: Gutter cornices were lined with lead and drained through tin leaders to lead pipes. This sketch is taken from builder Halsey's note for the South Barracks. USMA LIBRARY ASC

The was covered in the "best blue slate."

Skylights in the middle and two wings of the building provided light to the stairwells.

Fireplaces burned wood cut by cadets on each floor and stored in a woodbox.



The east and west wings had cellars. There was no basement in the middle section.

The cut stone details were likely pinkish brownstone such as the type found on the earliest stone buildings at West Point. The oldest Professors Row house, built just six years after South Barracks, has similar stone.

Although not shown here, all windows and the cadet room doors had shutters. The shutter color is not known.

The floors were likely constructed of yellow pine based on later quartermaster records for repairs.

The walls of the barracks were gray/blue stone with lime and sand mortar. The stone color was likely very similar to the houses on Professors Row.

from the Brainerd Quarry in Haddam, CT, and was transported to West Point by sloop.

By the 1830s, the building was musty and infested with vermin, a driving force to get new barracks authorized. Permission to demolish it was finally given by the Secretary of War in April 1850 as cadets moved into the new (Central) Barracks.

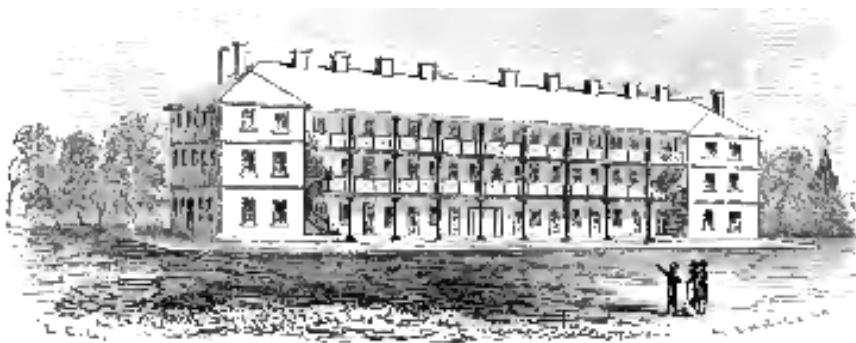
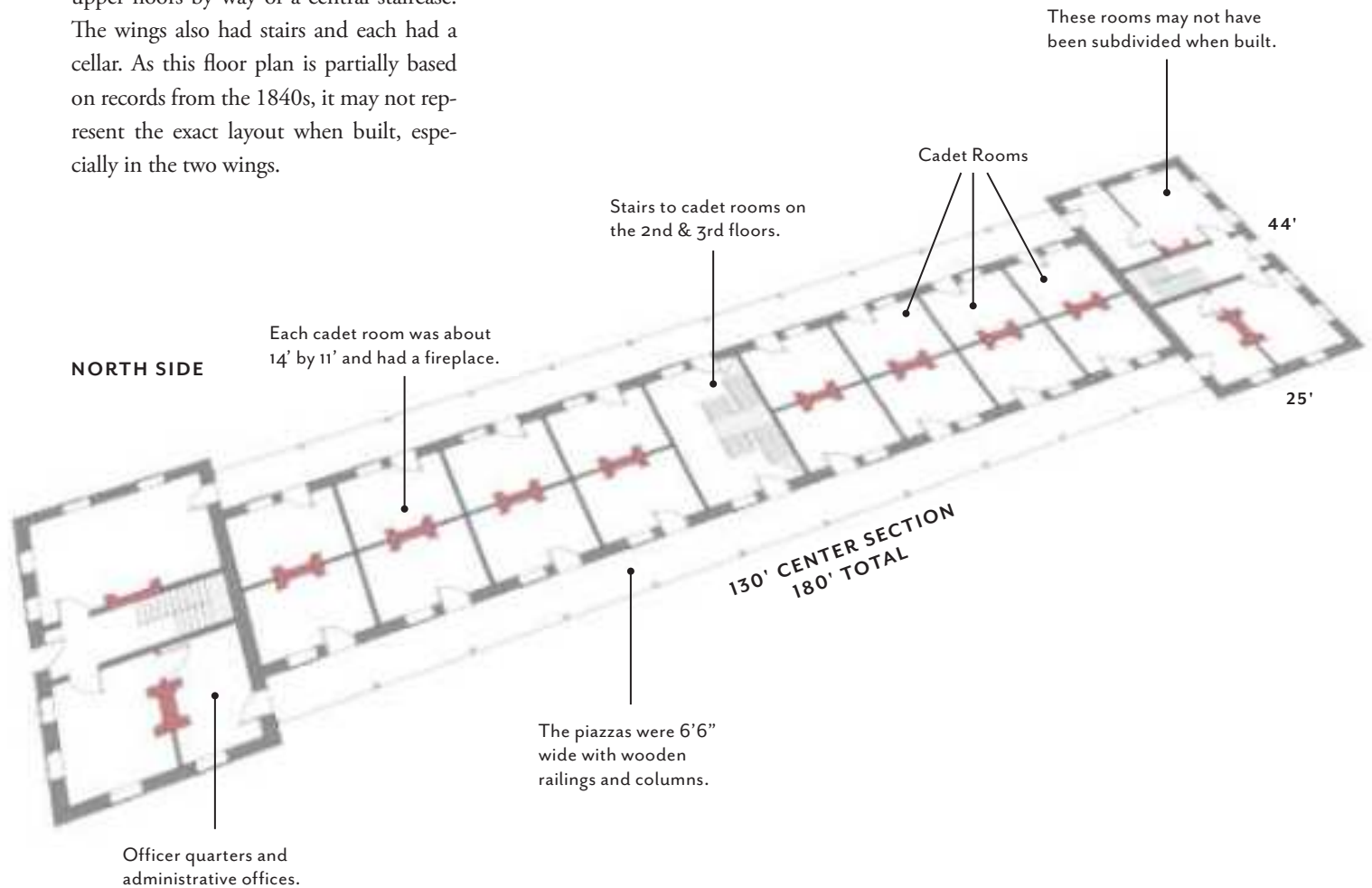
Above: This undated drawing of the 1815 barracks, the South Barracks, is in the collection of the National Archives. NARA

Below: The South Barracks is the second building from the left in this 1830s painting by John Rubens Smith. The 1817 North Barracks is on the far left, and to the right of the South Barracks are the 1815 Academy and the 1815 Refectory (Mess Hall). LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



FIRST FLOOR PLAN, SOUTH BARRACKS

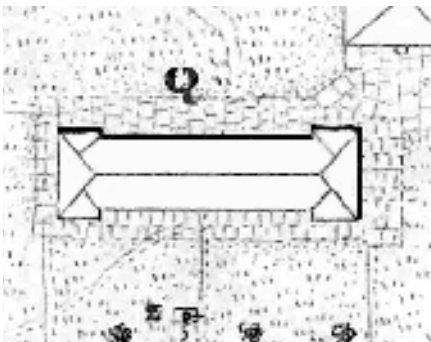
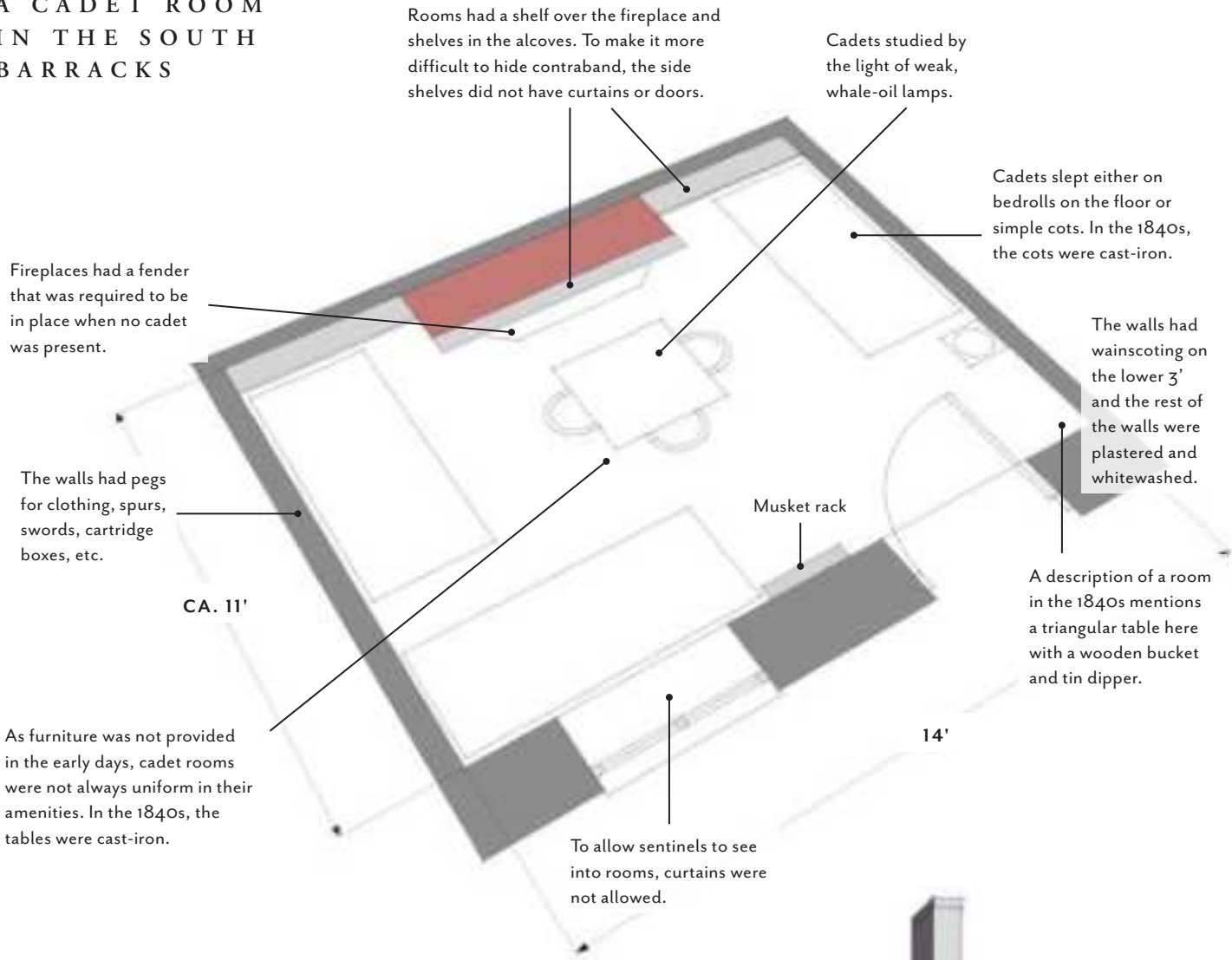
Each floor of the 1815 barracks had sixteen cadet rooms, each with a fireplace. Each wing contained rooms that served as either quarters for junior officers or administrative offices. At the time, cadets accessed the upper floors by way of a central staircase. The wings also had stairs and each had a cellar. As this floor plan is partially based on records from the 1840s, it may not represent the exact layout when built, especially in the two wings.



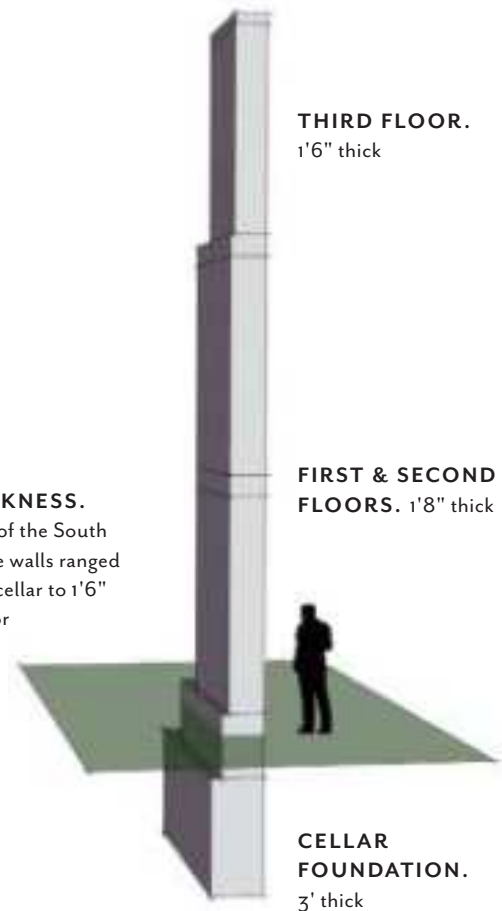
BOYNTON'S SOUTH BARRACKS

This oft-reproduced drawing of South Barracks that appears in Boynton's *History of West Point* (1863) clearly shows spiral staircases from the ground to the piazzas. There is no evidence that these stairs existed in the building's early years. Also notable is that the artist has not shown skylights, indicating that they may have been removed.

A CADET ROOM IN THE SOUTH BARRACKS



PAVING STONES *This detail from T.B. Brown's 1826 map shows extensive paved areas around the barracks. Quartermaster records confirm flagging stone purchases in 1825 and 1826. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS*



WALL THICKNESS.
The thickness of the South Barracks' stone walls ranged from 3' in the cellar to 1'6" on the top floor

REFECTORY, 1815



The Refectory by Alfred Sully, Class of 1841. The date is presumed to be 1837-1841. The trees may be the elms planted by Joseph Gardner Swift in the Academy's first years. FRICK COLLECTION

THE 1815 DINING facility is referred to in the builder's notes as the Steward's House, Kitchen, and Refectory, and this title summarizes the structure's use well. The east end of the building, the "Refectory," was the cadet dining area and it spanned two floors. Cadets ate at simple tables and sat on benches.

In the middle of the building was a kitchen, and the west end of the building was designed as housing for the Steward, the person contracted to feed the Academy's young men. This building was alternately called the Mess Hall or the Commons. In fact, the stone mason Woodruff uses the term "mess" instead of "refectory."

The two-story building was made of gray/blue stone with walls 1'8" thick above ground. A description of the Mess Hall in the 1840s says the exterior was stuccoed. It is unclear if this was the case

when built. Some interior walls were brick. According to an 1815 sketch, the building was 146' long with a 30'-deep east wing and a 41'6"-deep west wing (with an attic). An 1840 plan of the building shows the length as 146'10" with depths of 30'2" and 40'9" for the east and west wings.

The first floor was 10' high and the second level 9'6", making the height from the ground to the roofline about 21'6". To the top of the highest chimney was 39'. There was a finished bedroom in the attic. Walls throughout the Refectory were lathed and plastered. The building had a cesspool and sink, but the location of these is uncertain.

The west end of the building had a cellar with exterior walls 2'-3' thick. Some of the cellar rooms had wood plank or pebble pavement floors. Parts of the cellar were window-lit. The east wing had no

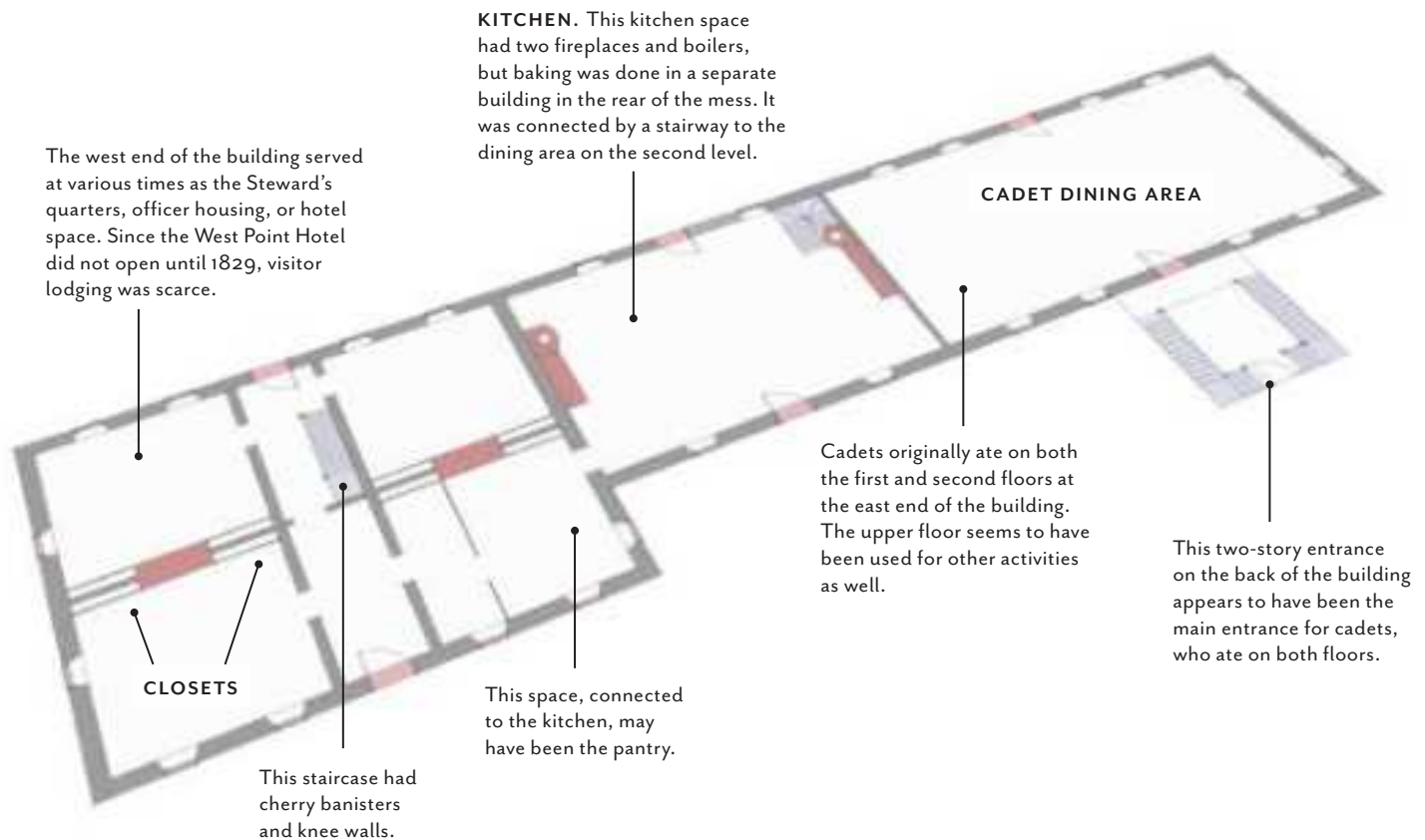
cellar but rested on 6'6"-deep foundation walls that were 2'6"-3' thick. The roof was blue slate with lead flashing. Three skylights, each with twenty 8"x10" pieces of glass, helped light the interior.

Historian Thomas Fleming (1969) wrote that there was a fire on the roof of this building in December 1821 during a cadet uprising. His source is unclear.

The staircase on the back of the building allowed cadets access to the second floor. This painted feature was made of wood with a shingled roof. Plans from later decades do not show this feature, the stairs having been moved inside along the eastern wall. The builder refers to these stairs as accessing the Refectory and Chapel. Religious services are thought to have been held in The Academy next door, but it was not finished when the Refectory opened. Therefore, perhaps the upstairs eating area was used until The Academy's completion.

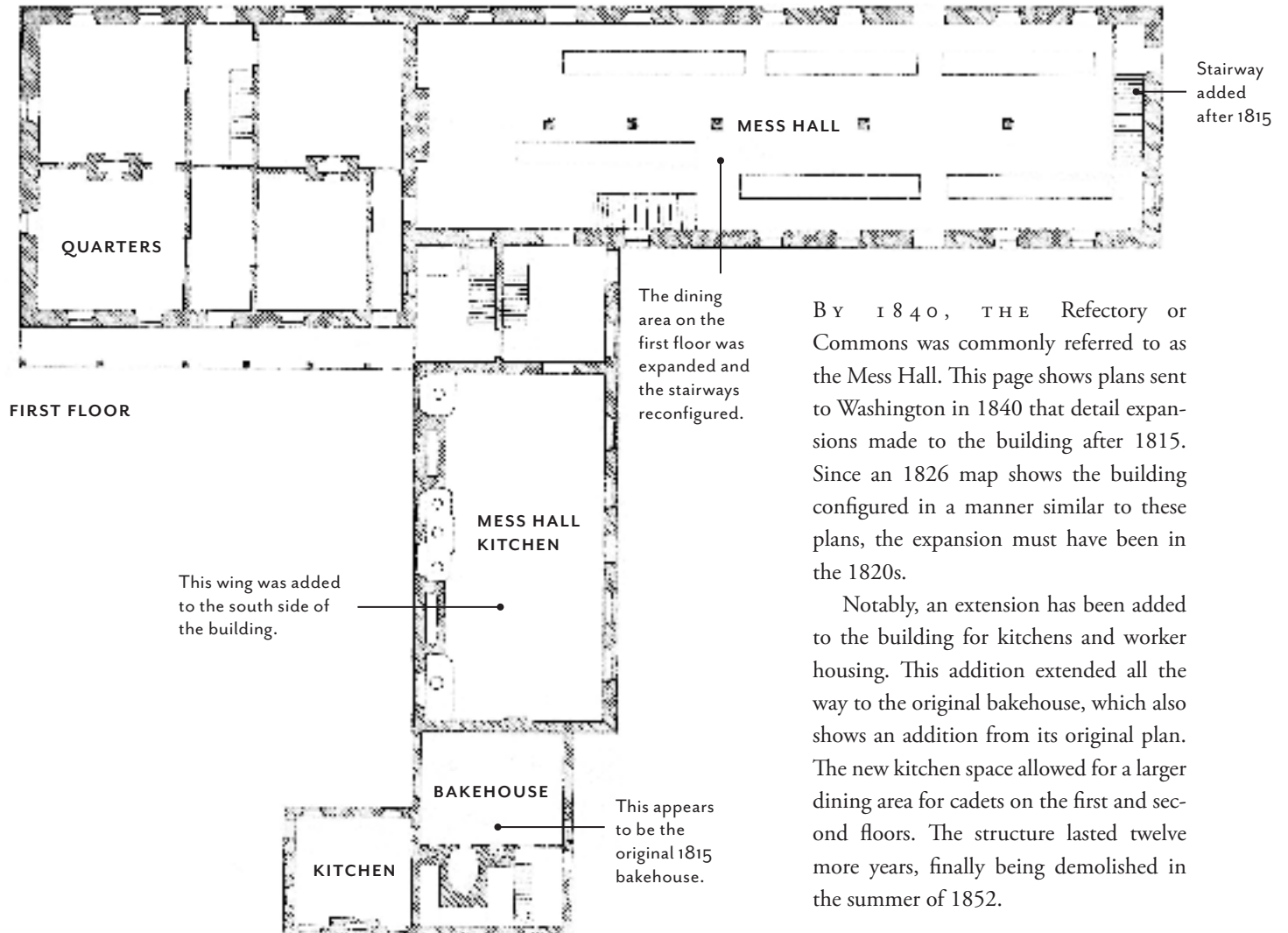
REFECTORY, FIRST FLOOR, 1815

When the Mess Hall opened in 1815, the first floor was laid out as shown below according to a sketch by the builder. Later modifications are discussed on the following page. The top of the image is north.



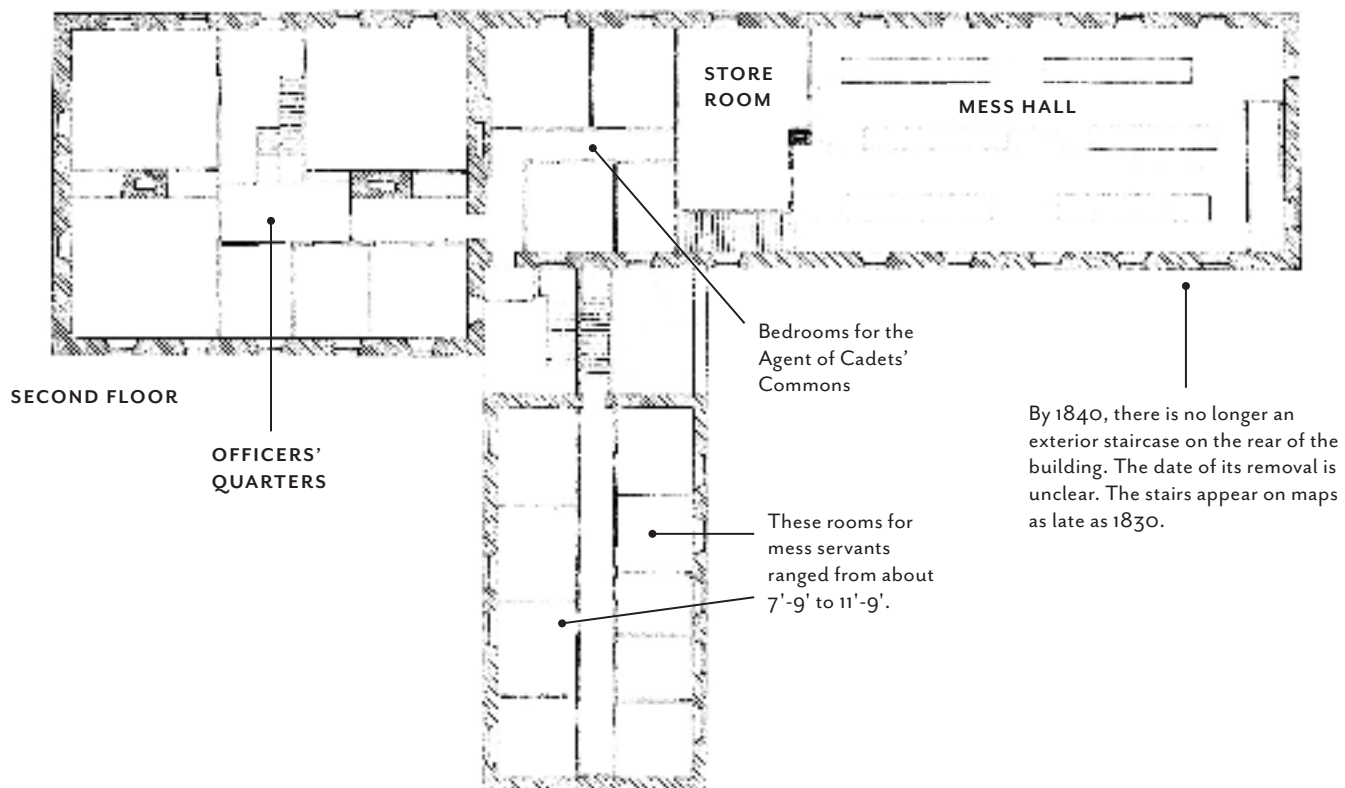
MESS HALL EXPANSION

THE PLAIN



BY 1840, THE Refectory or Commons was commonly referred to as the Mess Hall. This page shows plans sent to Washington in 1840 that detail expansions made to the building after 1815. Since an 1826 map shows the building configured in a manner similar to these plans, the expansion must have been in the 1820s.

Notably, an extension has been added to the building for kitchens and worker housing. This addition extended all the way to the original bakehouse, which also shows an addition from its original plan. The new kitchen space allowed for a larger dining area for cadets on the first and second floors. The structure lasted twelve more years, finally being demolished in the summer of 1852.



THE ACADEMY, 1815

THE THIRD LARGE stone building to be completed during this time period, The Academy was a multipurpose structure that soon became too small for the growing institution. Most histories say the building was finished in 1815, but it was not complete as of September of that year according to building records. It is a bit uncertain if the building was occupied in the last quarter of 1815 or early in 1816.

Like the 1815 South Barracks and Mess Hall, The Academy was blue-gray stone with a blue slate roof. The drawing of the building on this page suggests that the stones were laid out in a rubblestone pattern rather than cut, brick-like blocks. Cut stone ornamentation, such as the rustication on the corners, the water table, and door jambs were likely the same red-brown sandstone (“brownstone”) seen in many early Academy buildings. Interior walls and chimneys were brick. The building was 124’6” long by 30’3” wide in the wings. The middle extended another 17’2” to the front.

Compared to the South Barracks and Mess Hall, The Academy had slightly more ornamentation. Specifically, the large, 10’ high first floor windows had rounded arches, and this design feature was mirrored in a semicircular fanlight in the building’s prominent pediment. Federal-style architecture, popular in the early 1800s, emphasized ancient Roman architecture. Semi-circular fanlights, especially over main doors, are a very common feature of the era, as will become evident on the following pages.



Each floor of the building had three large rooms (see next page). Overall, The Academy was an academic building. Three of the rooms were permanent academic rooms and the Adjutant’s Office on the second floor was often used for examinations. The middle room on the first floor was a common room used for chapel on Sundays and a variety of purposes on other days of the week. Along with the Mess Hall, it was one of the only rooms where the entire Academy could gather en masse. The room above the chapel was the library. By the mid-1830s, Thomas Sully had adorned this room’s walls, with portraits of Presidents and Academy leaders (Jefferson, Monroe, Williams, and Swift). Sully’s son Alfred was an 1841 graduate and reported to his father after the 1838 fire (discussed on page 44) that the Monroe portrait was lightly damaged.



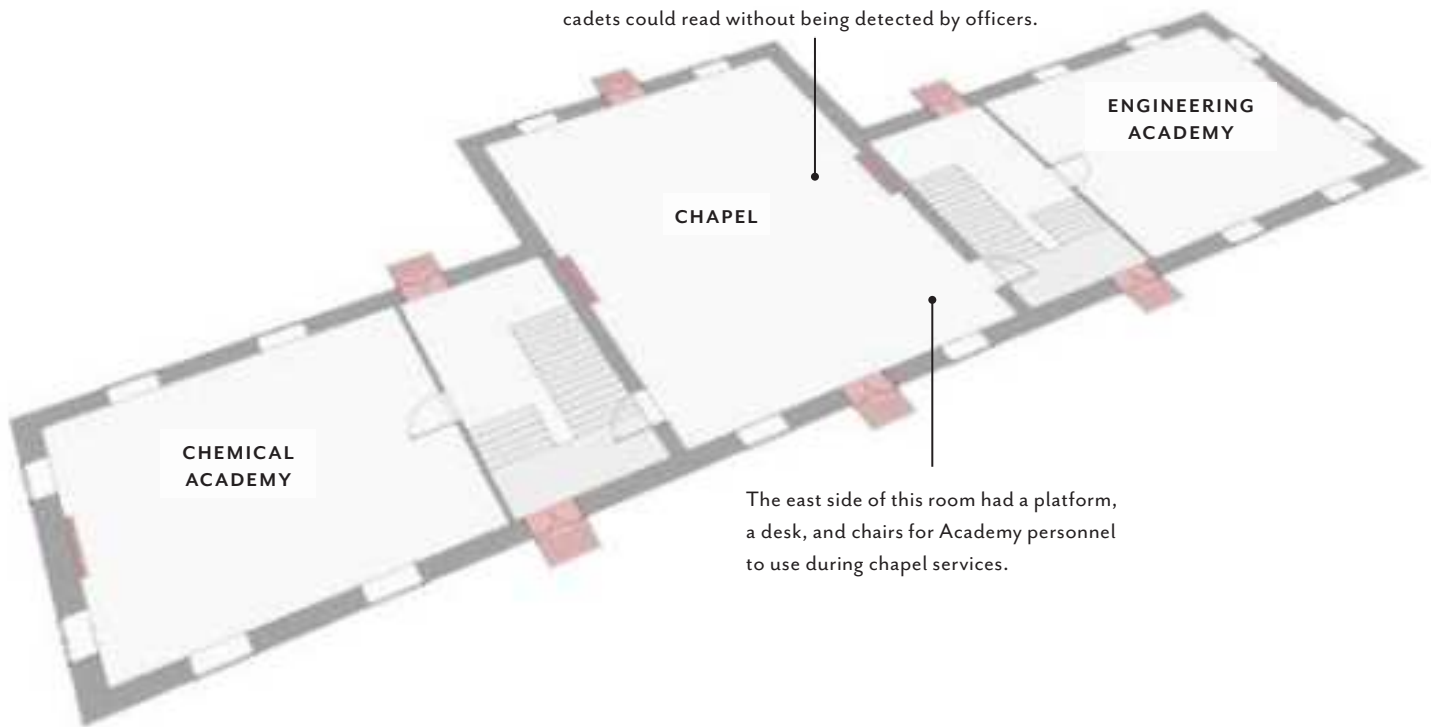
Top: The Academy as depicted in an 1840 sketch by Second Lieutenant Thomas B. Arden, Class of 1835. NARA

Above: This 1832 portrait of James Monroe by Thomas Sully hung in the 1815 Academy. WEST POINT MUSEUM

THE ACADEMY, FIRST FLOOR.

Both floors of the 1815 Academy were essentially the same (see next page).

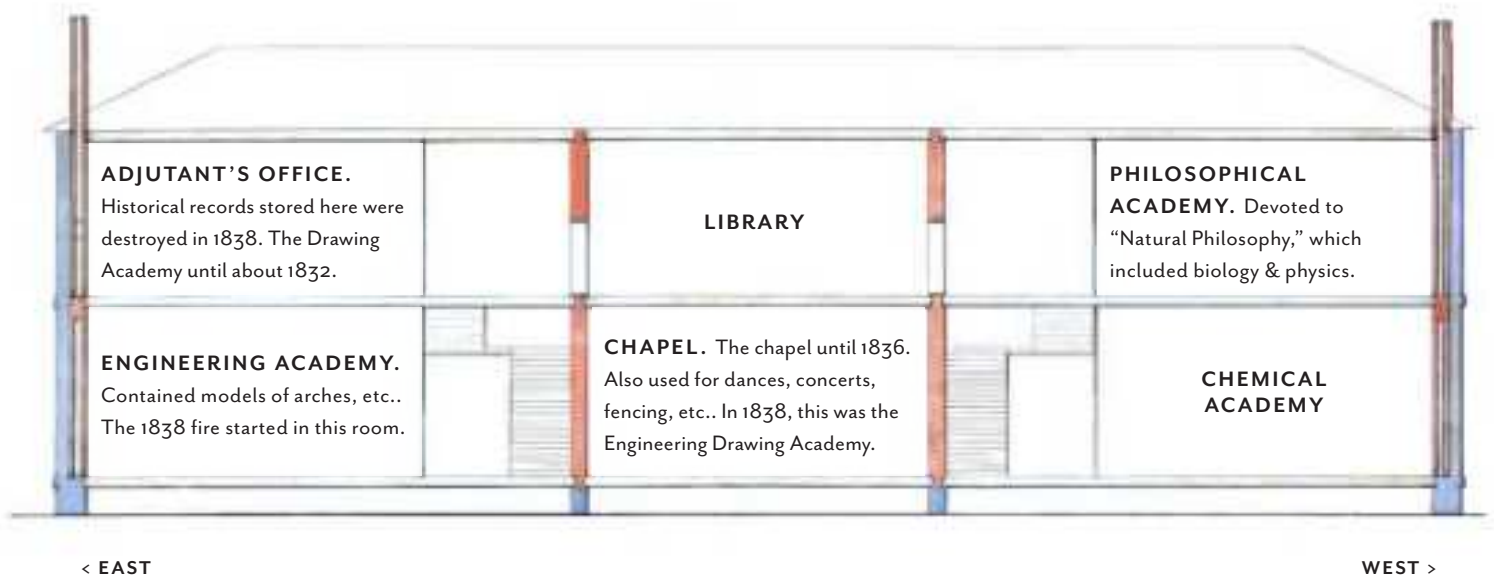
From about 1816 to 1836, this room in The Academy was the site of Sunday religious services. Cadets sat on hard wooden benches packed so tight that less religious cadets could read without being detected by officers.



The east side of this room had a platform, a desk, and chairs for Academy personnel to use during chapel services.

CROSS-SECTION OF THE ACADEMY.

This drawing was created in 1838 when The Academy was destroyed by fire. The artist was 2LT I. Carle Woodruff, USMA Class of 1836. Woodruff's original labels have been removed. NARA



ADJUTANT'S OFFICE.
Historical records stored here were destroyed in 1838. The Drawing Academy until about 1832.

LIBRARY

PHILOSOPHICAL ACADEMY. Devoted to "Natural Philosophy," which included biology & physics.

ENGINEERING ACADEMY.
Contained models of arches, etc.. The 1838 fire started in this room.

CHAPEL. The chapel until 1836. Also used for dances, concerts, fencing, etc.. In 1838, this was the Engineering Drawing Academy.

CHEMICAL ACADEMY

< EAST

WEST >

**THE ACADEMY FIRE
OF FEBRUARY 1838**

Between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. on the morning of February 19, 1838, a cadet smelled smoke and saw flames in The Academy. An alarm went out and cadets and personnel rushed to the scene. The fire engine would not work when attached to a pump near the South Barracks and thus only buckets were available to fight the blaze. Cadets acted heroically and shouted, "To the Library!" hoping to save valuable items. With flames engulfing the ground level, the young men used ladders to access the second floor. Throwing items out broken windows into the winter night, they gallantly saved paintings (including famous works by Thomas Sully), books, and scientific apparatuses.

Sadly, the inferno destroyed most of the Academy's early records. Items saved from the fire were dried and stored in the hotel on Trophy Point, causing problems for visitors who then had to be fed in a mess already strained for space. Barracks rooms were converted to classrooms, causing the Academy to pack up to six cadets in a room. Because tables were removed from rooms, studying became difficult. A new academic building was already being built behind The Academy, but the fire caused a redesign of its interior to accommodate the departments that lost space in the fire. The new Academy building was completed by the fall of 1838.

Below is a cadet letter published in Alabama's *Cahawba Democrat* on March 10, 1838.

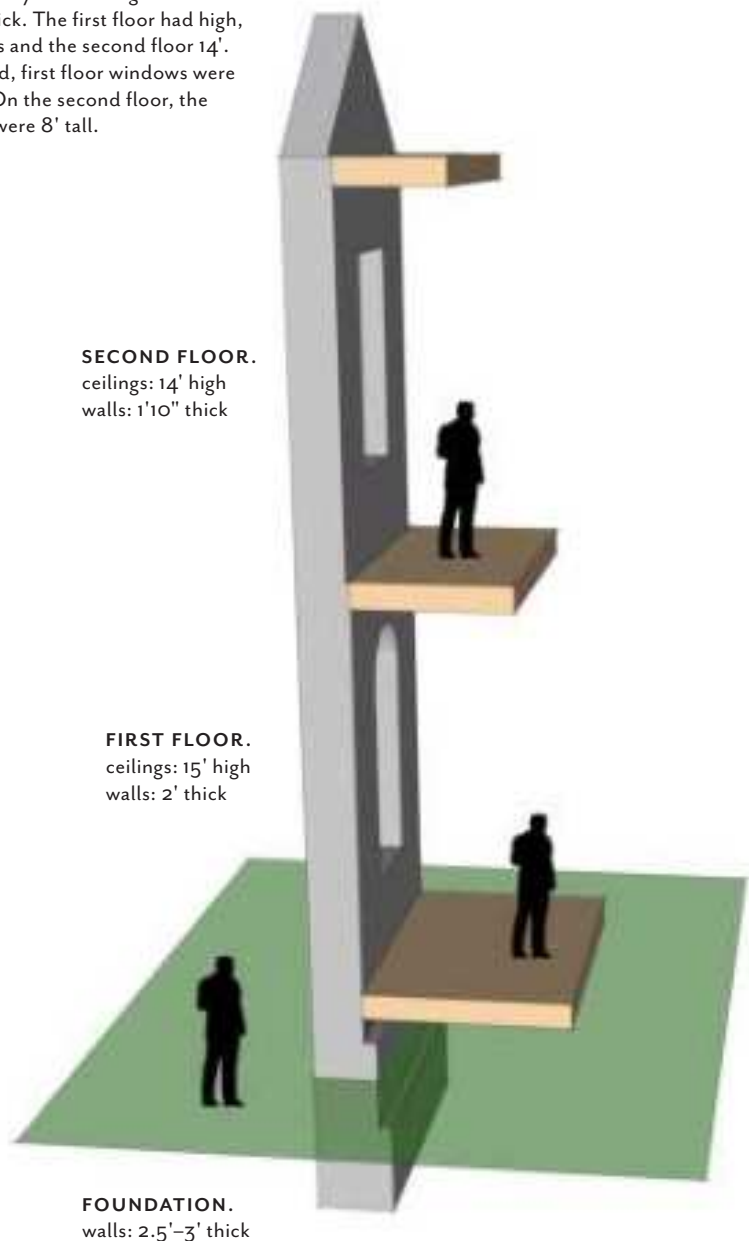
West Point, Feb. 19, 1838.

My Dear Father: I have determined to write you a short letter, as I have no studies to attend to today, on account of the hard work we had to undergo at the fire which broke out this morning about two o'clock in the Engineering Academy. The whole building was consumed, which was divided in to the Engineering, Philosophical, and Chemical Academies; and it was owing to the resolution and spirit of the Cadets that the Library, which is worth thousands, and the instruments

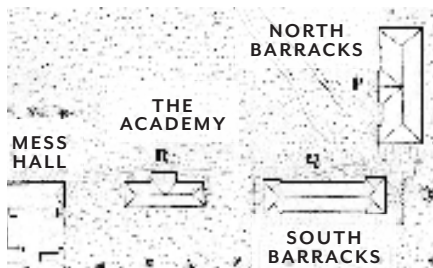
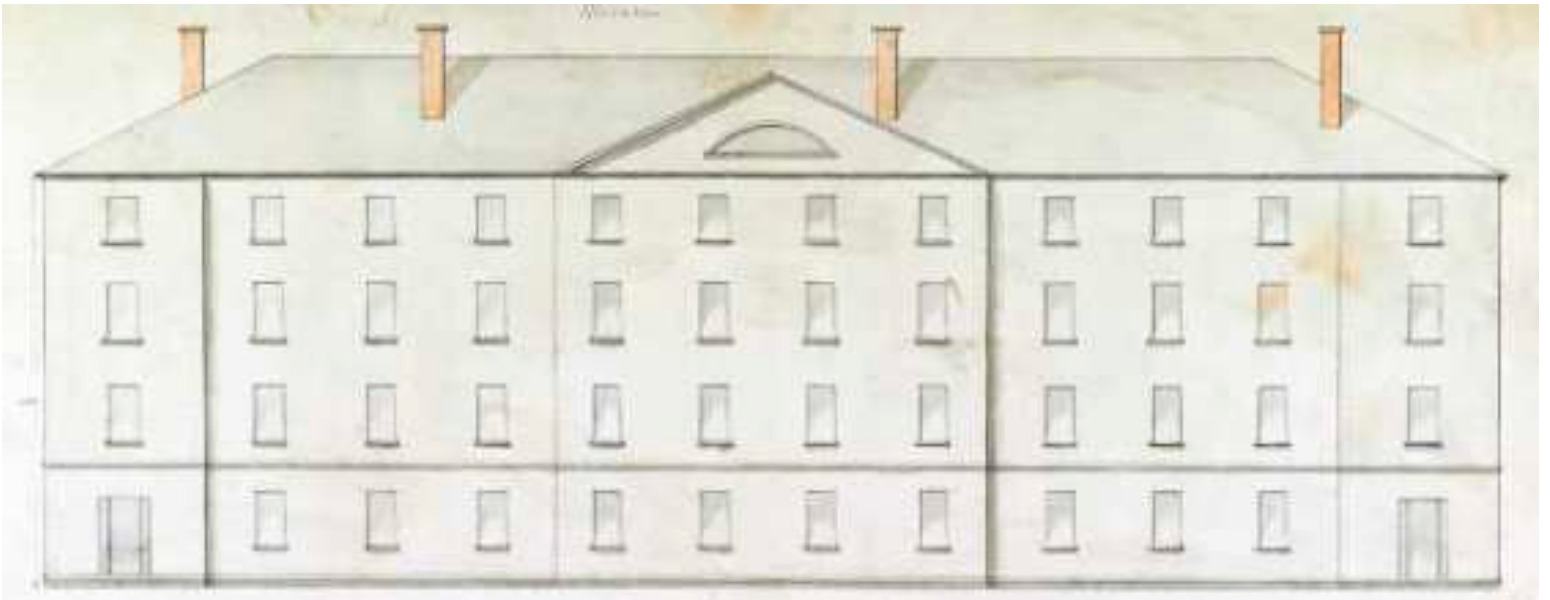
belonging to the Philosophical and Chemical Academies, worth two hundred thousand dollars, were saved. Every thing in the Engineering Academy was destroyed, it being the left wing, and where the fire commenced and was one sheet of flame before it was discovered; and the very nearly all the lower part of the house was in flames when the corps shouted "to the Library," which they reached with success by means of ladders — I amongst the number. My forage cap was burnt to a crisp on my head, but

I was not in the least burned; the same was the case with many others. The loss of the house, and what was consumed with it, amounts to \$25,000. The paintings were all saved. Our class has been turned out to put the books and different things away. Therefore, adieu.

The Academy's walls ranged from 1'8"-3' thick. The first floor had high, 15' ceilings and the second floor 14'. The arched, first floor windows were 10' high. On the second floor, the windows were 8' tall.



NORTH BARRACKS, 1817



“...a space of about fifty feet intervening, through which many a cap and plume were carried toward the Hudson, when the owner attempted to cross the funnel thus formed, in a northwest gale.”

— J.H.B. LATROBE,
USMA CLASS OF 1822

TWO YEARS AFTER building a large barracks, the Academy had a second one. The 1815 structure was thereafter known as the “South Barracks” and the new building the “North Barracks.” At four stories and over 40 rooms, the North Barracks was easily the largest building at West Point. It stood about 50’ from the South Barracks. It was demolished in the summer of 1851 and the stone may have been reused in the 1855 Riding Hall, but the delay in constructing that building makes this uncertain.

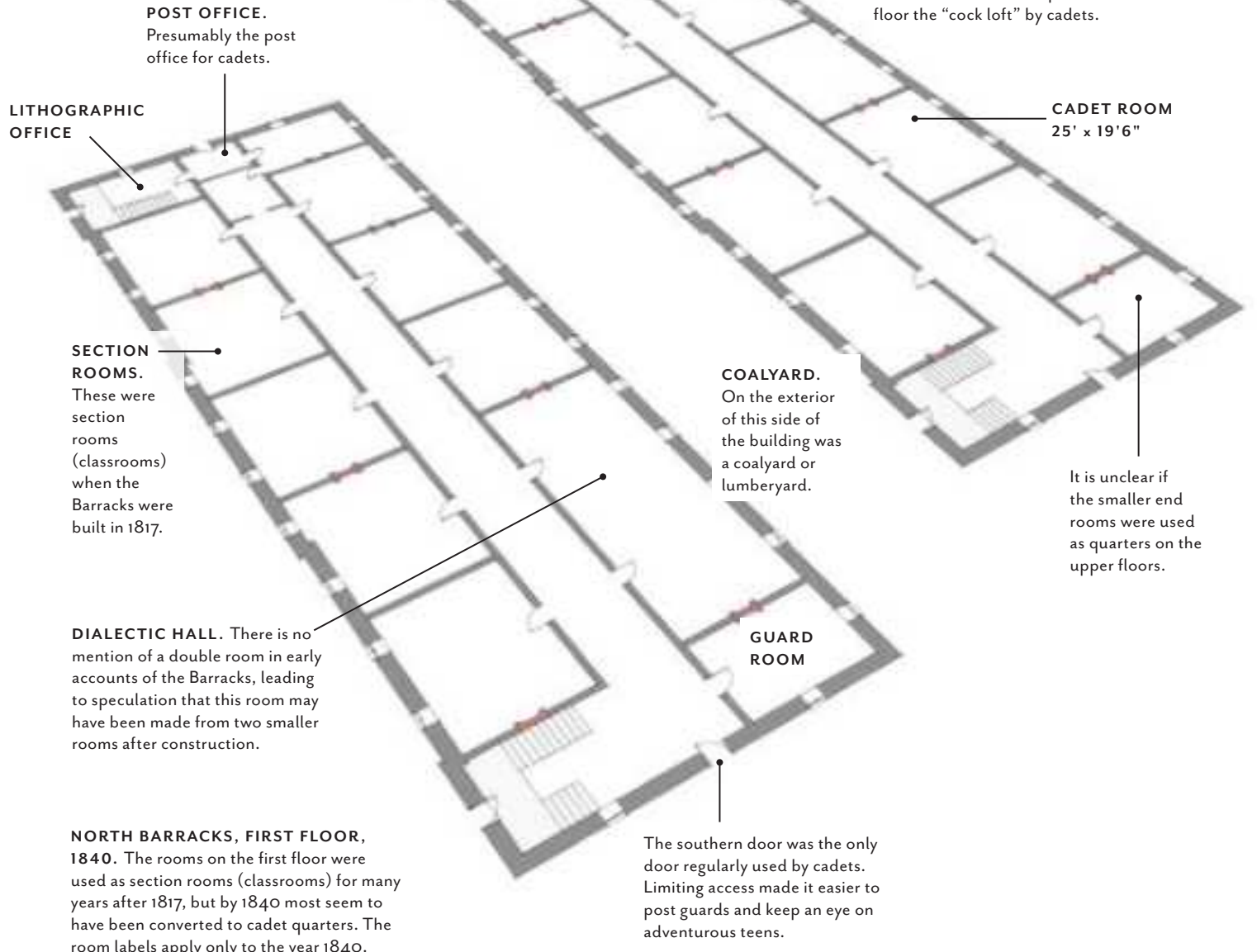
The North Barracks, like its neighbors, was made of gray stone and had a slate roof. It was 164’ long, 56’ deep, and 45’6” high. The outside of the building was very simple. Albert Church, Class of 1828, described it as a “four story rectangular stone building with plain walls without the least ornamentation.” The only design feature of note was a semicircular element on the pediment of the western front that resembled the fanlight on the 1815 Academy. The Barracks had four doors, one on each end and two on the western side, but only the southern door was regularly used.

Inside, the building had one long corridor on each floor. The first floor was originally section rooms (classrooms) and a guard room. The section rooms had an elevated rostrum near the windows. Cadet rooms were on the upper three floors, which were called “stoops” in the West Point vernacular. The top floor was known as the “cock-loft.” There was one stairway at either end of the building, both on the western side. The southwest staircase was the most utilized. A room on the first floor, shown as a double room in an 1840 plan of the building, was the Dialectic Hall for the Dialectic Society. It is unclear if this was a double room when the building was completed. The southeast room of the first floor was the guard room, and the northeast room was used at times as a post office.

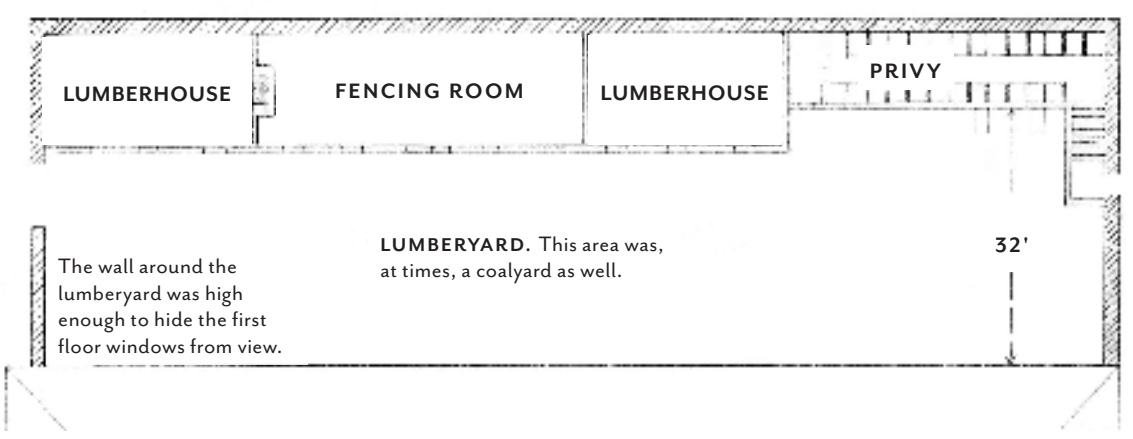
The cadet rooms had occupancies as high as six young men. Some rooms were divided by a partition into a small sleeping area and a larger parlor. John H.B. Latrobe, a member of the Class of 1822 until the death of his father, noted about the parlor area, “In the larger were a table and four or five chairs, the gun rack with pegs above it



1817 BARRACKS, FLOORS 2-4, 1840.
 The upper floors of the North Barracks had the same layout of cadet rooms. The large rooms were often subdivided into a sleeping area and a working area. These floors were called "stoops" and the fourth floor the "cock loft" by cadets.



LUMBERYARD & PRIVY.
 There are numerous references in historical sources to a walled-in coalyard behind the North Barracks, meaning the east side of the building. This 1840 sketch by Gilmer is one of the only depictions of this area as it rarely appears on maps. Here, the space is for lumber and one room is dedicated to fencing. The privy area has twenty-five stalls and is accessed by stairs. It is unclear if the privy was above or below ground level.
 USMA LIBRARY ASC





Page 45, top: An 1840 plan of the North Barracks drawn by Second Lieutenant J.F. Gilmer, USMA Class of 1839, and later Chief Engineer of the Confederate States of America. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Page 45, bottom: This crop of an 1826 map by T.B. Brown shows the location of the North Barracks at a right angle to the three 1815 buildings. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Above: The yard behind the barracks in an 1841 drawing. WEST POINT MUSEUM

for the accouterments, and a large wood-box in a recess next the fireplace.”

In general, cadets preferred living in the North Barracks compared to the South because they were warmer and the rooms larger. With no central hallway, any visit to a friend in the South Barracks meant going outside, making the North more convenient too.

On the back (east) side of the North Barracks was an area sometimes called a coalyard and sometimes a lumberyard. It was surrounded by a wall high enough to block the view from the first floor windows. In 1840 there was a privy in this area, but the date of its construction is unknown.

The infamous Eggnog Riot of December 24–25, 1826, during which drunk cadets assaulted officers and destroyed property, primarily took place in this building.

Here’s a good North Barracks story from Wood’s 1871 *The West Point Scrap Book*:

“It was very seldom that any person went up or down the north staircase. A cadet—now alive—who graduated in 1824, told me that, for no

reason he could think of, he once went down the north staircase late in the evening, and as he reached the lower landing he saw a flickering light, and heard a queer sputtering noise, like that made by a half-extinguished and wet candle. Curiosity led him to investigate the cause. He saw, not knowing what it was, a dark ball in the corner, from the top of which proceeded the light. Without exactly knowing what he did, he seized hold of that which was burning, and easily took it from the ball, which he then saw was a bomb-shell, and the burning substance a shell fuze, which, being too small for the fuze-hole of the shell, he easily drew out. The shell was found charged with powder, and if accident, or rather Providence, had not led him, contrary to his usual custom, to go down the north staircase, or if, even then, he had been aware of his danger, the bomb-shell would have exploded, and possibly the side of the barrack blown out.”

OCTAGON BUILDING, ~1818



Left: This crop of John Rubens Smith's "Encampment at West Point" from the 1830s shows the relative location of the multi-sided "Castle Harris" on the eastern side of the North Barracks, the large building on the right. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Right: This close-up of an 1830s watercolor painted from across the River to the south shows the multi-sided structure located on the eastern side of the Plain.

WEST POINT MUSEUM

PERHAPS INSPIRED BY Thomas Jefferson's octagonal house at Poplar Forest, West Point built a multi-sided building in about 1818. Maps and other evidence seem to point to the building being octagonal, but one graduate refers to it as hexagonal.

The estimated construction date of this structure is 1817 or 1818. It does not appear on Webber's 1815 map or other maps that predate the 1817 North Barracks. It does, however, appear on Zoeller's 1818 map now in the collection of the West Point Museum.

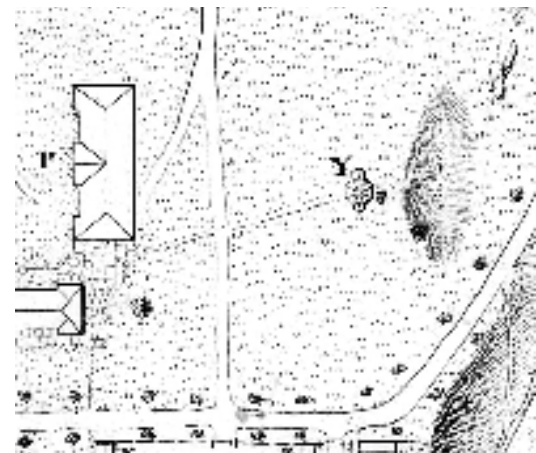
This building was located about 50 yards to the east of the North Barracks. Some accounts and drawings indicate that it had a cupola.

This building was sometimes referred to as "Castle Harris" by cadets of the 1830s. Nathaniel Sayre Harris, called "Ninny" by cadets, was an 1825 USMA graduate who returned in 1831 as an Assistant Instructor of Infantry Tactics and was given the building as his quarters. He was very strict and generally quite disliked by cadets, many of whom harassed the young officer mercilessly. Some went as far as converting candlesticks into small mortars by stuffing powder into the opening and firing projectiles at the building. Harris' uniform was once stolen and used for an effigy placed on the roof. He was even parodied in cadet variety shows.

In addition to serving as "Castle Harris," the small building was at times the Quartermaster's Office, a barber shop, a boot black room, and an ice cream and refreshment shop run by Joe Simpson. Professor Jacob Whitman Bailey also lived here. The building appears on an 1844 map of the Academy but not on maps from the 1860s. A good guess was that it was torn down about the time the North Barracks was demolished in 1851.

Albert Church (USMA 1828) recalls a fire in the building, which he calls hexagonal, in the winter of 1827–1828:

"The post quartermaster had fitted up a hexagonal {sic} brick building, in later years known as "Castle Harris," and standing midway between the North Barracks and the river bank, for a new office. Finding that the chimney did not draw well, he had, in the West Point fashion, added several feet to its length by placing on the top a wooden parallelepipedon, which drew so well as soon to take fire itself. I had my well drilled company, and engine out in short order, and in double-quick time, rushed to the fire, but 'ere I could get my line formed from the pumps, the second of the candidates... had contrived to get on top of the building and kicked over the chimney, parallelepipedon and all, effectually rendering further operations useless."



Top: Christian Zoeller's 1818 map of West Point shows the unusually shaped building to the east of the North Barracks. It is depicted with wings on two sides.

WEST POINT MUSEUM

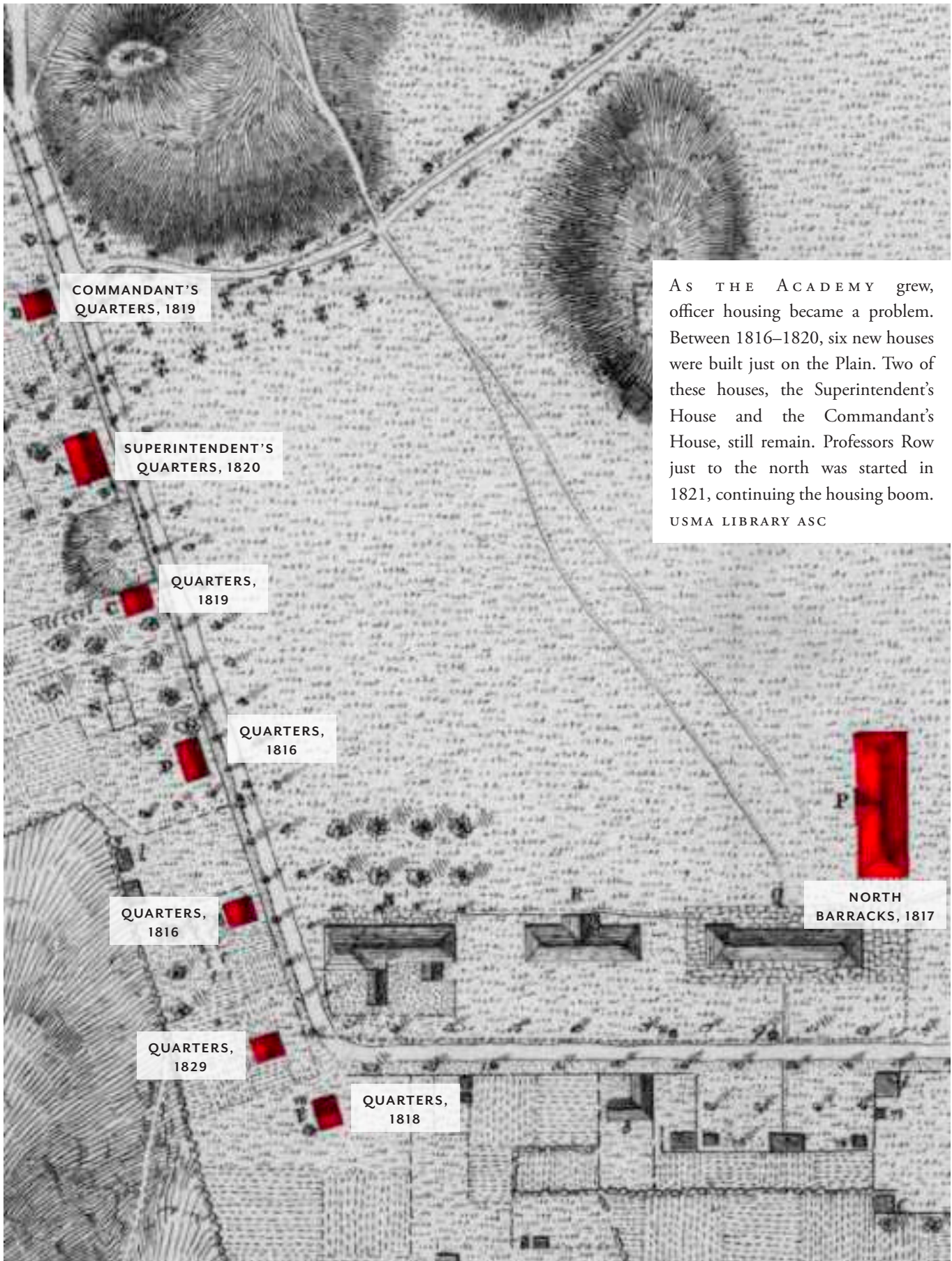
Bottom, left: "Castle Bailey" by Jacob Whitman Bailey, March 1834, from when Professor Bailey lived in the building.

NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES; DIGITALLY ENHANCED

Bottom, right: The building, seemingly octagonal here, with wings, on an 1826 map by T. B. Brown.

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HOUSING BOOM ON THE PLAIN, 1816–1829





COMMANDANT'S QUARTERS, 1819. Some sources list this as completed in 1821, but building updates sent to the War Department in 1819 indicate it was completed that year just before winter set in. Thus, it is the oldest house at the Academy. Numerous modifications and additions have changed the original structure. This photo is from about 1870 and shows an added porch and addition on the right.



SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS, 1820. This has been the Superintendent's House since its completion in 1820. Construction began in 1819. The Federal-style house was originally much smaller than it is today. The porch and additions are not original. This photo is from about 1870.



QUARTERS, 1819. Similar in size to the Commandant's House. The porch pictured was added later. Photo ca. 1870.



QUARTERS, 1816. This building had two sets of quarters for junior officers.



QUARTERS, 1816. For decades this was the quarters of the Professor of Engineering. The addition on the right was added in the 1850s. Photo ca. 1870.



LEFT: QUARTERS, 1829. The wing was added later.
RIGHT: QUARTERS, 1818. This house faced north rather than east. Photo ca. 1865-69

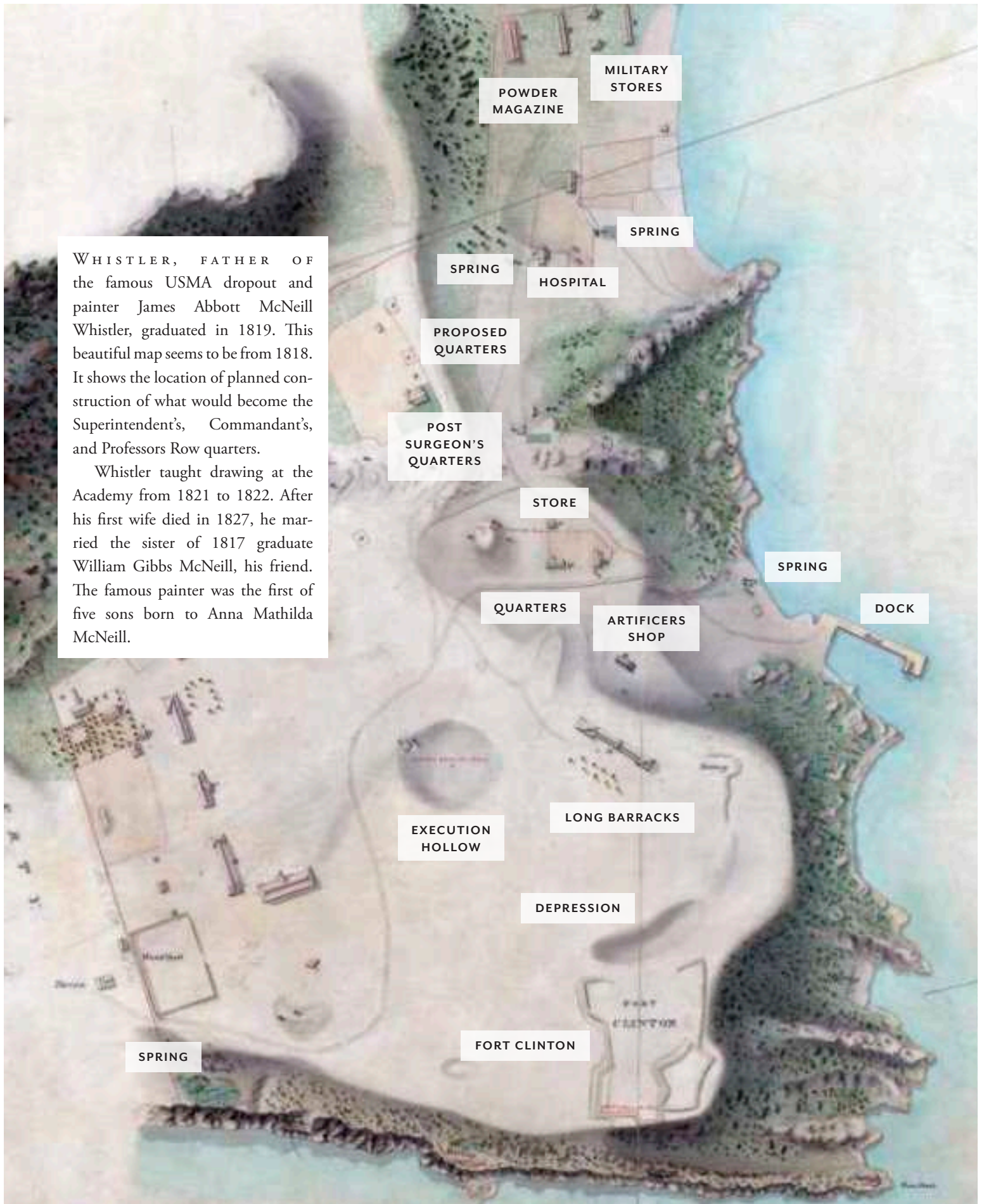


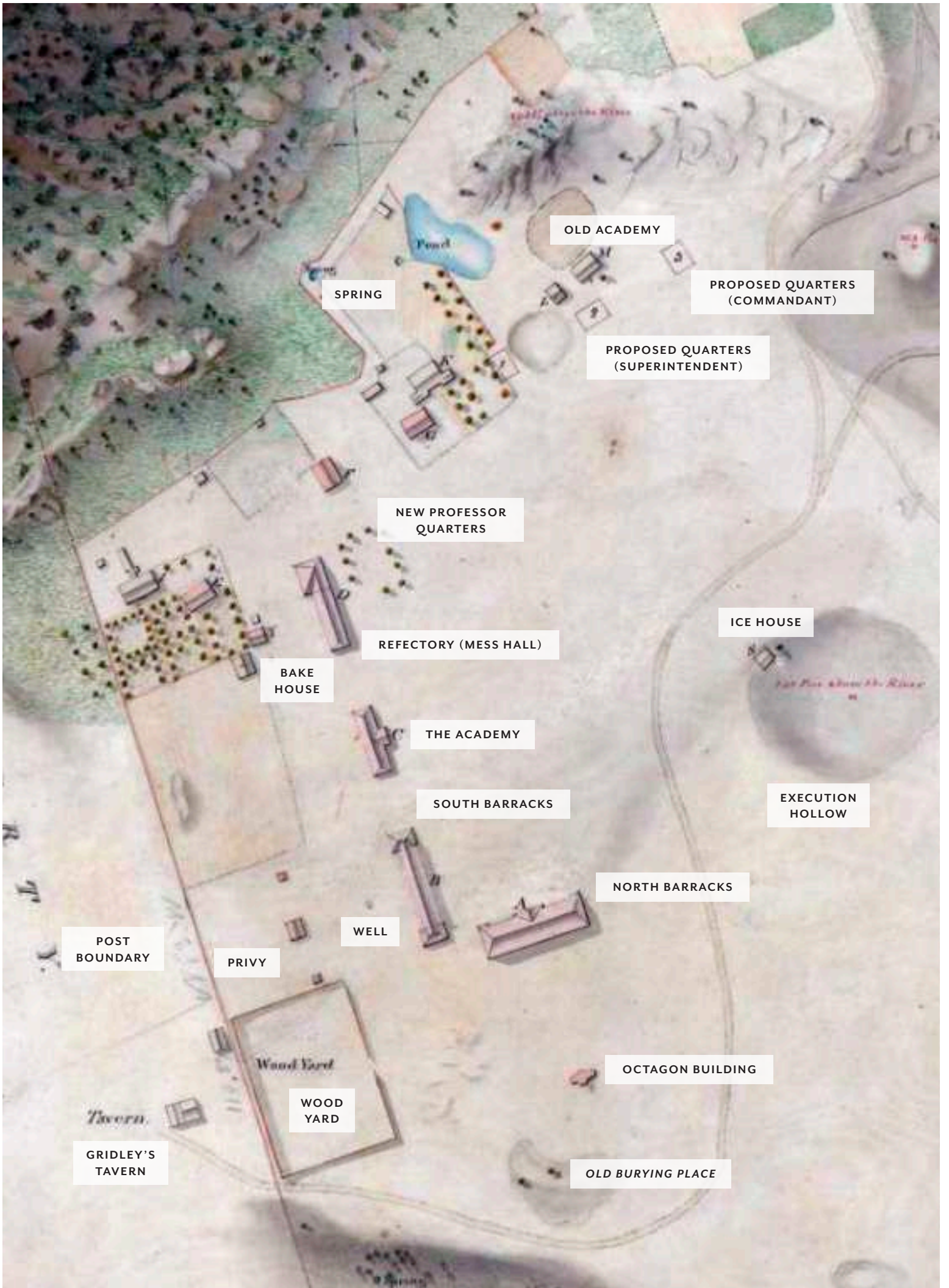
A PLAN OF WEST POINT

GEORGE WASHINGTON WHISTLER, 1818

WHISTLER, FATHER OF the famous USMA dropout and painter James Abbott McNeill Whistler, graduated in 1819. This beautiful map seems to be from 1818. It shows the location of planned construction of what would become the Superintendent's, Commandant's, and Professors Row quarters.

Whistler taught drawing at the Academy from 1821 to 1822. After his first wife died in 1827, he married the sister of 1817 graduate William Gibbs McNeill, his friend. The famous painter was the first of five sons born to Anna Mathilda McNeill.





OLD ACADEMY

PROPOSED QUARTERS (COMMANDANT)

PROPOSED QUARTERS (SUPERINTENDENT)

NEW PROFESSOR QUARTERS

REFECTORY (MESS HALL)

BAKE HOUSE

THE ACADEMY

SOUTH BARRACKS

NORTH BARRACKS

ICE HOUSE

EXECUTION HOLLOW

POST BOUNDARY

PRIVY

WELL

OCTAGON BUILDING

WOOD YARD

OLD BURYING PLACE

GRIDLEY'S TAVERN

SPRING

WOOD EAST

Tavern

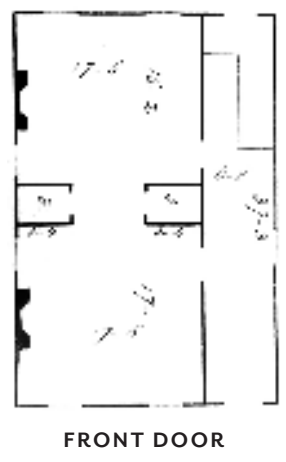
Pond

**WESTERN SIDE OF
THE PLAIN, ~1856**

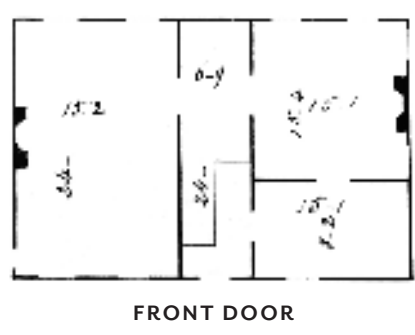
This photo from about 1856 shows the houses built between 1816 and 1820 much the way they would have looked in the 1820s. The Plain was less level in the 1820s and the trees may have been smaller but, overall, this view would

have been quite familiar to a cadet who graduated thirty years earlier. First-floor plans sent by Major Delafield to Colonel Totten, Chief of Engineers, in 1842 are shown for the key sets of quarters.

FORT PUTNAM



A
1816. In the late 1800s, this house was Quarters 7 and was for the Professor of Engineering. David Bates Douglass and Dennis Hart Mahan both lived in this house. The addition on the right side seems to be under construction.



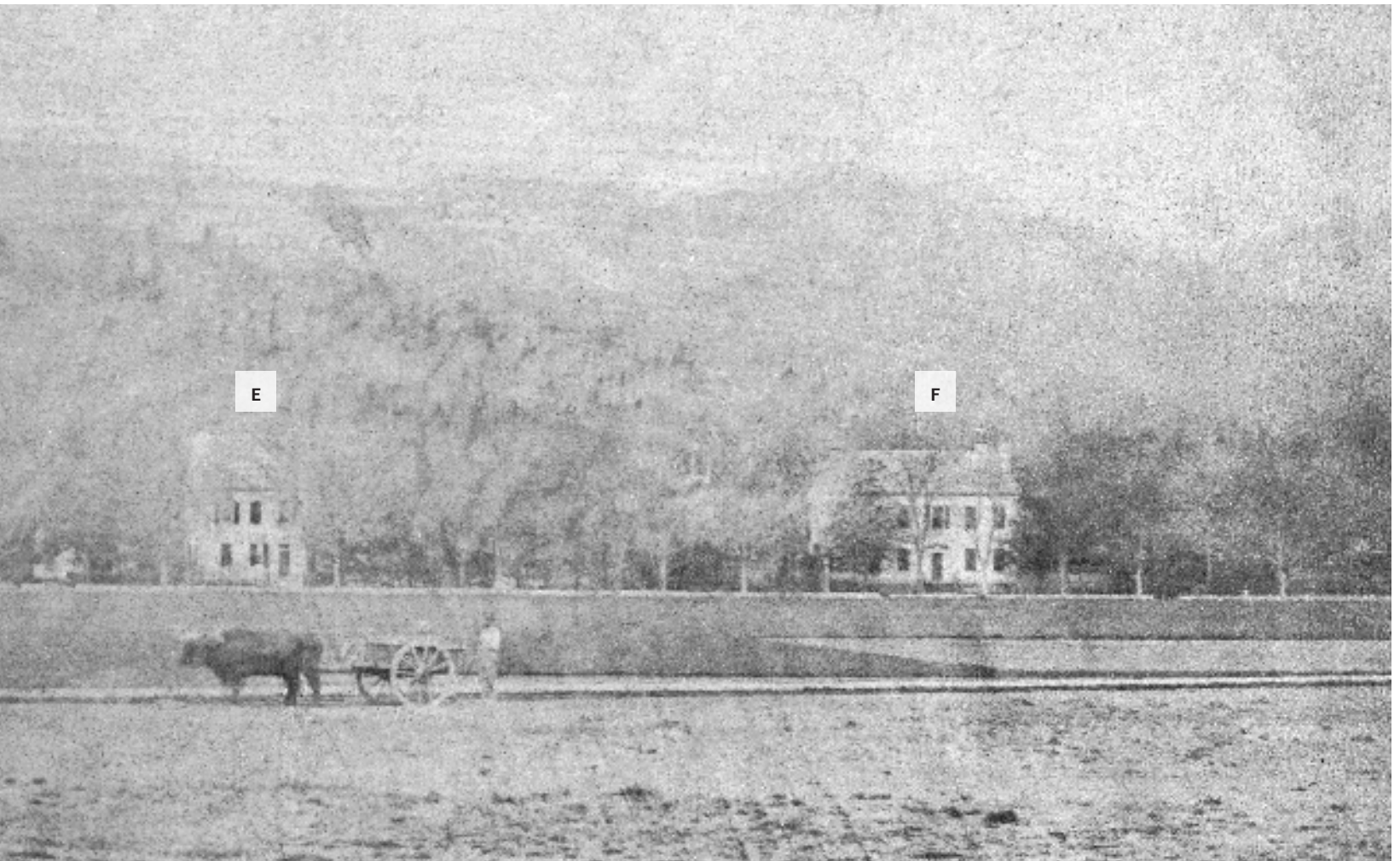
C
1816. At times, this building was the home of the Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy. Later, the building had two sets of quarters, known as Quarters 15 & 17 in the late 1800s. Porches were added around the time of the Civil War.

B
DATE UNKNOWN. This seven-room building, set back from the Plain, was used as a school house in the mid-1800s. Based on maps, it was likely built in the 1840s, the money being raised by the officers.

D
REVOLUTION. This building was the Military Storekeeper's in the early years of the Academy and became known as Mrs. Thompson's House later in the 1800s. As discussed previously, the building dates to the Revolution. A handful of cadets were allowed to take meals here from Revolutionary War widow Thompson or her daughters. This practice lasted until about 1873.

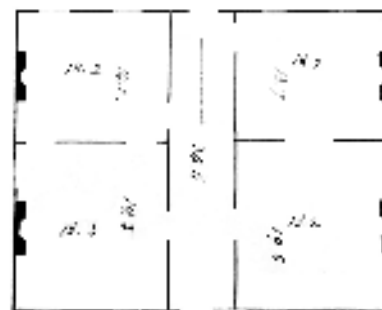
Oxen are often mentioned in early Academy business records because government funds were expended for their feed. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Floor plans. NARA



FRONT DOOR

E
1819. Built at the same time as the Commandant's House, this building would eventually have a porch.



FRONT DOOR

F
1820. The Superintendent's House before additions and verandas. Built in 1819-1820. This was Quarters 23 in the late 1800s.

CADET MONUMENT, 1818



ON NEW YEAR'S Day, 1817, Cadet Vincent M. Lowe was killed by a 18-pounder cannon discharge celebrating the holiday. Mangled and burned by the blast, he died. Unable to have the body prepared properly at West Point, Professor Davies and one other rowed the body to Newburgh and then brought it back to the Academy for burial. Lowe was buried soon after at "German Flats," a level area overlooking the river about a mile north of the Plain where soldiers of German ancestry camped during the Revolution.

Histories of the Academy generally record that the West Point Cemetery at German Flats was laid out in 1817, but the 1902 Annual Report of the Superintendent gives the date as 1816. It is known that some burials around this time were at a site which would now be close to the back of Washington Hall (the mess hall). Other graves were scattered here and there, including on the eastern side of the Plain.

The fact that Lowe was buried at German Flats implies others may have buried there beforehand. It seems odd that a spot one mile from campus would be chosen in January for a burial if it was not already used for that purpose or

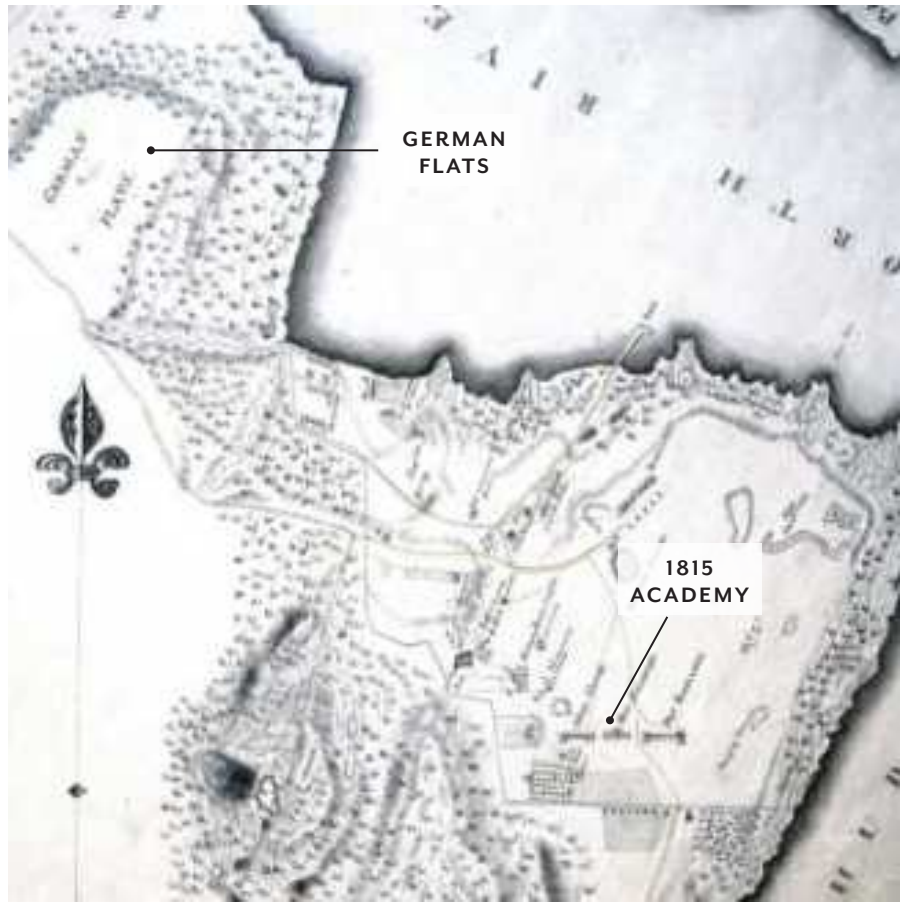
planning for a cemetery there had not already begun. Yet, Augusta B. Berard mentions the 1817 burial of a small child as the first burial there. This confuses the issue because, with Lowe being killed on January 1, 1817, it seems unlikely that he was not the first burial of the year. In any case, the Cemetery has remained at German Flats to this day.

The original layout of the Cemetery was much smaller than the current plan. The area outside the older sections contained cultivated gardens at least as late as the 1880s. In the early days, the path to the gravesites passed right through the crops and the graves were "overgrown with tangled grass, burdocks and thistles," according to Berard. An improved road was constructed in 1839–1840 and Superintendent Richard Delafield added a wall and iron gate. Several expansions have occurred over time. Remains buried near the Plain were moved to the formal Cemetery in about 1818.

Cadets were so moved by the death of their classmate that they each donated fifteen dollars toward the erection of a monument in his honor. This column with the look of a castle tower is now known as the Cadet Monument. During the nineteenth

This watercolor from John Rubens Smith shows the Cadet Monument around 1820-1825. Notice that the River is visible. Today, trees block the entire view.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



century it was one of the most mentioned and visited sites at the Academy for tourists and was often depicted in artwork. Although dedicated to Lowe, panels on the side are memorial plaques to other cadets and officers who passed away during the Academy's first decades.

The Evening Post of New York reported Vincent M. Lowe's death on January 6, 1817:

Suddenly, at West Point, on the 1st instant, Cadet VINCENT M. LOWE, aged 18 years. He was killed by the accidental explosion of charge of powder in a cannon, while ramming the cartridge; the accident is supposed to have occurred in consequence of an imperfect spunging of the place after a previous discharge. —Cadet Lowe was an amiable and intelligent youth. His death has deprived the Military Academy of one of its ornaments, and the nation of a promising young soldier.

Left: The Cadet Monument as it appeared in a book from 1895. FARROW, 1895

Right: German Flats, where the West Point Cemetery and Cadet Monument is located, on a map from 1815 or 1816 copied a few years later by J.G. Bruffs. USMA LIBRARY ASC

WOOD MONUMENT, 1818

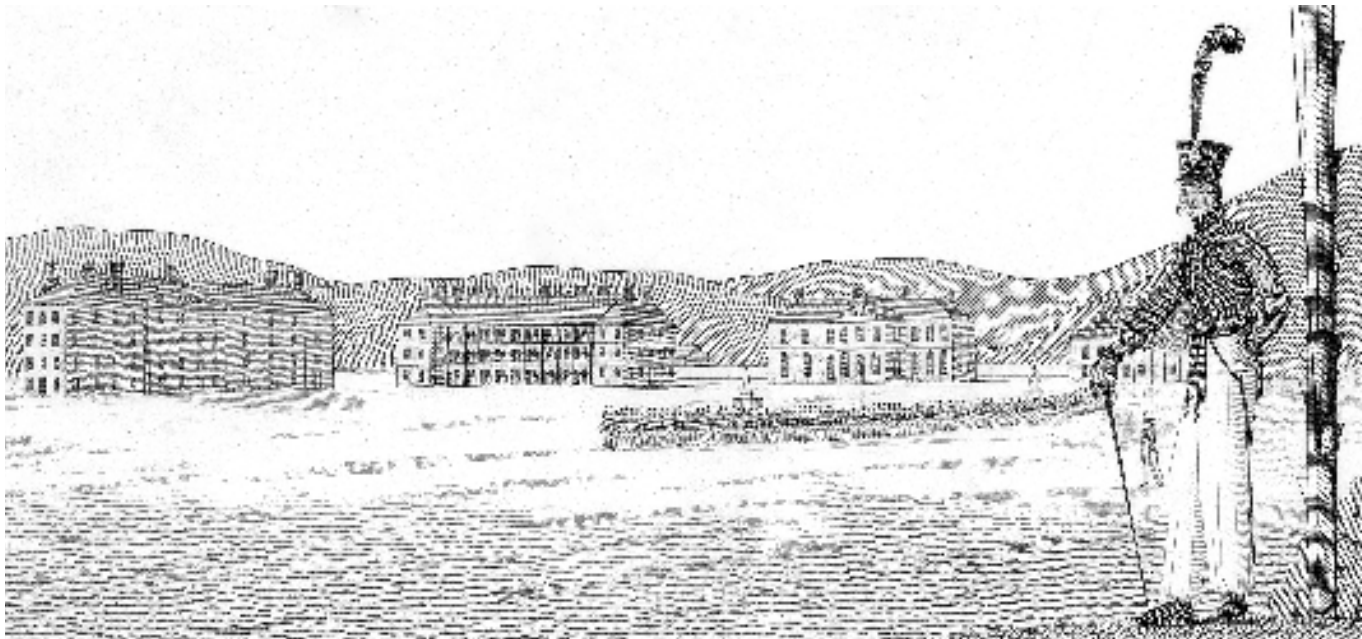


The Wood Monument in the 1860s.

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BORN IN MASSACHUSETTS in 1783, Eleazar Derby Wood reported to West Point in May 1805 and graduated in October 1806. He was then involved in the construction of fortifications in New York Harbor on Governor's Island and Bedloe's Island, now known as Liberty Island. The 11-pointed, star-shaped fort on Bedloe's Island would come to be known as Fort Wood in his honor and now serves as the base of the

Statue of Liberty. Wood also worked on fortifications in Virginia. During the War of 1812, Wood was sent to build forts, such as Fort Meigs, along Lake Erie under the command of future President William Henry Harrison. Wood, in command of the 21st Infantry Regiment, defended Fort Erie in August 1814 but was killed on September 17, 1814, while leading a sortie to capture a British battery.



Top: This illustration from about 1820 shows the location of Wood's Monument on the Plain in front of the 1815 Academy Building. It was moved to a hillock on the edge of the Plain in 1821. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Left: The Wood Monument on the top of "Monument Hill" in a late nineteenth century photo. The obelisk was moved to the Cemetery about 1884-1885.

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Right: Today, the Monument is in the West Point Cemetery. PHOTO BY AUTHOR



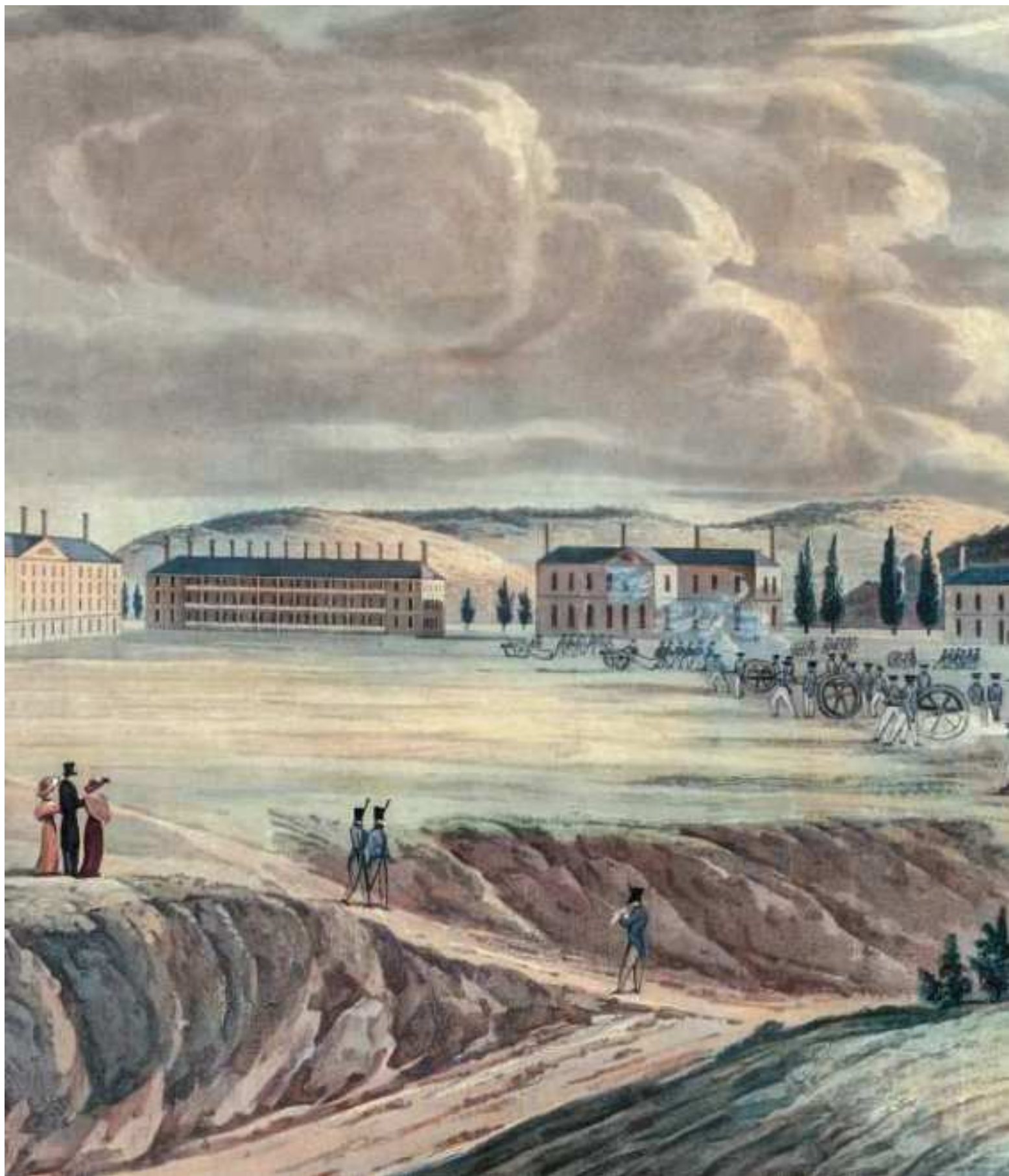
Major General Jacob Brown admired Wood and, after the War, ordered a monument constructed in Wood's honor at West Point. Brown personally paid for the obelisk. Wood's Monument was erected in October 1818 and was located in the middle of the Plain in front of the 1815 Academy. Just a month after its completion, Sylvanus Thayer asked that a railing be put around the obelisk. An 1820 engraving, included on this page, shows the memorial on the Plain.

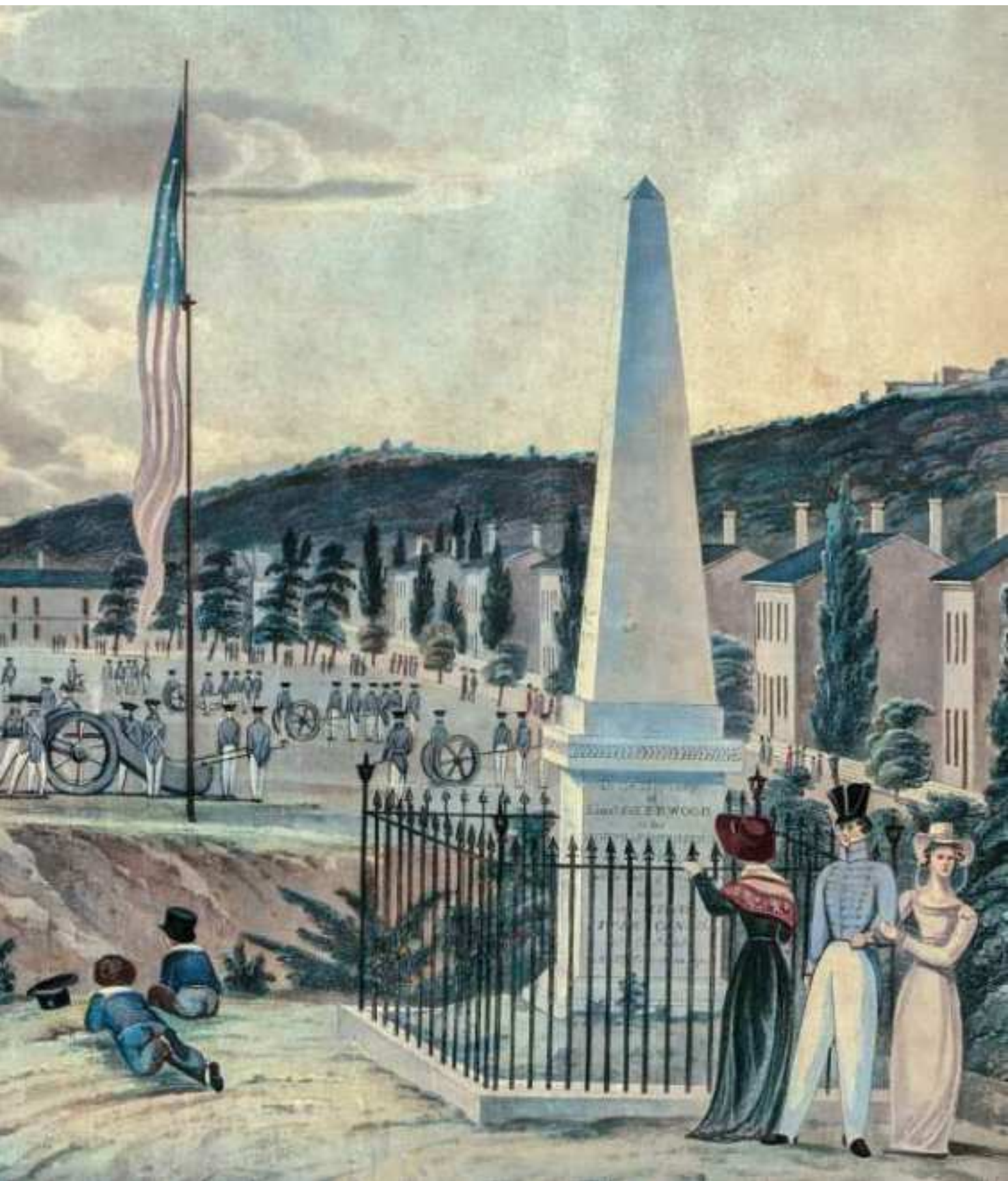
Wood's Monument remained in front of the Academy on the Plain for about three years before being moved (in 1821, according to Academy sources) to a small hill that stood just west of the site of the current Firstie Club. This hill, known as Bunker's Hill on early maps, would eventually be called Monument Hill because of Wood's Monument. The obelisk stood

on top of the small hill, surrounded by a fence and evergreen trees.

By the late nineteenth century, a plan was developed to level the small hill that the Monument stood on and to use the earth to fill in Execution Hollow. This meant that the Monument had to be moved. While some sources indicate this happened in the 1870s, the monument is clearly visible on an 1883 map of the Academy. A December 1883 magazine report notes that excavation of the hill was underway, but how long it took is unclear. An 1891 map shows that the Monument had been moved and the hill it stood upon leveled. Therefore, it seems likely that the Monument was moved to the Cemetery in 1884 or 1885.

WEST POINT IN THE 1820S

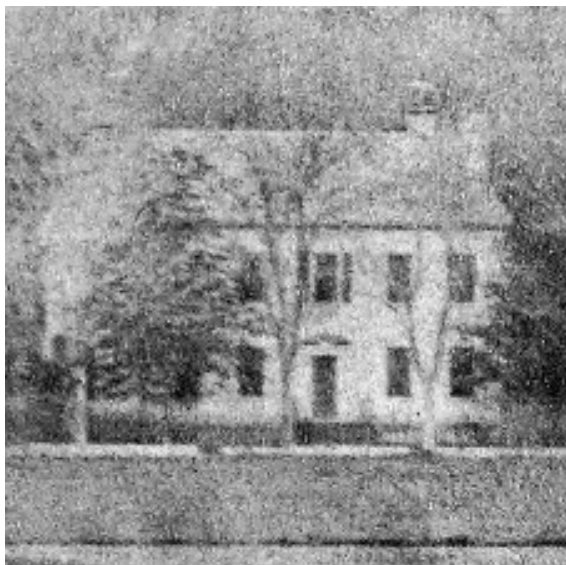




"West Point Looking South." 1828-1829. Artist: George Catlin. Engraver: John Hill.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS, 1820



Left: A rare photograph of the Superintendent's House before the porch was added. The estimated date is 1855-1857.

USMA LIBRARY ASC

Right: This photo by Second Lieutenant John Pittman of the Superintendent's House is from 1870 or 1871 and shows the porch added a few years before the photo was taken. Colonel Thomas Gamble Pitcher, Superintendent, and his wife are seated by the front door. The stairway to the basement can be seen on the right side. Many of the windows are simpler or smaller than in today's house. On the right side, each floor has only one window compared to double windows today. Also, the two first-floor windows on either side of the door have now been replaced by single, triple-massed windows. Finally, on the current house, the porch extends around the sides. USMA LIBRARY ASC



THE SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS was the fanciest of the houses built between 1816 and 1820. With Federal details such as tooth-like dentils under the roofline and a semi-circular fanlight over the door, it would have been considered a conservative but stylish home for the time. It cost \$6,670 to build and thus came in over the budget of \$5,000. Construction began in 1819, was halted for the winter, and completed in 1820. While known as Quarters 100 today, it was Quarters 23 for decades in the nineteenth century.

The original house was smaller than what tourists see today, with dimensions of only 48'x37'. The familiar, ornate porch was added after the Civil War and expanded in the 1930s. None of the additions on the back are original. They were primarily added after the Civil War and around the turn of the twentieth century. Congress approved funding to build outhouses for the structure in 1824. Some reports indicate toilets were added in the 1870s.

Expansions to the house occurred in the following years or periods: 1860-1877, 1874-1882, 1889, 1896, 1912, and 1938.

Colonel Sylvanus Thayer was the first resident of the home. He maintained two offices in the basement. One was for work and study and the other, smaller, for meeting with cadets, who could call on him between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. in the morning. Officers could meet with him in the late afternoon.

The large garden that today occupies the south side of the grounds would not have been recognizable to nineteenth-century visitors. It was developed after 1932. In the first decades of the house, there were gardens behind the house likely used for vegetables and other household needs. As discussed earlier, there was also a pond behind the house that was at times used for harvesting ice. It appears on maps into the 1860s.

There are numerous mistruths about the Superintendent's House. One is that it is the oldest house at the Academy. It is clear that the Commandant's quarters next door was finished first. A letter from Quartermaster James Green on September 30, 1819, says of the Commandant's House (and one other),

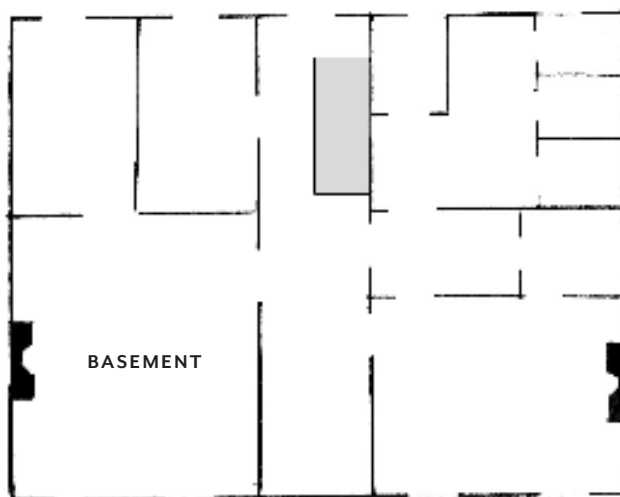
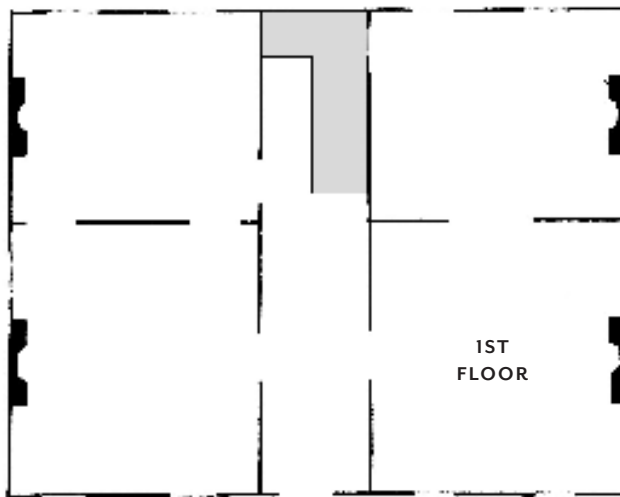
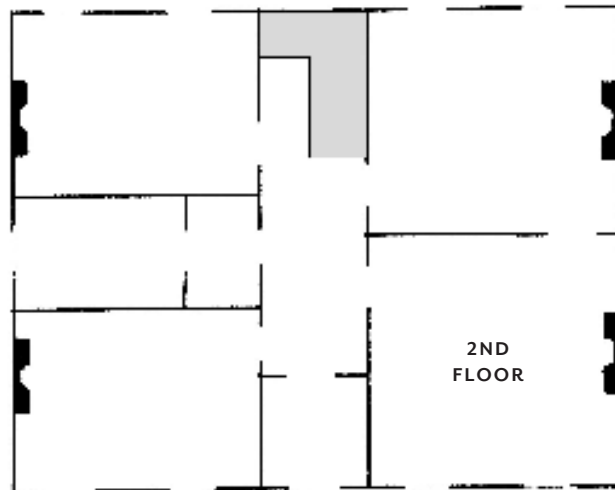
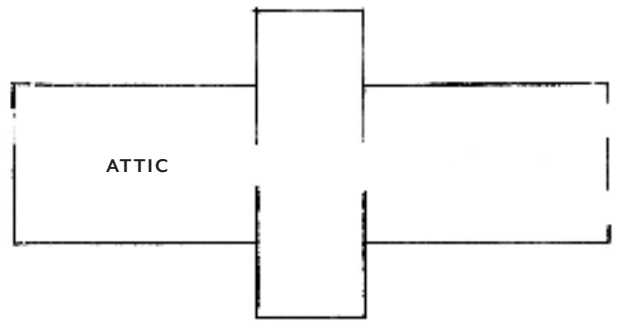
"Houses to be completed on or about the first of Novr, the cost of each



will be about \$4500. In the Supdts House the flooring is now ready to be put down, & other Work in a state of forwardness.”

It therefore seems that the Superintendent’s House was not as far along, making it safe to date to 1820.

Another myth is that the basement of the House was once the first floor and that the raising of the Plain caused the second floor to become the first. This is untrue. Again, a letter from Quartermaster Green shines some light. On September 7, 1819, he describes two of the new houses, the Commandant’s quarters and one similar, as “two story’s high with a cellar kitchen.” An 1840 diagram, reproduced on the right, also indicates a basement.



Above: The area indicated in the original size of the Superintendent’s quarters, 48’x36’.
GOOGLE EARTH

Left: The house’s floor plan in the 1840s. NARA



This photo from a Class of 1875 album shows a greenhouse on the south side of the Superintendent's quarters. Numerous plants are visible inside.

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WHAT COLOR WAS THE SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE IN 1820?

Anyone who has visited West Point remembers the Superintendent's House as being white. Americans love bright white houses, but it would be wrong to assume that Quarters 100 has always been white. Peale's 1801 watercolor shows many yellow ocher houses at West Point. Mrs. Charles Davies, recalling her childhood at West Point before 1820, remembered many of the quarters painted yellow (Berard, 1886). Thus, yellow is a good possibility of the building's first color.

The evidence is as follows:

1. An 1833 magazine article by a Cadet "Quiff" describing his plebe experience recalls walking from the dock "until we arrived at the gate of a large yellow house, where I followed my conductor into a kind of office down a cellar, where sat, before a table of papers, the

real adjutant, a fine looking man with whiskers..." It is well known that the Adjutant's office was in the basement of Thayer's house.

2. A paint analysis done by the Corps of Engineers concludes that the oldest sample taken from bricks on the front wall is a yellow ocher. The report claims this must be from the early twentieth century, citing a photo they claim shows the building unpainted in 1902. I strongly reject this conclusion. USMA Centennial photos show the house as fairly dark in tone, but the surface appears even and does not show the tell-tale stains and mortar that an unpainted building would show. Furthermore, the gutters seem to be the same tone as the house. Given that judging color from early photographic processes is difficult, the dark tone of the house does not necessarily mean it is brick. In addition, the 1901 Superintendent's Report indicates that the Academy "painted

58 sets of officers' quarters" and "36 sets of enlisted quarters," which seems like a perfectly reasonable thing to do the year before the Centennial celebration attended by the President. That nearly every quarters was painted but the Superintendent's House was left as unpainted brick seems unlikely.

PROFESSORS ROW, 1821 & 1826–1828



THE SIX SETS of brick quarters known as Professors Row, just north of the Plain, are among the oldest structures at the Academy. Three duplexes, they were built from north to south. The double quarters closest to the Catholic Chapel was completed in 1821, according to West Point Quartermaster Charles Williams' 1889 facilities inventory. However, in records from 1823, there are mentions of expenses for a double stone house. The middle set was finished in 1826, according to Charles Williams. The building closest to the Plain was erected in 1828. Some follow-up work on the two new buildings was completed in 1829. The reverse order of this construction is likely because there

was an existing quarters roughly on the site of the current Dean's House.

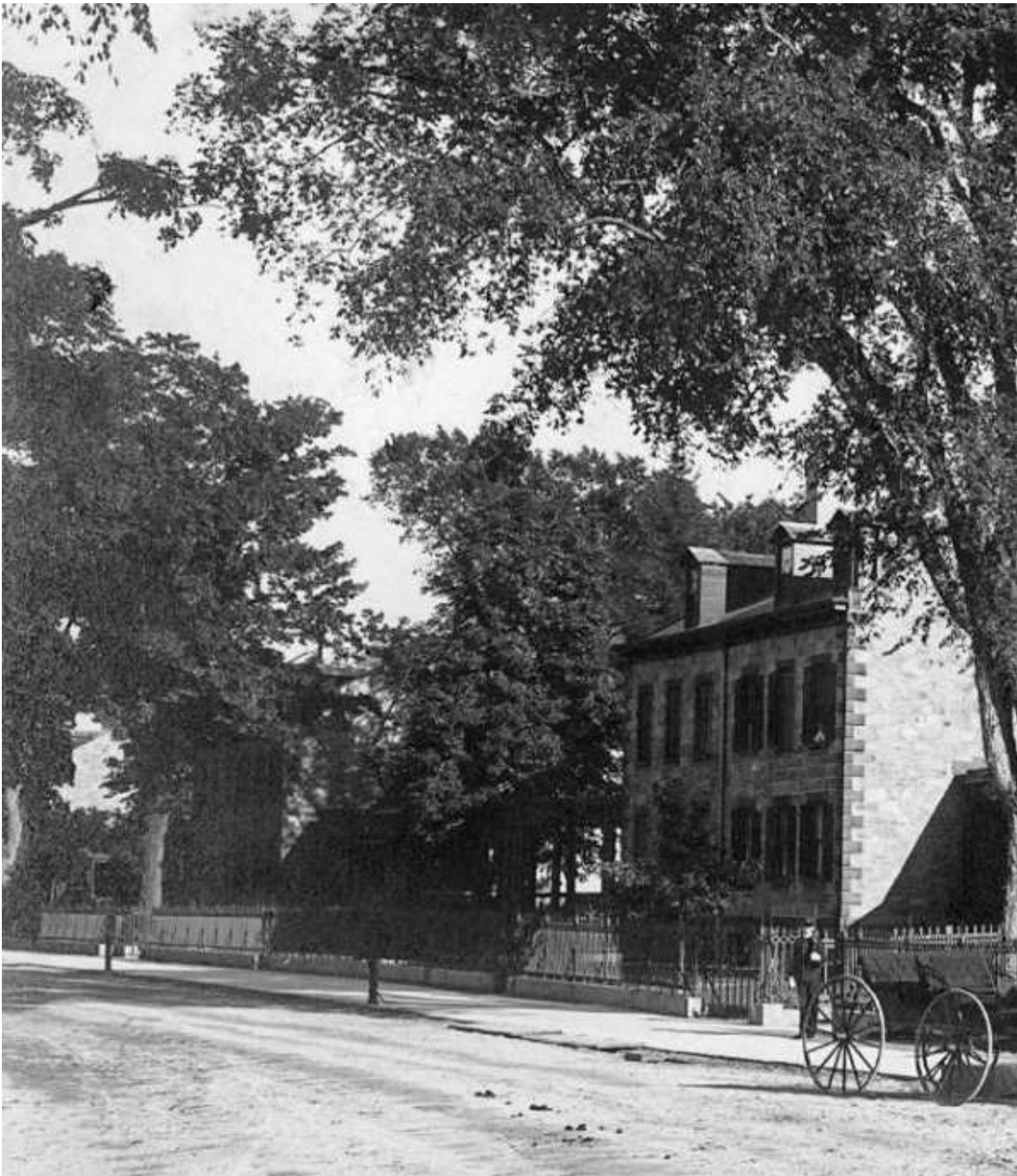
The builder of the first house (1821) seems lost to history, but the 1826 and 1828 homes were built by a Daniel Corwin. A request for sealed bids was advertised in the summer of 1826. This makes it unlikely that the first of the two homes was completely finished in 1826. Corwin was paid \$13,229.50 for the contract.

SEAL'D PROPOSALS will be received by
the Quartermaster, of the Army at West
Point until the first of August next, for building
by contract ten Double Stone Houses, at that place
agreeably to the Description and plans which can
be seen by applying at the Office of the Quartermaster
of the Army, at the Military Store, No.
61 Washington Street, between the hours of 10
and 1 o'clock. . . .
RENEAS MACKAY,
Assistant Quartermaster.

Top: The houses of Professors Row as seen in a watercolor by John Rubens Smith likely painted between 1830 and 1835. The landscape is much less forested than today.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In the summer of 1826, West Point requested bids for the construction of two of the Professors Row houses. The newspaper excerpt above is from the July 19, 1826 edition of The Evening Post in New York. Mackay was the West Point Quartermaster at the time.

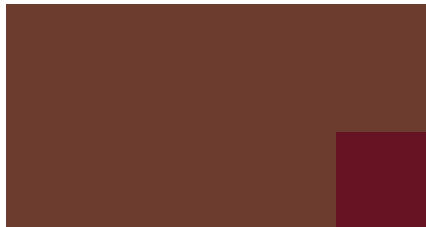




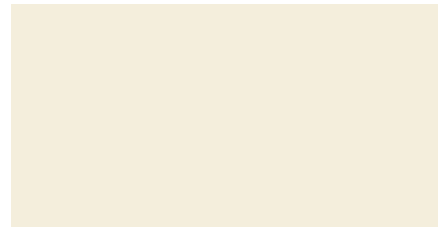
Quarters 39 & 41, dated to 1821, was the first of the stone duplexes to be finished. Today, they are Quarters 107a & 107b. This photo from 1902 shows a long iron fence that no longer exists. USMA LIBRARY ASC



YELLOW OCHER. Purchased in large kegs throughout the 1820s. Memoirs of the 1810s recount many “yellow” houses. This could have been mixed with white and brown to make a gold color. The inset shows a combination of primarily yellow ocher, Spanish Brown, and white lead.



SPANISH BROWN. Also purchased by the Academy in large kegs, this was the cheapest and most common exterior and primer paint of the era. It could have been browner or redder than shown depending on the pigment. Some Spanish Brown is almost an oxblood color [inset].



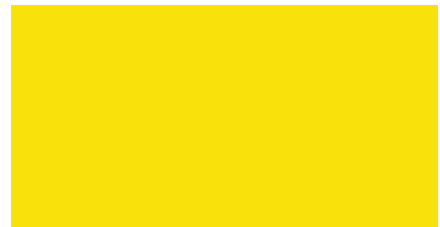
WHITE LEAD. This white, produced by soaking lead in vinegar, would look yellowish to modern eyes. Linseed oil used in making paint during this era would also cause the white to look a bit yellow.



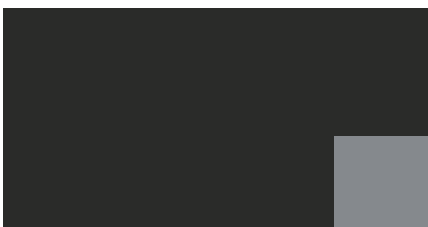
BLUE/PRUSSIAN BLUE. Blue paint, sometimes specifically recorded as “Prussian Blue” was purchased in smaller quantities than the paints listed above. Prussian Blue could be mixed with white to produce a robin’s egg blue [inset]. Blue interiors were common during the era. There is no evidence of blue exteriors at West Point.



VERDIGRIS GREEN. Academy records often report buying green pigment of an unknown type and at times verdigris green. Green, varnished, was common on window blinds and for decorative interior features. It could also be mixed with white for interiors. The inset shows verdigris mixed with Prussian Blue and White Lead.



CHROMIC YELLOW. Appears rarely in the records. Could have been mixed with Prussian Blue to produce a light green.



LAMP BLACK. Purchased fairly often based on records. This paint is also known as Carbon Black and is made by grinding up soot. A common gray was lamp black plus white lead.

THE COLORS OF EARLY WEST POINT



Top: Closeup of striated gneiss in the wall of the 1852 Central Barracks, now the Old 1st Division. PHOTO BY AUTHOR



Bottom: Granite from Pershing Barracks, quarried in Chester, Massachusetts. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

WE WILL NEVER definitively know what color buildings were painted in the 1820s, but we have clues. Quartermaster records from the decade record paint purchases, giving us rough base colors. As mentioned previously, it is probable that the Superintendent's House was yellow in the 1830s, as was the Hotel.

Of course, paints can be mixed and pigments varied; hence the colors on the page to the left serve to give a general sense of what the color palette of the Academy could have been based on paint purchases. Trim colors wax and wane with cultural trends.

With a few exceptions, the Academy at this time purchased the paint as raw pigment and mixed it with linseed oil on location. Turpentine was also used during the era to thin the paint and litharge could be added to aid drying. All of these products can be found in Academy Quartermaster records. Receipts for painting contractors have also survived. Despite the colors depicted on the page to the left, many interior walls, such as in the barracks, would have simply been whitewashed.

CARVED IN GNEISS

Although often referred to as granite, most of the local stone at West Point is gneiss, a metamorphic rock. Granite is an igneous rock. Gneiss can often be identified by banding while granite looks more like salt and pepper.

Figuring out the origin of any rock used at West Point is a challenge. Local rock was used for sure. Much of it came from the area behind the Superintendent's Quarters. However, outside stone was also purchased. For example, the 1841 Library seems to have had local gneiss and imported "granite." Confusing identification is that many rocks bought and sold as granite were actually gneisses. This has been noted for granites from Connecticut, from where the Academy is known to have contracted.

SERVICE AREAS NORTH, 1820s

AS THE NUMBER of cadets and faculty at the Academy grew, there was a corresponding increase in service personnel and facilities. Most of the non-academic services were located on the slope to the River north of the Plain.

Over time, the buildings in this area were expanded or replaced. Below is a cropped section of an 1826 map by T.B. Brown showing this area. Buildings not labeled are quarters.

CAMPTOWN (ALSO CAMP TOWN).

The name of this area is explained by an early resident of West Point as referring to the place where a Mr. William Camp and his Bermudian wife lived after moving to West Point in the 1810s. The original "Camptown" was closer to the Plain than indicated below, but over time the large meadow in this area became the site of several small log houses used by soldiers and later service personnel.

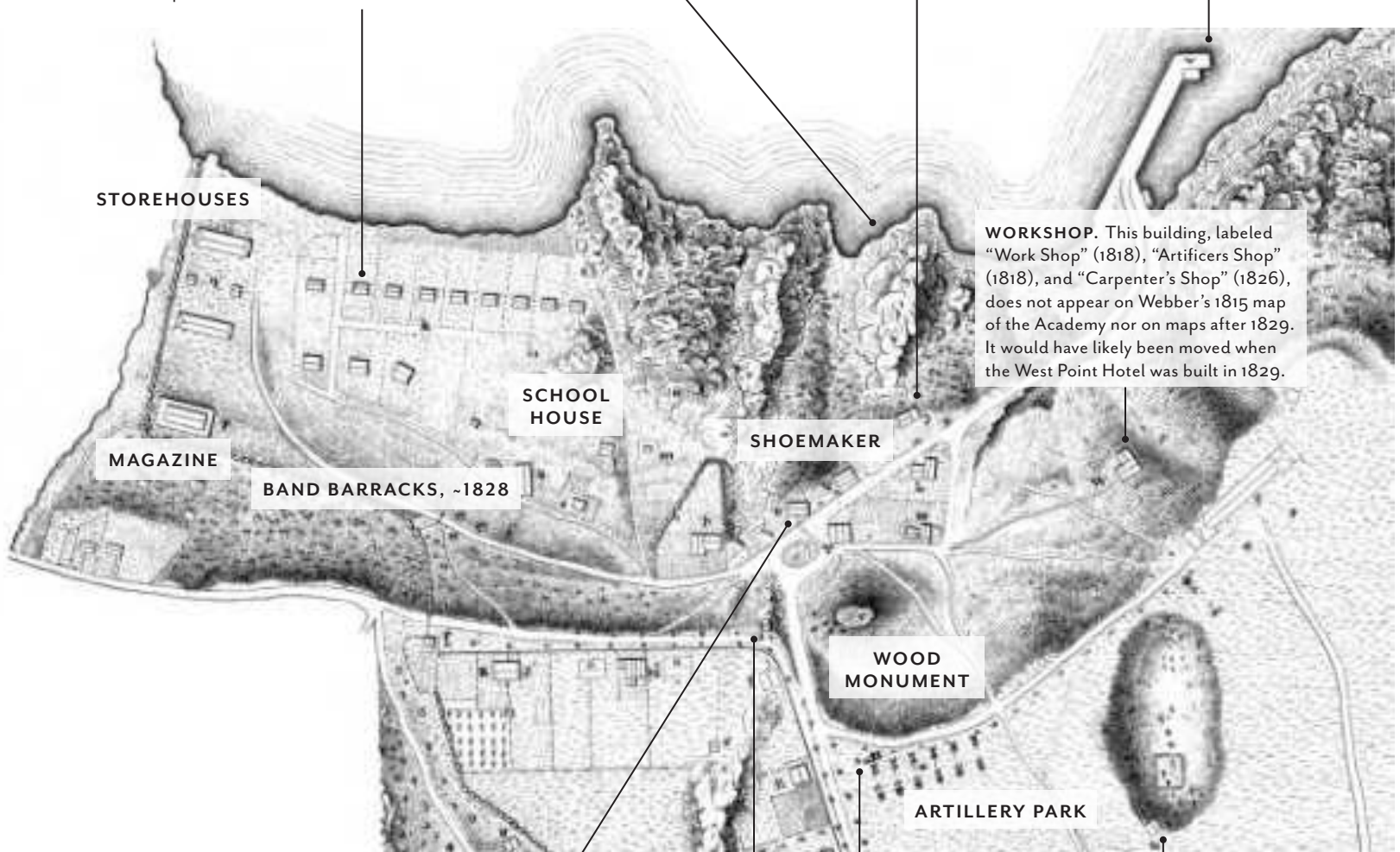
BATHING/SWIMMING. Cadets of this era bathed in this general area. In the late 1810s, a man named "French John" kept a sloop moored near here to sell contraband to cadets.

PUBLIC DOCK. Quartermaster records show repeated purchases of 4" plank for the wharf. At least once, this is designated as oak plank. The Academy also seems to have owned one or more boats at this time.

MRS. THOMPSON'S BARN.

This tiny building was built between 1818 and 1826. It appears on maps through at least the 1840s.

WORKSHOP. This building, labeled "Work Shop" (1818), "Artificers Shop" (1818), and "Carpenter's Shop" (1826), does not appear on Webber's 1815 map of the Academy nor on maps after 1829. It would have likely been moved when the West Point Hotel was built in 1829.



TAILOR. In the late 1810s and 1820s, the tailor was Samuel Wilton. He is said to have invented the curved chevron on cadet uniforms. He lived in the house just to the west.

MARKET HOUSE

FLAGSTAFF

ICE HOUSE. The pond behind the Superintendent's House was the main ice source.

SERVICE AREAS SOUTH, 1820S

THE AREA “BEHIND” the barracks along the southern boundary of the Academy developed into a service area as the 1810s became the 1820s. North’s Tavern had become Gridley’s Tavern in 1816 and was such an ongoing problem for Academy leaders that the Government

bought the property, which included Fort Putnam, in 1824. This purchase freed the Academy to develop what had been the southern boundary more vigorously. T.B. Brown’s 1826 map shows some of the service areas that were added in the 1820s.

BARBER & CONFECTIONERY.

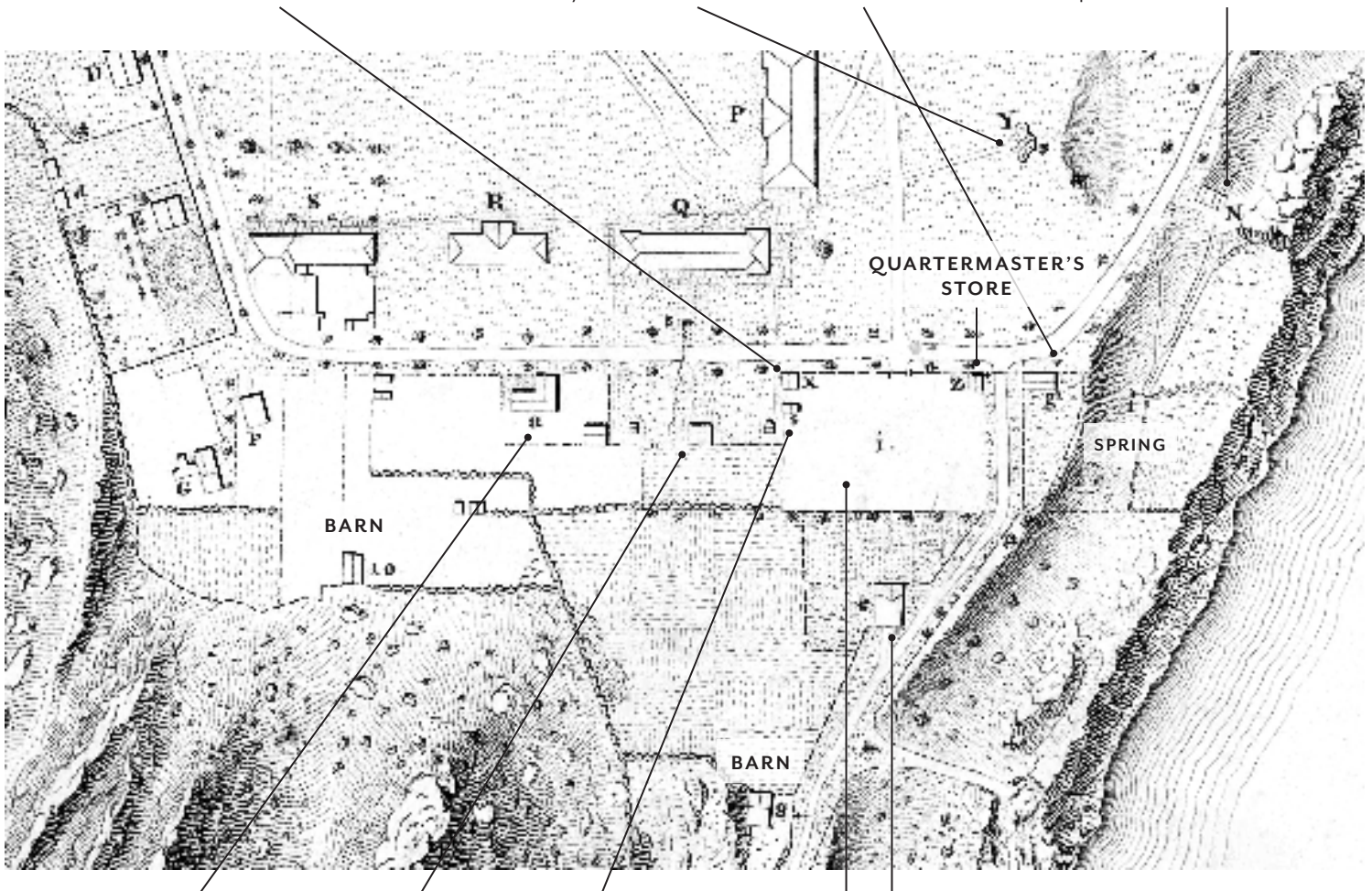
The barber, named Spencer, sold fruit, candy, and, in the summer, soda water. He had daughters much admired by cadets. There is mention of a shoeblack here as well.

QUARTERMASTER’S OFFICE.

This is the hexagonal building built in the 1810s described earlier. Later, this was known as “Castle Harris” by cadets.

POLICEMAN’S HOUSE. This likely refers to the person or people in charge of cleaning the barracks rather than law enforcement.

MR. WILLIS’ HOUSE. Richard Willis immigrated from Ireland in 1816 and was bandmaster at West Point by 1817. He was a master of the “keyed bugle” (aka Kent bugle) and toured the East Coast performing on the instrument. He died in 1830. Ships would anchor off West Point to listen to Willis and the West Point Band perform.



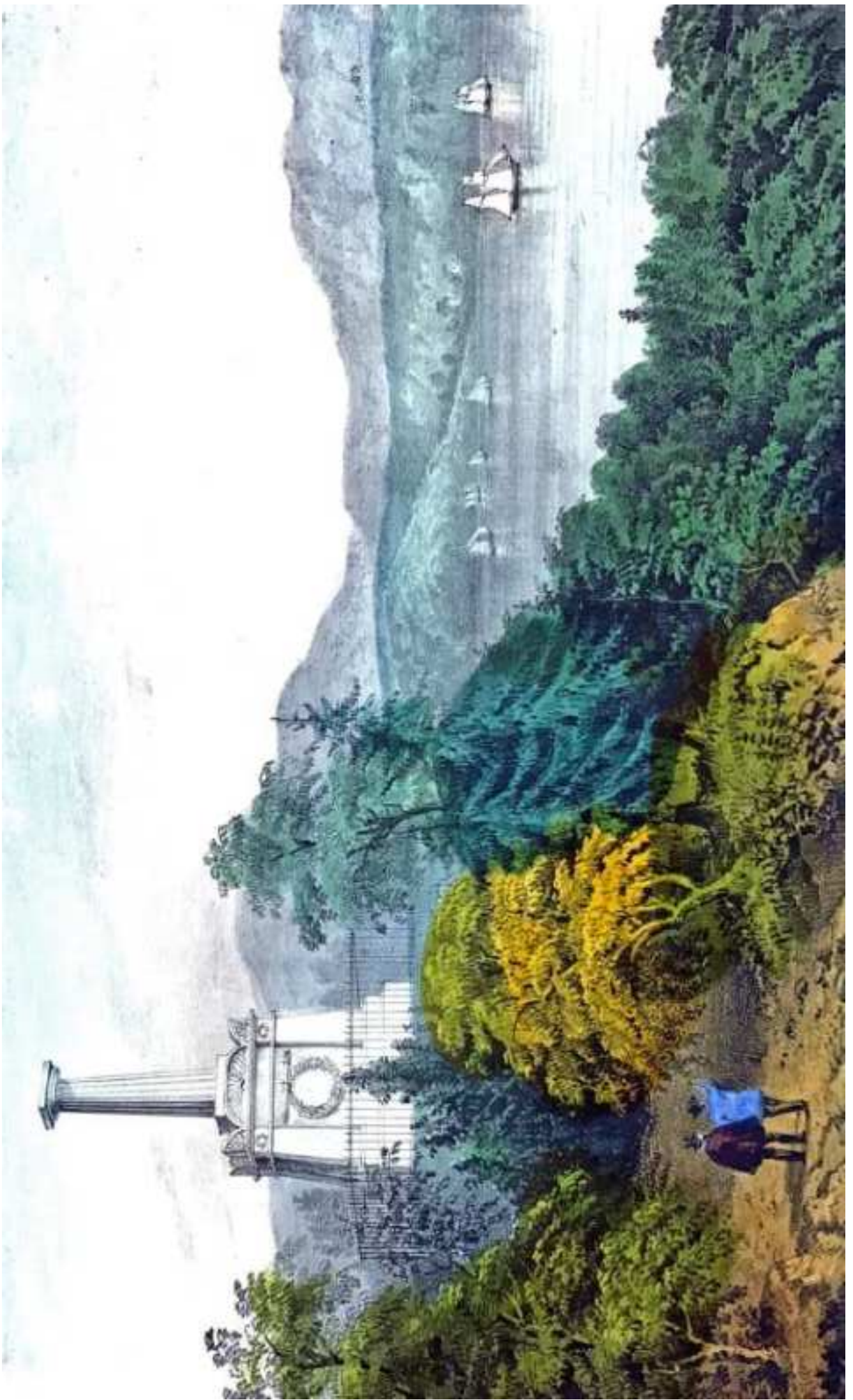
SUTLER. This store was operated at this time by a Mr. DeWitt, who also lived in the building.

PRIVY? Although unlabeled, this is likely the privy for the barracks.

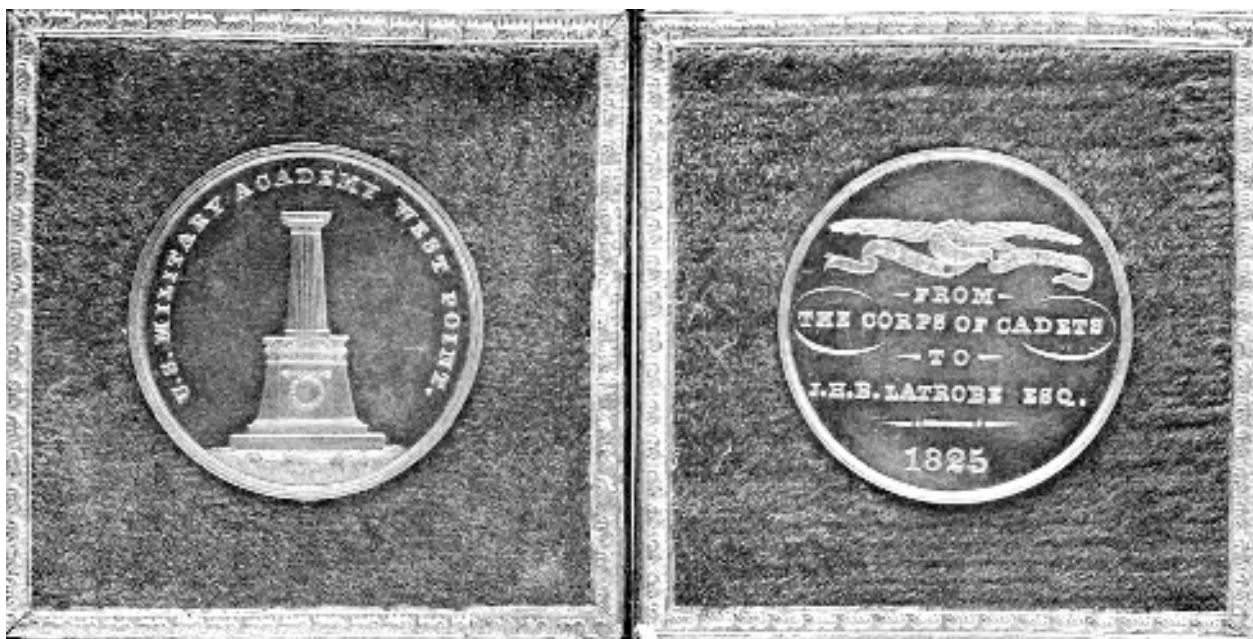
FIRE ENGINE HOUSE. Fires were common and cadets were well trained in the latest technology.

WOOD YARD. This fenced area allowed cadets hidden passage to Gridley’s Tavern before it was sold to the Academy. Cadets rigged certain boards to facilitate clandestine access.

HOSPITAL. This is the old North’s or Gridley’s Tavern. After the Academy purchased the property in 1824, the building was used as a hospital. In the 1830s, it was used as a school. Eventually, part of the building was moved to the south of the 1830 hospital and survived for decades. At times it was occupied by the clerk of cadet records.



KOSCIUSZKO MONUMENT, 1828



Facing: This Currier & Ives view of the Kosciuszko Monument from the second half of the nineteenth century is one of the most common views of West Point during this period. This same angle can be seen in art from several different sources.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Top: The \$50 gold medal awarded to J.H.B. Latrobe in 1825 for his winning design of the Kosciuszko Monument, which is seen on the medal. Latrobe debated taking the medal or a cash payment due to his family's financial hardships, but his mother told him to take the medal because money would not last but the medal would be an inheritance.

ANDRZEJ TADEUSZ
BONAVENTURA Kosciuszko, the Polish nobleman military engineer who had a significant role in designing and improving the Revolutionary War fortifications at West Point, was well-regarded by cadets in the Academy's early days. His selfless service to American independence was seen as an ultimate expression of the love of liberty.

In the 1820s, the Corps asked Superintendent Thayer for permission to erect a monument to Kosciuszko. Thayer approved and cadets raised five thousand dollars for the project, including agreeing to donate twenty-five cents from each month's paycheck. An 1824 story in the *Niles Register* reported:

The cadets of the United States Military Academy at West Point have offered a gold medal the value of fifty dollars for the best design for a monument to the memory of Gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko. It is to be erected at West Point on a romantic spot., situated on the banks of the

Hudson and known by the name of Kosciuszko's Garden.

They selected J. H. B. Latrobe as the designer. Latrobe had been a cadet in the early 1820s before being forced to leave because of his father's death. Despite the earlier intention of placing the monument at Kosciuszko's Garden, it was erected in 1828 on the site of Fort Clinton overlooking the Hudson River. Leftover funds, however, were used for a marble fountain in the Garden.

On Labor Day, 1913, a bronze statue by sculptor Dominic Borgia was unveiled on top of the 1828 column. Borgia's design is quite similar to a 1910 monument in Washington, DC, by Polish sculptor Antoni Popiel. Funding for the statue came from Catholic organizations. The pedestal had to be internally modified to hold Borgia's design.

The original pedestal of the Monument was demolished by West Point's Department of Public Works in June 2023. Academy officials stated that it was structurally unsound beyond repair and could no



longer support the statue. During the demolition, a time capsule was found. It contained coins and a medallion from the early 1800s. There are plans for a restoration.

From the oration of Cadet Charles Petigru at the dedication of the cornerstone of the Kosciuszko Monument, July 4, 1828:

His generous self devotion in the cause of his country and of liberty, his constancy of purpose, the unwavering

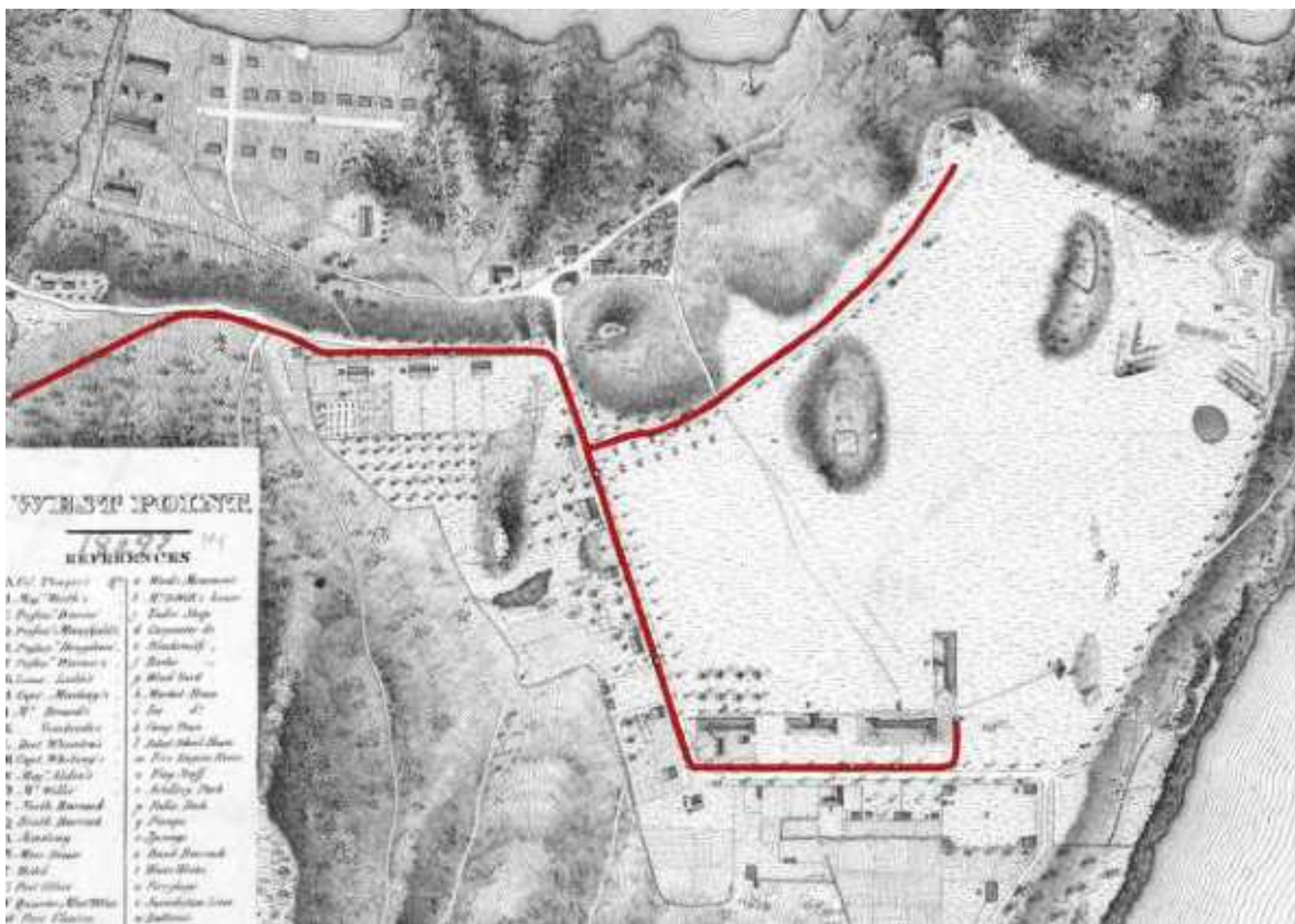
firmness with which he continued under all circumstances to assert and maintain with indefatigable ardor, those great principles which an enlightened understanding had pointed out as the guide to his conduct. In defiance of the allurements of power and of pleasure on the one hand, and of difficulties and dangers which would have appalled

any less resolute than himself, on the other—his firmness in adversity, his moderation in prosperity, his unwavering love of justice, even in times of civil wars and party dissensions, when the bond of civil union seemed almost dissolved.

Kosciuszko Monument in the 1860s. USMA LIBRARY ASC

IN ORDER TO facilitate the building of a much needed hotel on Trophy Point, the Government invested in a water distribution system that used gravity to bring water down from the area near what for a long time was Delafield Pond, now drained. As shown on the

map below, the trunk line split with one line going to the site of the Hotel (discussed on page 78) with the other serving the officers quarters and barracks.

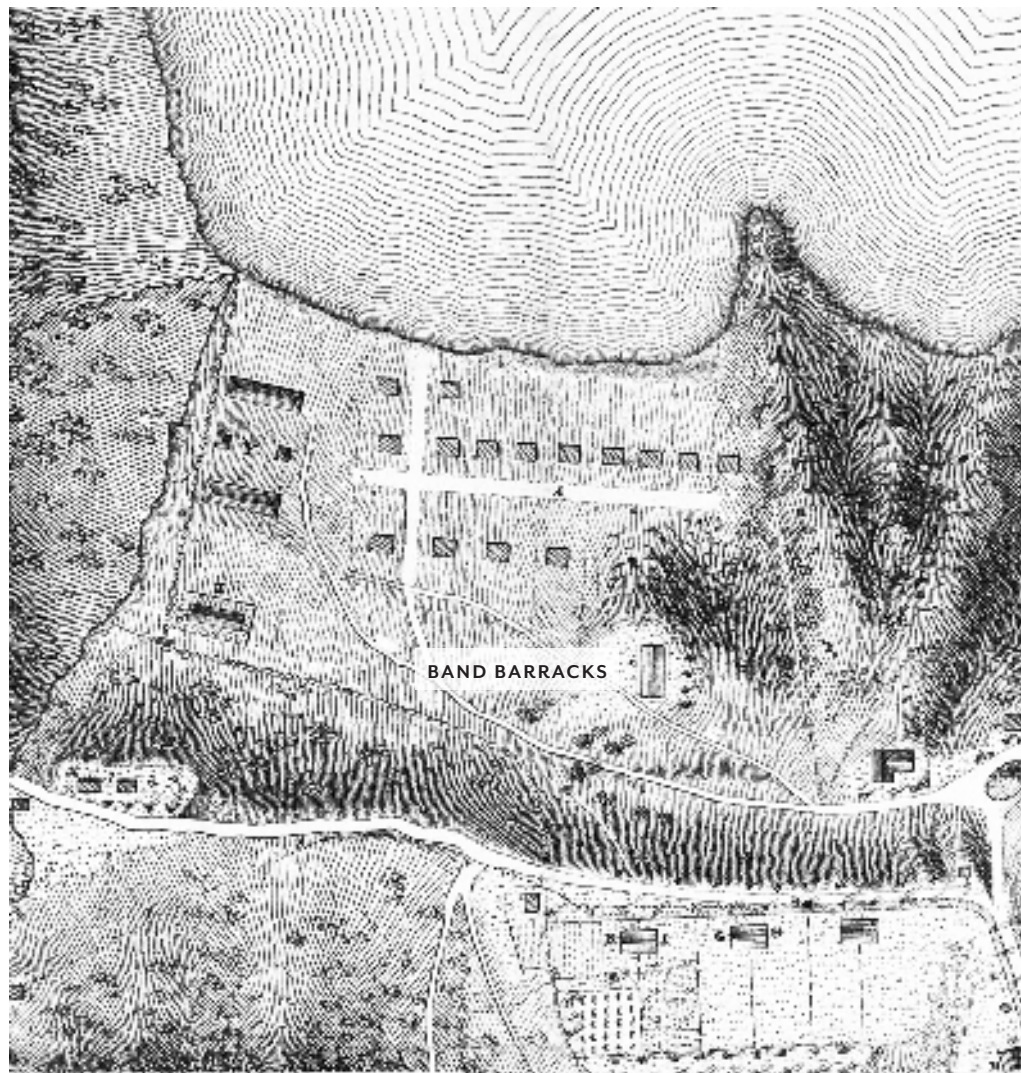


WEST POINT

T. B. BROWN, 1829

THEOPHILIUS B. BROWN graduated from West Point in 1826 and remained at the Academy until 1832. Maps by Brown from 1826 and 1829 remain to aid in understanding the landscape of the time. This 1829 map shows the brand new hotel on Trophy Point (labels added). A new barracks for the band was also completed at this time (1828 or 1829) on the same site as the band had occupied before.

Sadly, Brown was forced to take a leave of absence from the Academy in 1832 and died in 1834.



WEST POINT.

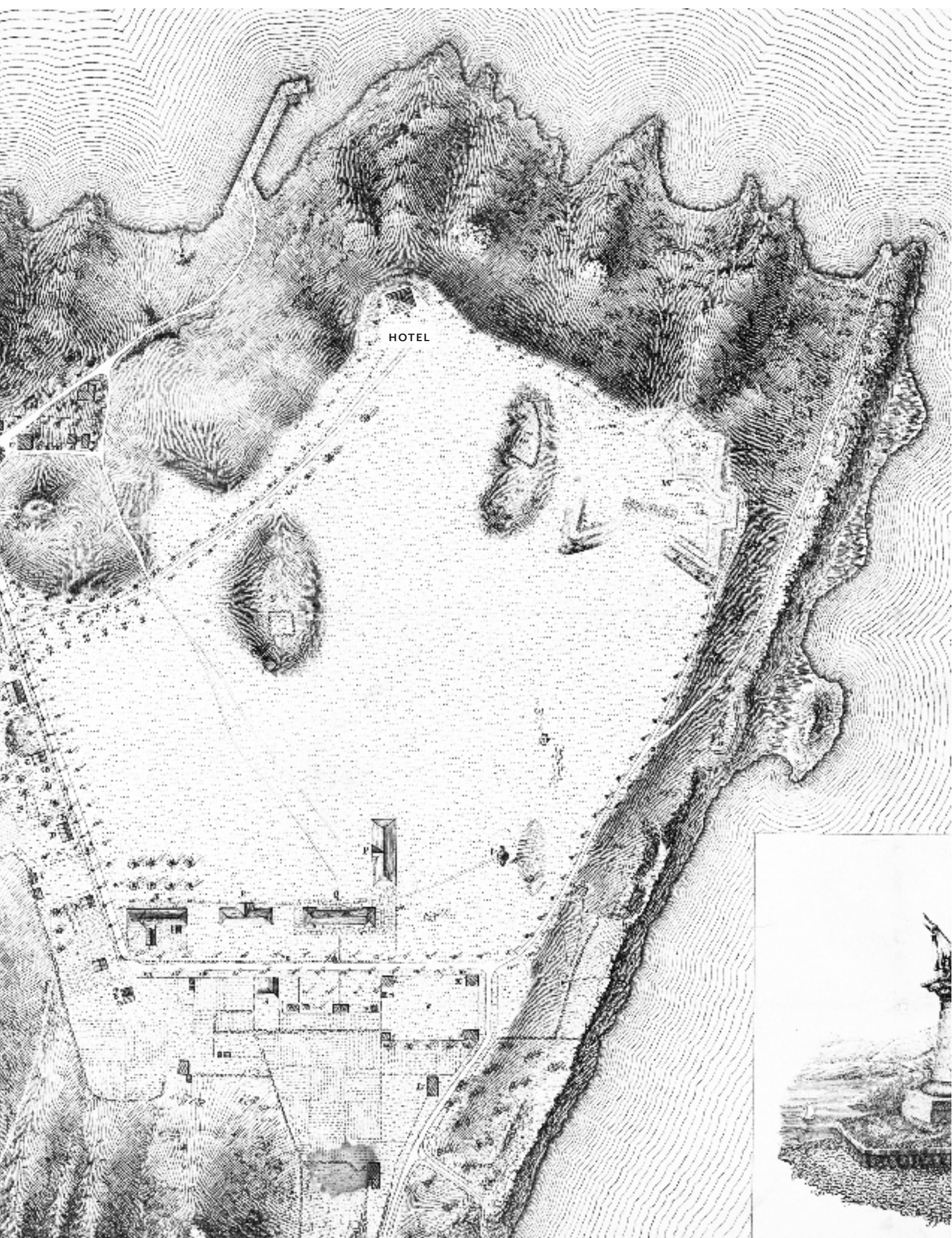
REFERENCES

A. Col. Thayer's	Q ^o	a. Wick's Monument
B. Maj. Worth's		b. M. DeWitt's house.
C. Prof. Duvall's	5	c. Tabor Shop
D. Prof. Mansfield's	4	d. Carpenter do
E. Prof. Douglass's	6	e. Blacksmith
F. Prof. Warner's	f	f. Barber
G. Lieut. Laidley's	8	g. Wood Yard
H. Capt. Mackay's	h	h. Market House
I. M ^r . Bernard's	i	i. Lee do
K.	k	k. Camp Oven
L. Det. Wheaton's	l	l. School House
M. Capt. Whiting's	m	m. Fire Engine House.
N. Maj. Alden's	n	n. Flag Staff
O. M ^r . Willis	o	o. Artillery Park
P. North Barrack	p	p. Public Dock
Q. South Barrack	q	q. Pumps
R. Academy	r	r. Springs
S. Mass House	s	s. Band Barrack
T. Hotel.	t	t. Water Works.
U. Post Office	u	u. Fire plugs
V. Quartermaster's	v	v. Jurisdiction Line.
W. Fort Clinton.	w	w. Batteries.
X. Public Store House	x	x. Stables
Y. Public Store	y	y. School Master's house.
Z. Magazine	z	z. Post School house.

Scale

228 Feet to an inch.

This 1829 map by Brown shows the brand new hotel on Trophy Point (labels added). NARA



WEST POINT HOTEL, 1829

THE NEED FOR guest lodging at West Point was a significant problem in the 1820s, and as early as 1820 the Board of Visitors recommended the building of a hotel. The small number of rooms in the Mess were inadequate and basic. During the 1826 Board of Visitors meeting, for example, 30–40 people were forced to crowd together in the Refectory rooms meant for ten people. Many women were forced to sleep on floors when beds were given to male members of the Board.

Using proceeds from the sale of timber from Academy property, particularly hoop poles used in making barrels, the Hotel was completed in 1829. The cost was \$17,226.12. The original structure was a square, four-story stone building. The entire first floor of the hotel was surrounded by a large piazza (porch).

The location chosen was Trophy Point, where the Great Chain and Hudson River overlook now draw tourists. The loss of the Long Barracks to fire in 1826 cleared Trophy Point of all construction and made it a logical choice for the Hotel. It commanded a great view, was close to the dock, and allowed guests to easily watch parades and drill on the Plain.

In 1850, the Hotel expanded with the addition of twenty-five “sleeping apartments,” enlarged and/or improved in 1870, and again in the late 1870s and 1880s. At some point in the mid-1800s, the Hotel went from being seasonal to year-round.

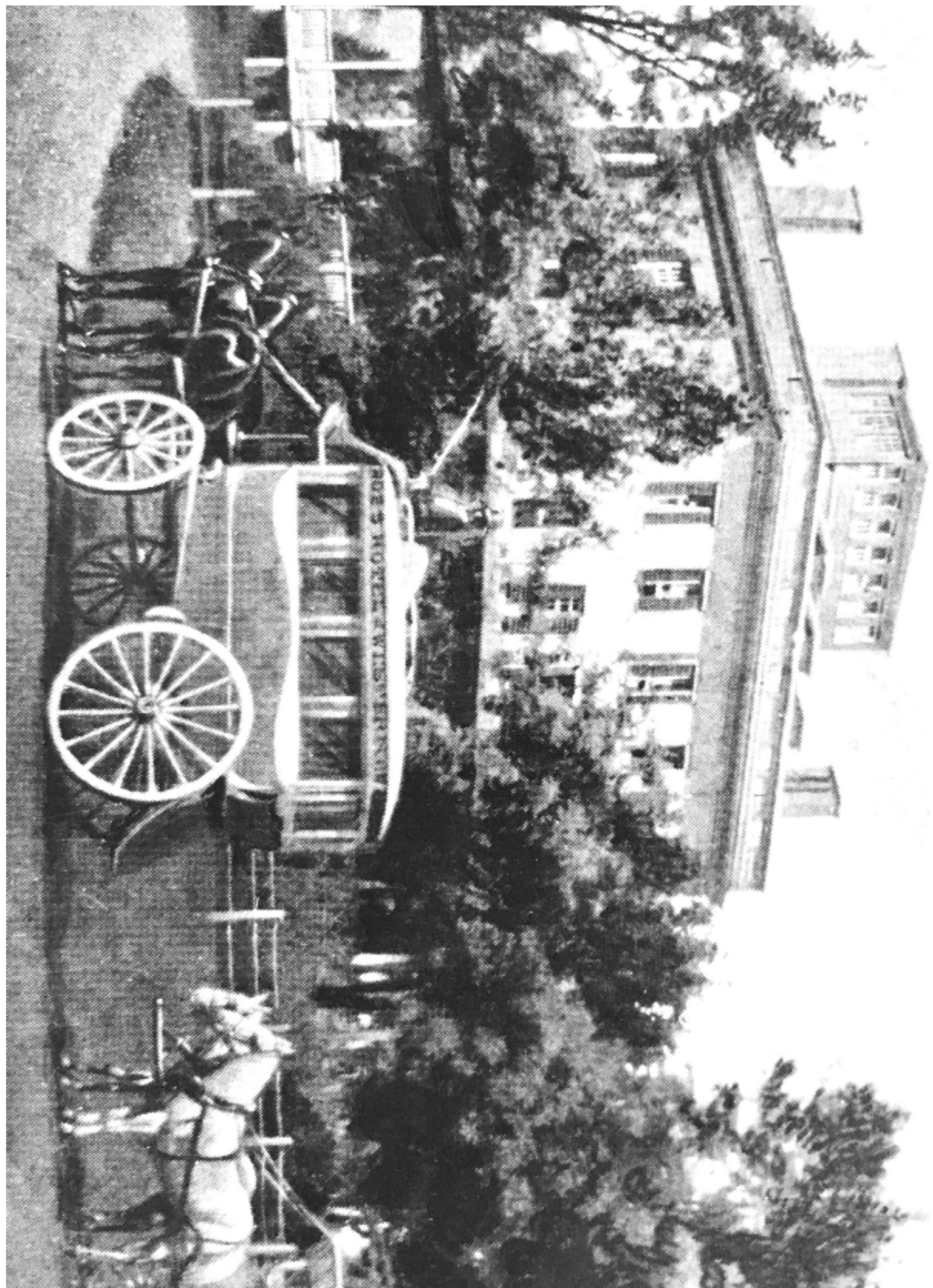
While praised during the 1830s and 1840s as being as good as fine New York

City establishments, by later in the century the hotel struggled to modernize and retrofit itself with adequate plumbing and to meet other guest expectations. After large, luxury hotels opened in Highland Falls in the 1850s, the West Point Hotel had less to offer other than the views. An 1854 magazine article said, “The West Point Hotel is so beautifully and conveniently located that many visitors prefer enduring its untamed waiters and indifferent cookery, to being a mile below the Point at Cozzens’ Hotel, kept by the distinguished publican of that name.” Despite periodic upgrades, a 1913 news account noted that the Hotel had only three bathrooms for as many as 150 guests!

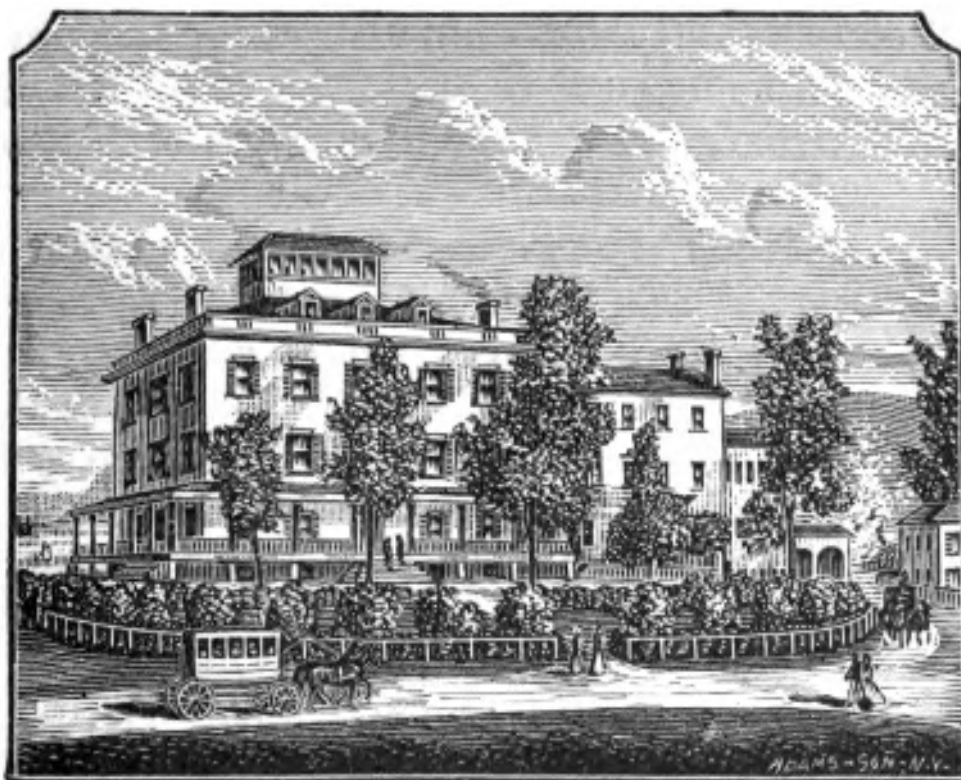
When the Academy underwent a construction boom after 1903, a new hotel was planned that would have been placed on the slope south of the main campus above the road to Highland Falls. This would have been close to where Wilson Road is today. News accounts in 1907 heralded the end of the West Point Hotel, but budget cuts meant the new facility was never built and the increasingly inadequate facility survived until 1932, about six years after the Hotel Thayer commenced operations.

The Hotel was temporarily closed in 1838 after The Academy burned to the ground. Rescued books and scientific instruments were housed in lieu of guests. The facility was also closed for a while after a June 1912 fire caused by the explosion of an alcohol lamp a guest was using to heat hair curlers. While a significant

Facing: Before the 1850s, guests would climb or ride up the hill from the dock. From 1850 onward, guests arriving by steamer would stop at Cozzens’ Landing in Highland Falls or, later in the century, at what is now known as South Dock. Omnibus carriages, as shown in this image from the Civil War era, would then take them to the Hotel. Note that it says Roe’s Hotel West Point and not the West Point Hotel. After 1850, rail passengers on the east side of the river were ferried by boats that met the trains. Rail service to West Point did not begin until 1883. USMA LIBRARY ASC



A commonly used engraving of the West Point Hotel used throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. USMA LIBRARY ASC



WEST POINT HOTEL PROPRIETORS AND THEIR APPROXIMATE TENURE	
PROPRIETOR	YEARS
J. S. Bispham	1830
William B. Cozzens	1831-1837
Jacob H. Holt	1837-1840
Francis Rider	1840-1852
Captain Stephen R. Roe	1852-1869
Theodore Cozzens	1869-1874
Albert H. Craney	1875-1899
John P. Craney	1899-1911
Emilie Logan	1911-

fire, the furniture was rescued and it seems that guests returned within weeks or months.

When reading nineteenth century accounts of the West Point Hotel, it is often referred to by the name of its proprietor. For example, Captain Stephen Roe was the hotelkeeper in the 1850s and 1860s and there are many references to “Roe’s Hotel” or just “Roe’s.” It is not always easy to determine the proprietor in any given year, but a rough table of hoteliers appears on this page.

PROPRIETORS

William B. Cozzens, proprietor in the 1830s, had previously run the West Point Mess. He would go on to manage hotels in New York City, including the American Hotel at 223 Broadway, the current site of the Woolworth Building (1912). In the 1850s, he opened “Cozzens West Point Hotel” in Buttermilk Falls (Highland Falls). A magnet for New York society, Cozzens’ hotel stood on the high ground near the current site of the Five Star Inn next to the West Point Visitors Center. The Cozzens family ran

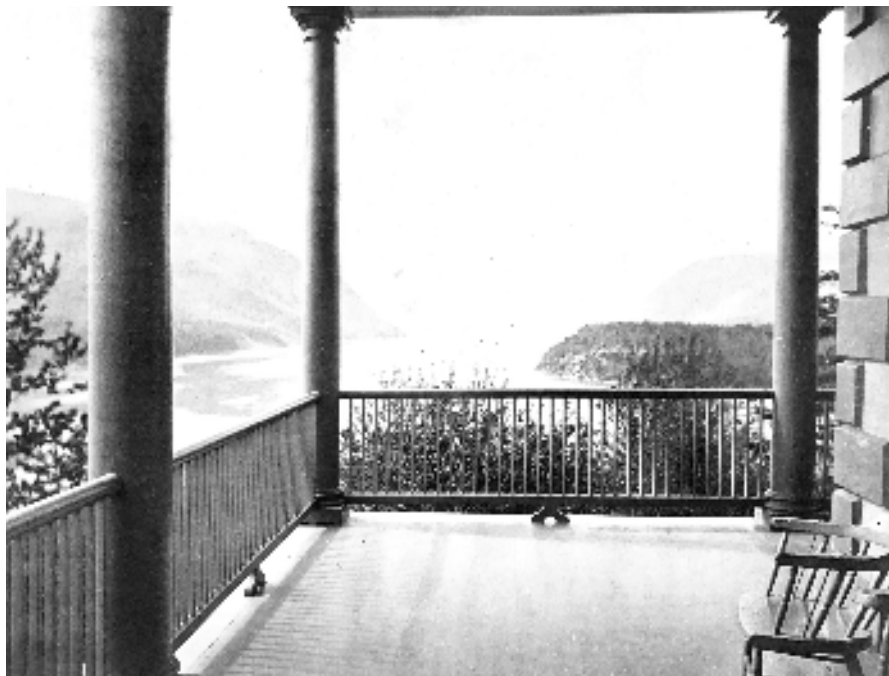
the Highland Falls hotel until it became Cranston’s West Point Hotel in 1881. Cranston’s had severe financial problems in the 1890s. William B. Cozzens was also involved in New York City politics. He died in 1884 and is buried in the West Point Cemetery.

Francis Rider, proprietor in the 1840s, was close friends with Professor of Drawing Robert W. Weir. Rider’s wife Francis was painted by Weir. In the late 1850s, Rider managed the St. Germain Hotel near the future site of the Flatiron Building in New York City. He also ran the Pavilion Hotel in Newport in the late 1850s and the Stanwix Hotel in Albany in the mid-1860s. He died in April 1868.

Although his obituary says he took over the Hotel in 1849, Academy records show that Stephen Roe co-managed the Hotel in 1851 with Francis Rider and then took over in 1852. He was previously one of the great steamboat captains of the Hudson and piloted the *DeWitt Clinton*, the *Iron Witch*, and the fast *New World*. Since his time with the *New World* introduced him to many famous Americans, he had an excellent

“The only hotel on the military post” was the closest thing to a tagline the West Point Hotel ever had. This advertisement is from 1888. As with most famous hotels of the day, ads were run in major newspapers and magazines throughout the country.

THE WEST POINT HOTEL,
West Point, New York.
The only hotel on the military post.
ALBERT H. CRANEY, Proprietor.

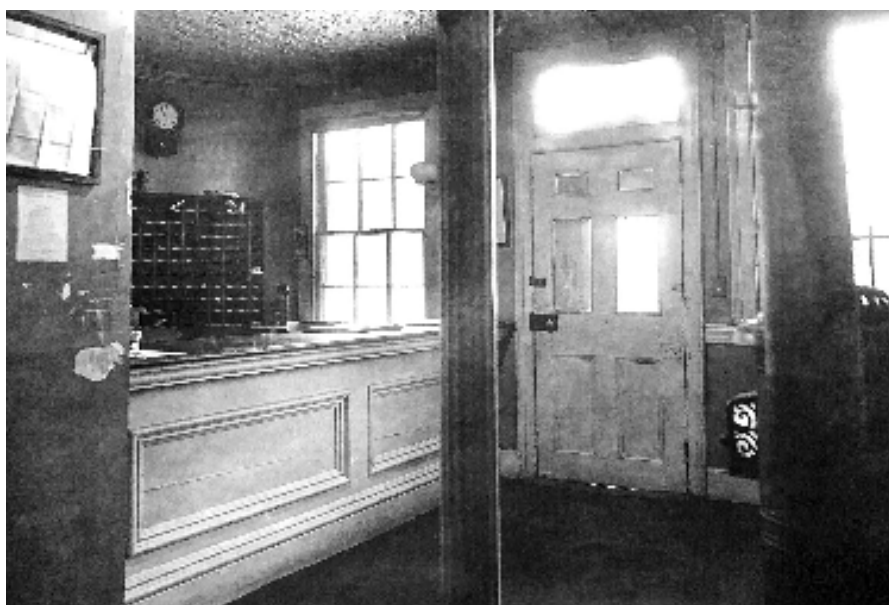


reputation for hospitality by the time he took the position at West Point in his early 40s. He died in 1885 and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.

After Roe, Theodore Cozzens, son of William B. Cozzens, operated the Hotel for a few years until his death in 1863. Albert Craney then operated the Hotel until his death in 1899. Before arriving at West Point, Craney had operated hotels in New York and Washington. He is buried in the West Point Cemetery. After his death, the Hotel was run by his widow, Elizabeth, and his son, John P. Craney.

The Craney lease expired in 1911 and the Hotel passed to control of Emilie Louise Logan. Her control of the property appears to have lasted at least into the 1920s. In 1918, Logan published *West Point: Gibraltar of the Hudson*, a history and advertisement for the Hotel.

The Hotel was closed in 1926 after the Thayer Hotel opened. The structure was used as a warehouse until it was razed in 1932.

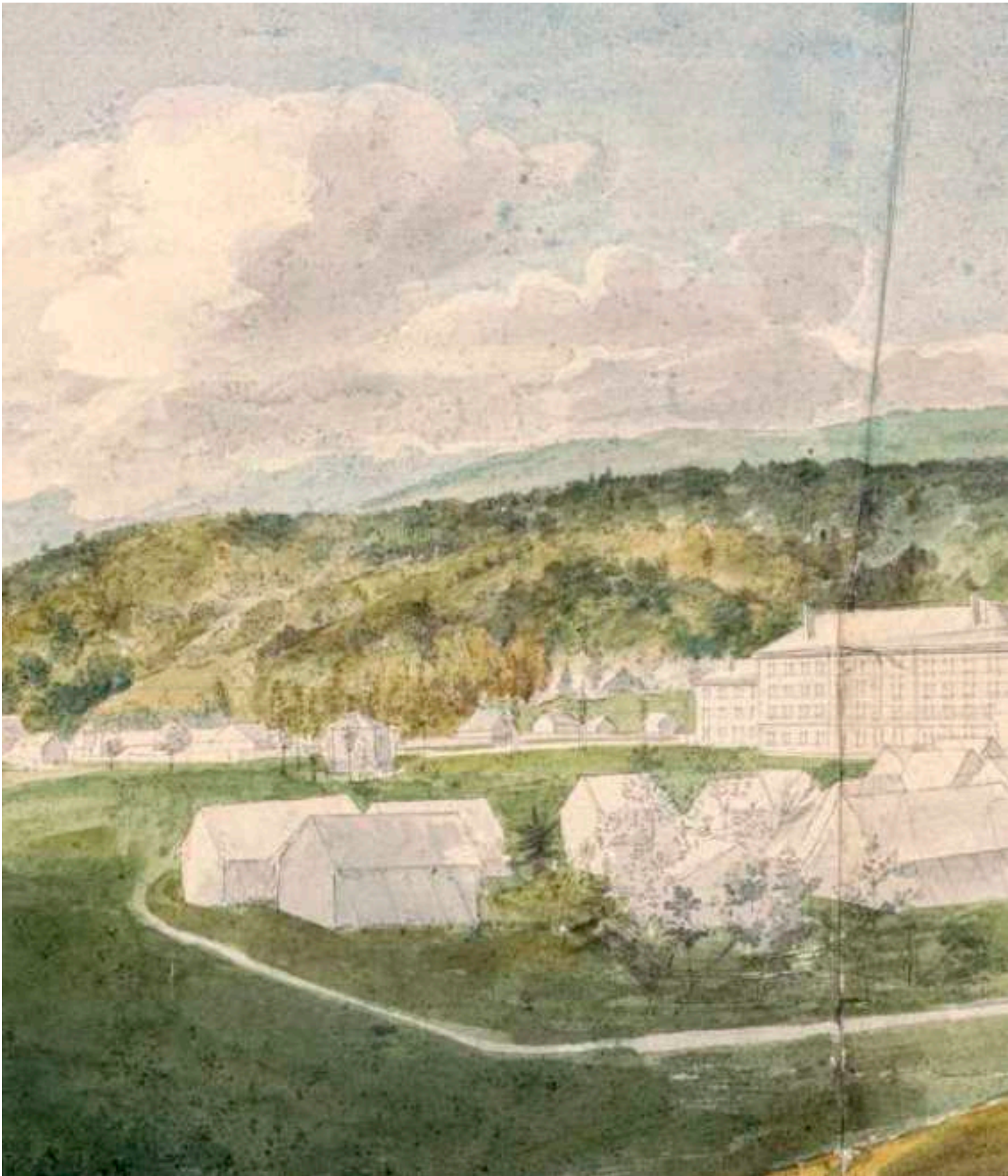


Middle: The view north from the Hotel was one of its primary selling points.

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Bottom: An undated photo of the Hotel's front desk. USMA LIBRARY ASC

WEST POINT IN THE 1830S





"Encampment at West Point." Undated, early 1830s. Artist: John Rubens Smith.

CADETS' HOSPITAL, 1830



Top: A photo of the Cadets' Hospital believed to be from about 1860. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Above: This crop of an 1830s painting in the collection of the West Point Museum shows the hospital when it was new and in its original layout before additions in the 1850s. The artist is J.W. Hill. WEST POINT MUSEUM

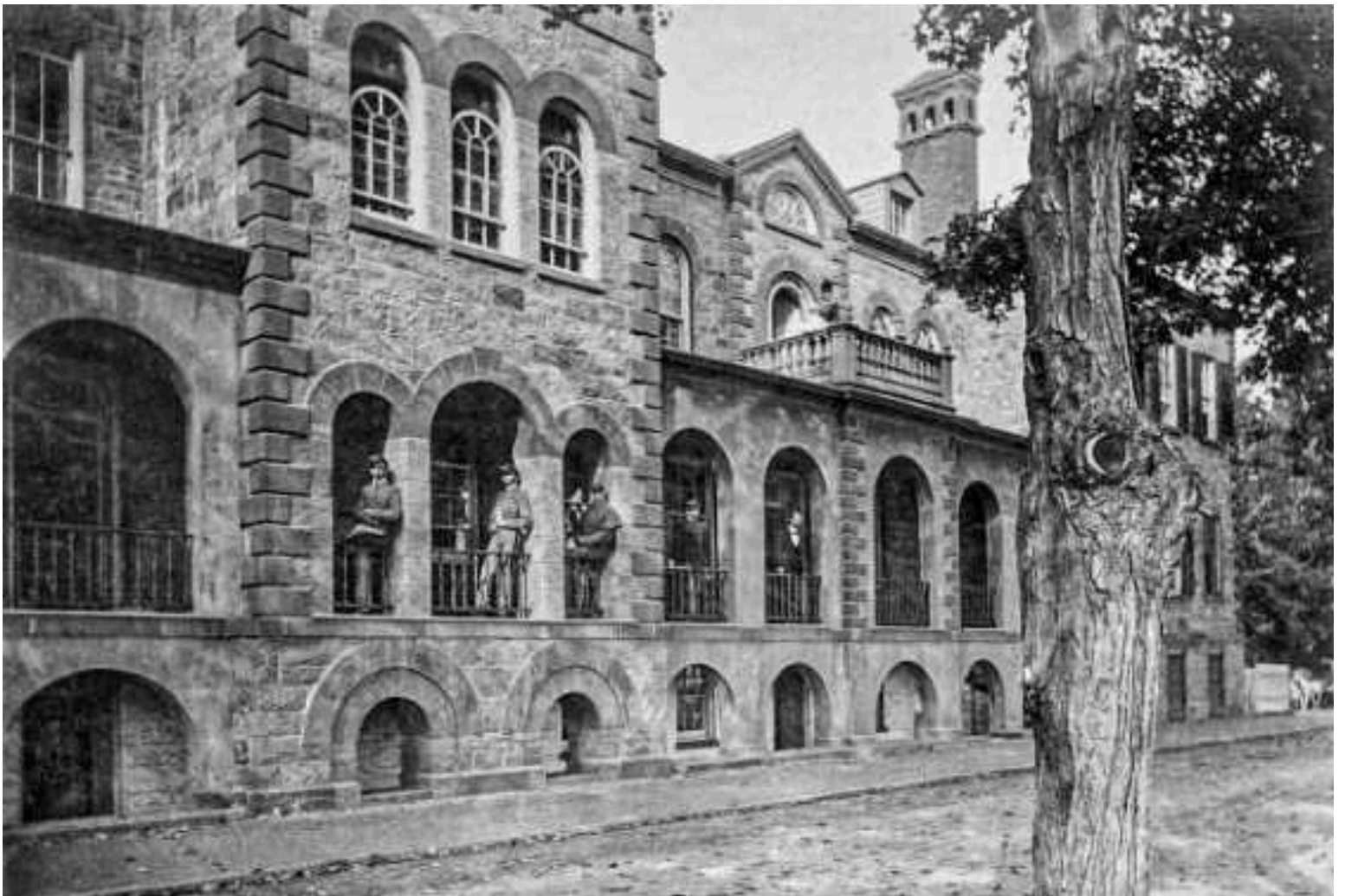
A DEDICATED HOSPITAL for sick cadets was a clear need as the size of the Corps of Cadets expanded in the 1810s. The 1820s purchase of Gridley's Tavern led to that building being used as a hospital for a few years, but the structure was too small to be truly adequate. Work began on a larger building in the late 1820s that was completed and occupied in 1830. The new Cadets' Hospital was located just south of the main Academy buildings. The modern location would be close to the south end of Mahan Hall. The now demolished Central Apartments were near the site for decades.

Once complete, the stone building had one floor for wards and a two story wing on either end. These were at times the residences of the surgeon and assistant surgeon. The dimensions were 130'x 40'. The building had no plumbing for decades and fireplaces were the only means of cooking. The floors were yellow pine, which over time proved unsatisfactory for hygiene and led to leaks. Rooms for attendants were in the basement. In

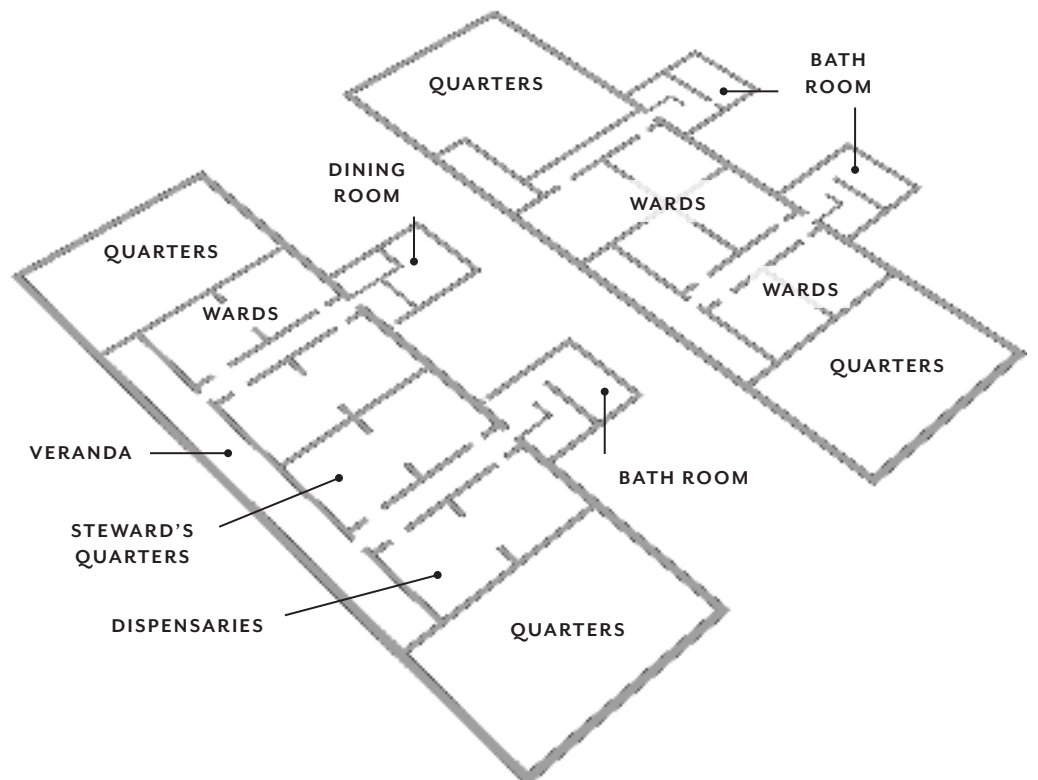
the 1840s, sugar maples grew in front of the east facade.

Criticisms of the adequacy of the building appear periodically in Academy reports. In 1854, \$6,500 was appropriated for an addition, and the work seems to have been undertaken soon after because by mid-decade expenses appear for furniture rather than enlarging the building. In the end, a second story and attic were added to the middle section of the Hospital. This allowed for additional wards and bathrooms to be added as well as new stairways at the back of the building.

After a new hospital was finished in 1884, a \$3,500 appropriation from Congress in 1886 allowed this building to be converted into four separate quarters for officers. A one-story porch was added to the north side at some point and presumably to the south end as well.



Above: The Cadets' Hospital as it appears in an 1873 class album. The stonework, including the quoins along the edges, bears a strong similarity to Professors Row, the only surviving stone buildings from this era. The rounded Roman arches would have resembled those on the 1815 Academy building also standing at the time of the Hospital's construction. The same arches would be included on the (Old) Cadet Chapel in 1836. USMA LIBRARY ASC



Right: The layout of the Cadets' Hospital as it was described in an 1870 report. The areas labeled "quarters" were likely for the surgeon and assistant surgeon.



The street in front of the Cadets' Hospital in the mid-1870s. This photograph is in an 1875 class album. USMA LIBRARY ASC

GUN SHED & LABORATORY, ~1830

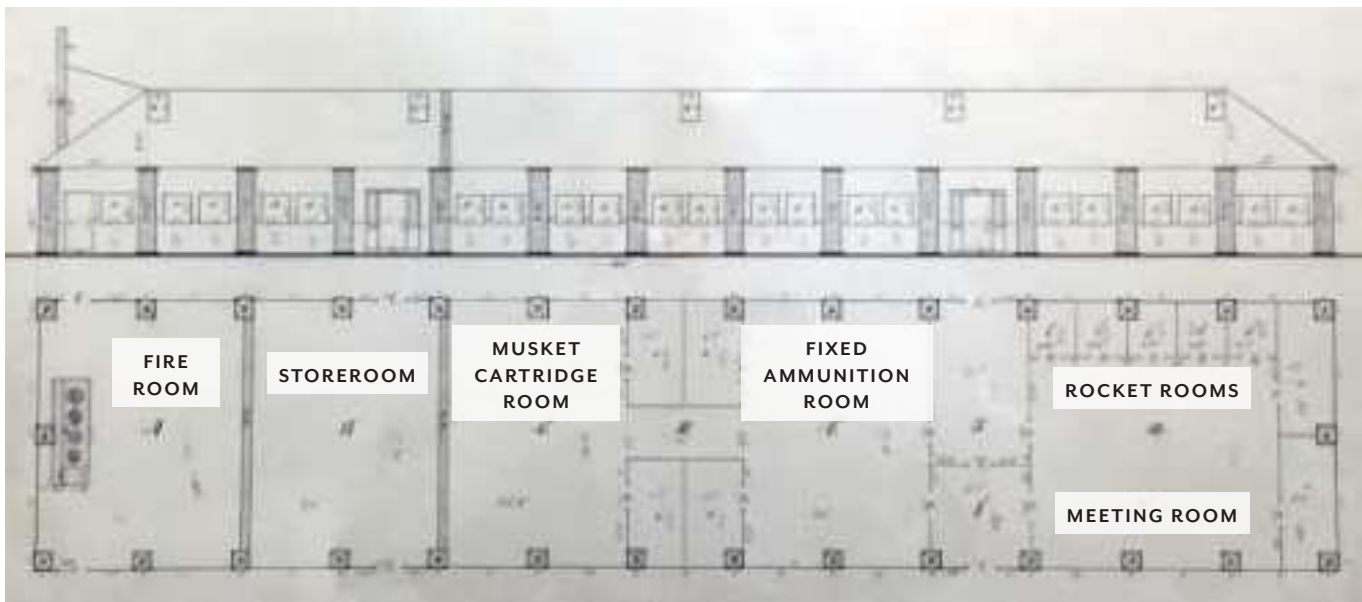


Images of the Gun Shed and Laboratory are rare. The painting (above) by J.W. Hill, View of West Point from Philipstown, estimated to have been painted ca. 1836, clearly shows the structures. The painter is looking to the northeast from across the Hudson River. The large buildings are, left to right, The Academy, the South Barracks, and the North Barracks. WEST POINT MUSEUM

FOR ABOUT A decade, two long utility buildings stood in the area that is now Bartlett Hall, closest to Jefferson Hall. These structures have been ignored or missed by some major histories of the Academy because they do not appear on most known maps of the era. Neither appear on an 1830 cadet map by Chapman in the USMA Archives nor do they show up on maps from the 1840s. In short, they were built in the early 1830s and destroyed by the early 1840s to make way for the USMA Library.

Berard has the best description of the structures:

After the purchase of the Gridley property, and before the erection of the Library building, there stood on its site gun sheds and a laboratory. These structures stood parallel to each other about one hundred feet apart and facing north and south. The gun shed consisted of brick pillars, perhaps twenty or thirty in number on either side and about twenty-feet apart. Between these pillars were folding-doors, which could be thrown open to allow the gun-carriages to be drawn out and returned to the shed.



The Laboratory likewise consisted of two parallel rows of brick pillars, having alternate doors and windows between them. The building was partitioned into small rooms, used for the manufacture of pyrotechnics; for the instruction of cadets, and other purposes, similar to those for which the present Ordnance Laboratory is employed [Note: Now the Firstie Club]. When the present Library was built, the above-mentioned structures were carefully removed, stored for awhile at Fort Clinton, and subsequently the wooden portions taken down and re-erected in what is now the basement of the Soldiers' Chapel, and in the old Artillery Barracks. The removal took place about the time that the erection of a new Cadet Barracks was contemplated. I am told that a Board being then strongly disposed to recommend the area within Fort Clinton as a site for the new barracks, the material of the gun sheds, etc., was stored there to be used in the construction of work-sheds for the convenience of the laborers engaged on the new building.

This description lines up with what is known about the time period. By the late 1830s, Academy personnel were already asking Washington for funding to build new barracks. By 1840, the Ordnance Compound, now the Firstie Club, was completed and serving the purpose of the gun shed and laboratory. Materials from the construction were used in several other buildings, including a school house, various quarters, and the 1856 Soldier's Chapel.



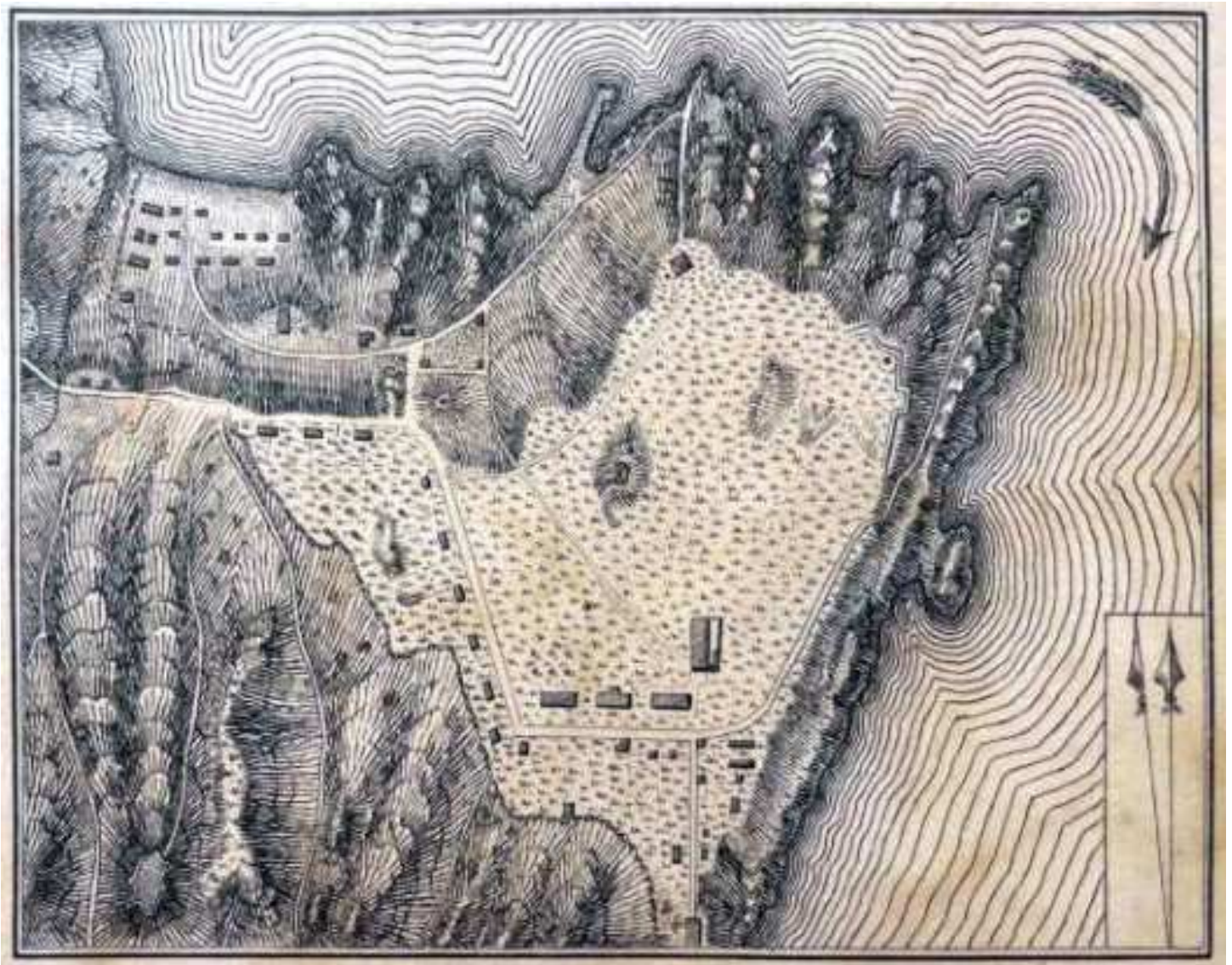
Top: A plan of the Laboratory labeled as 1845, after the building had been removed. It is unclear if the plan is original and additional text was added after the fact, or if it was produced in that year. The major rooms are labeled. The unlabeled rooms include closets, meeting rooms, and offices. NARA

Bottom: The location of the Gun Shed and Laboratory based on an 1830s map in the National Archives. Which building was the Gun Shed and which the Laboratory is unclear, but it would make sense for the Gun Shed to be the northernmost building for easier access to the Plain, where training took place.

Facing, bottom right: Detail of the Arden map found in Jane de Peyster's scrapbook.

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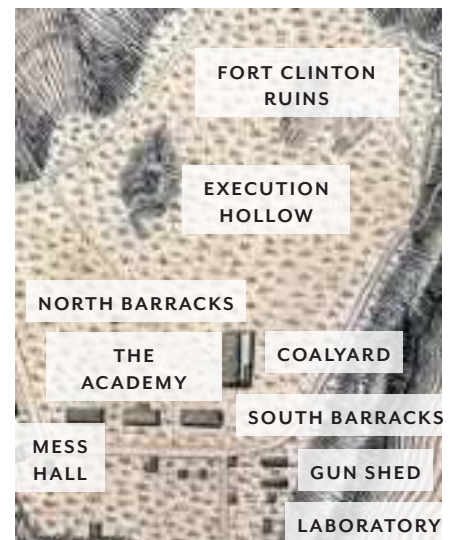
MAP BY THOMAS ARDEN, 1830S



THE MAP ABOVE was made by Cadet Thomas Arden, and can be found in the scrapbook of his future wife Jane de Peyster. The map is interesting for a variety of reasons. First, it is one of the only known maps to show the Gun Shed and Laboratory. Second, it shows the coalyard or lumberyard behind the North Barracks. Third, it shows how much Fort Clinton had fallen into disrepair by this time. Arden shows only a few sections of the Fort's ramparts as clearly defined.

Jane de Peyster's scrapbook, with her beau's map, are in the collection of the

USMA Library ASC. Arden graduated in 1835. In the 1840s, he retired from service and became a farmer. He lived in the Beverly Robinson House across the Hudson River in Philipstown, known for having been the headquarters of Benedict Arnold. Arden's estate, "Ardenia," was located where the Highlands Country Club is located today in Garrison, NY.



CADET CHAPEL, 1836



FOR THE ACADEMY'S first three and a half decades, there was no freestanding house of worship for the community. Before the War of 1812, services were held in the Old Academy, close to where the Superintendent's House today. In the Thayer era, Christian services were held in the middle room of the first floor of the 1815 Academy. The space was crowded and inadequate for the task.

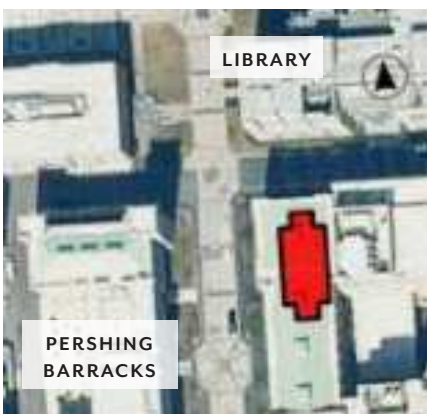
The Board of Visitors report for 1826 calls for a dedicated house of worship and references similar calls in 1824 and 1825, but the reports for those years do not specifically mention a chapel. In any case, it would be about a decade between calls for a church and its realization.

Because of the lack of space, citizens on Post improvised and created a chapel

in an old storehouse. This was presumably in the area between the Plain and the river on the north side of the reservation. An 1832 article states, "This deficiency has originated a small Methodist chapel, which, by the subscription of individuals and the permission of the Superintendent, has been constructed out of one of the old storehouses."

Legislation passed by Congress on March 2, 1833, allocated \$10,000 for "the erection of a chapel at the United States' Military Academy, West Point..." An additional \$3,500 was appropriated in July 1836 and a final \$1,253.35 in 1837. The building was already being used by the time these last two bills were passed.

The grand total of \$14,753.35 to build the Chapel, about \$600,000 today,





was less than an 1833 estimate sent to the Chief Engineer, which totaled \$22,697.89. The biggest difference in cost seems to stem from the Academy's initial plan to face the entire building in "Sing Sing Marble." This white stone, more commonly called Inwood Marble today, mined at or near the famous prison downriver from West Point, was estimated to cost \$10,403.20, including facing stones, eight columns, and two porticos. Local stone was to be used behind the marble. In the end, the completed Chapel was composed entirely of local stone with wooden porticos and four wooden columns. The original plan, which appears lost, also called for a cupola on one end. A more conservative budget prevailed.

The original estimate also called for a basement to contain a space for Sunday school and a recitation room for Ethics and Moral Philosophy, commonly taught by the Chaplain. However, the final structure built had an air space of only about 3' between the floor and the ground.

The proposed location for the Chapel was on Trophy Point about halfway between Wood's Monument and the Hotel on a "projecting point." In the end, a site was chosen near the barracks now occupied by Bartlett Hall.

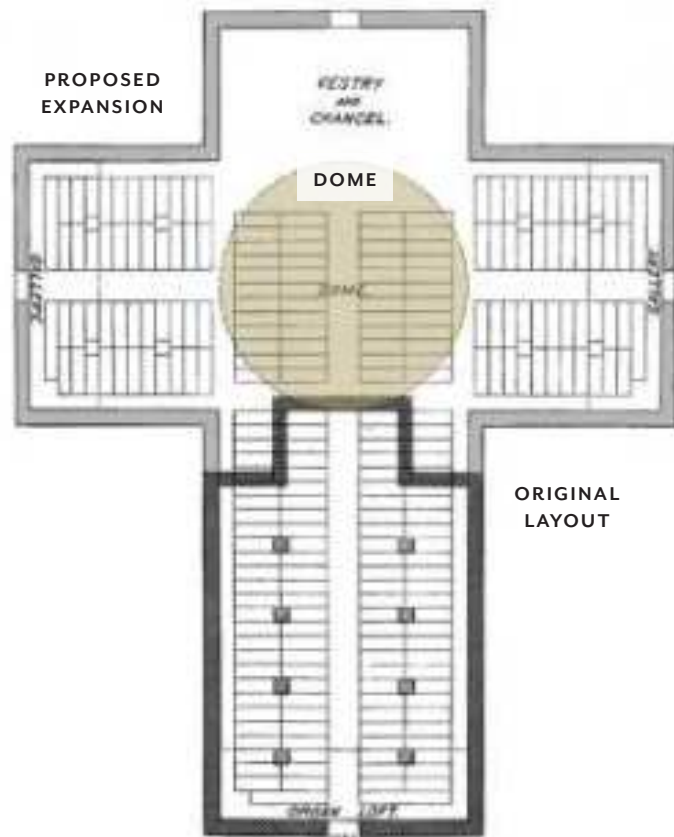
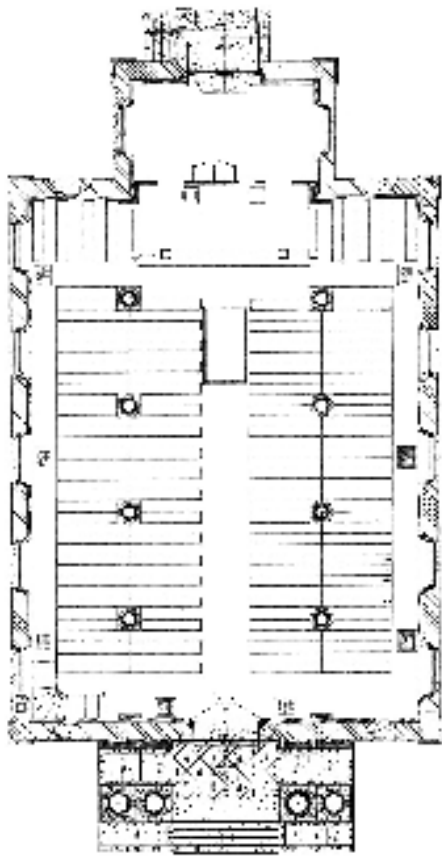
The designer of the final building is unknown. In 1833, Superintendent DeRussy admitted that no final plan had been drawn despite his eagerness to get started on something.

The Chapel's interior in the 1880s. On the right in the photograph is one of two recessed windows converted to a trophy case for flags from the American Revolution and Mexican-American War. By this time, the Chapel had gas lighting fixtures on the columns and was heated by steam boilers from the nearby Administration Building (1870). Note the heating grate in the floor. Robert W. Weir's painting is visible over the altar. STODDARD, 1887

Facing, top: This 1871 photograph shows the Chapel in its original location at what is now the corner of Thayer Road and Jefferson Place. Bartlett Hall is now on this site.

2LT JOHN PITMAN/USMA LIBRARY ASC

Facing, bottom: The location of the Chapel from 1836 until 1910.



Top, left: Interior layout in 1909 when the Chapel was moved. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Top, right: The 1900 Board of Visitors report included a design by Professor of Drawing Charles Larned to expand the Chapel. His design included a dome. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS, 1900

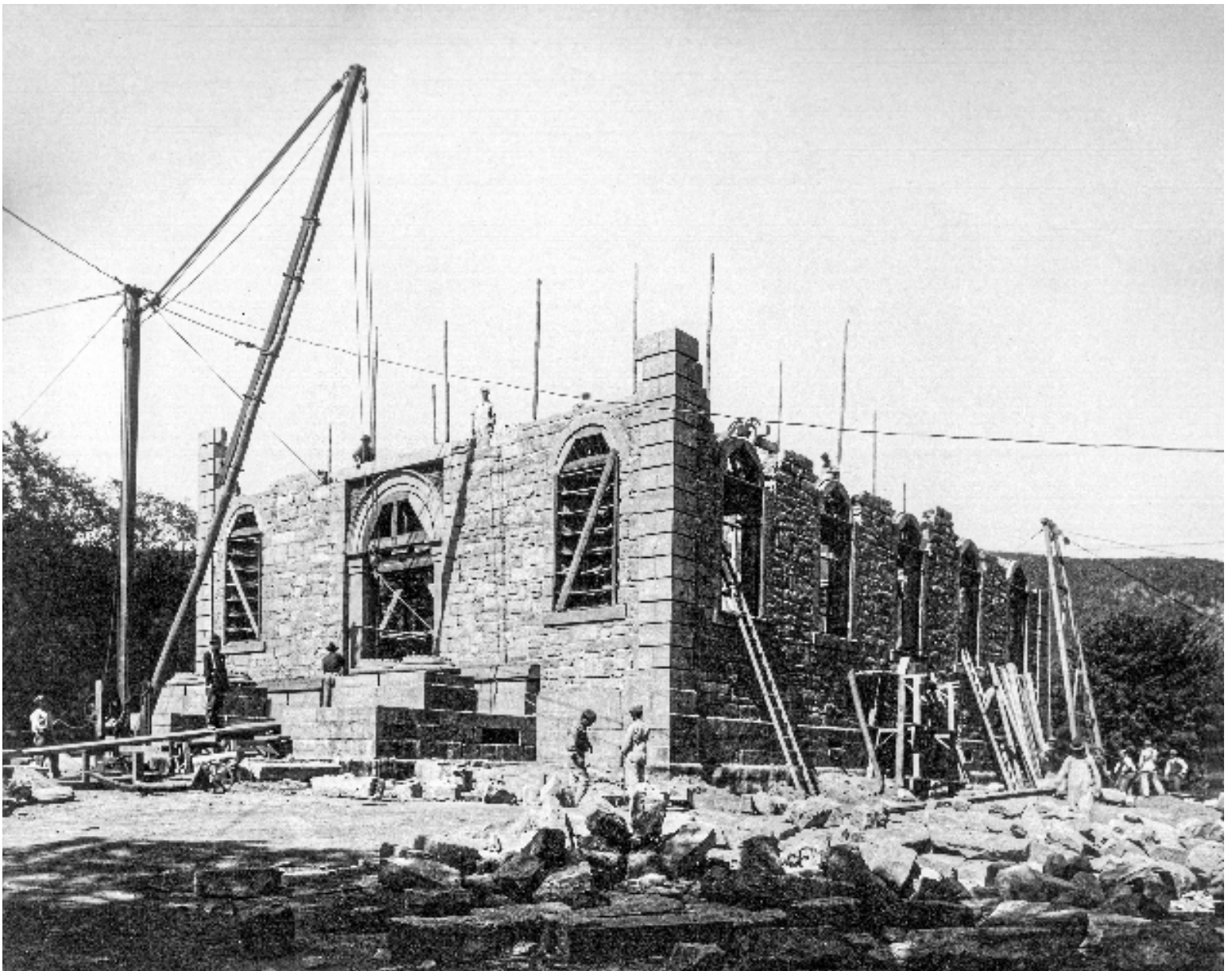
This was an era of neoclassicism in architecture, and the Chapel has been labeled as either Classical Revival or Greek Revival. The distinctions between the two can be complicated but, at its simplest, Classical Revival has elements of Roman architecture. While the Chapel looks like an ancient Athenian temple with a prominent pediment, its Doric columns have a base which is more Roman. Likewise, the rounded arches on the front are Romanesque. The interior is also reminiscent of Roman basilicas with Ionic columns and semicircular features over the altar, reminding worshippers of an apse. Labels aside, the building is certainly classical in its inspirations.

With funds appropriated, the cornerstone was laid on November 12, 1834, at 2 p.m. by the Right Reverend Dr. Benjamin Onderdonk, Episcopalian Bishop of New York. Officers and professors were invited to the ceremony, and cadet attendance, in uniform with side-arms, was required. Classes were canceled

for the afternoon, a rare occurrence. In the 1840s, Onderdonk would become involved in contentious theologic debates in the Episcopalian Church and would face allegations of inappropriate conduct toward women.

While the mason's name seems to have been lost, the officer in charge of the new buildings was Class of 1833 graduate Jacob E. Blake, a Brevet Second Lieutenant. Blake was the Academy Quartermaster at the same time. He was in charge of not only the Chapel but also the new academic building going up across the street. The Chapel was 97'9" long and 53'10" wide.

Despite a cornerstone that reads 1837, the Chapel was complete enough to hold services in the summer of 1836. Post Order No. 65, dated June 11, 1836, declared, "The building recently erected in the vicinity of the Gun-house & Art. Laboratory for religious exercises, will be designated & known as the 'Chapel.'" It continues, "Divine Service will be



The Chapel on September 23, 1910 during its rebuild in the West Point Cemetery.

USMA DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

of American military history. To this day, the walls of the church bear black marble tablets with the names of Revolutionary War generals. Official records show purchases for these tablets in 1859 (\$230), 1860 (\$220), and 1866 (\$766). The most famous tablet is one with the name removed representing the treason of Benedict Arnold.

Flags from the American Revolution and Mexican-American War were also displayed in the Chapel beginning in the late 1850s. Most had been sent to the Academy in 1849 by President Polk in fulfillment of a law that required flags taken from enemies to be preserved and displayed. In 1858, over \$1,000 was spent to create glassed-in areas in

two window recesses for the flags and other items.

In 1862, funds were requested to repair the roof and expand the Chapel, but it is unclear if any modifications were made, although a roof fix is likely to have occurred, as well as some possible changes to the vestry. A letter from Superintendent Bowman explains that the original roof was slate and tin with a bad junction between the materials. The leaks were so bad that pew cushions and the floor were being soaked and plaster was falling.

The timing is about right for the addition of gas light fitting or steam-heating in the structure, but this is speculation. Eventually, the building was heated by steam boilers in the Administration

Building next door. That building was completed in 1870.

There was a significant renovation to the Chapel in 1894–1895 that included repainting of the exterior walls, painting, and reupholstering. A new organ by the Mason & Risch Vocalion Company of Rochester, NY, was contracted for on September 7, 1895.

A slow rise in the number of cadets in the 19th century meant that the Chapel was soon too small. An 1889 discussion about the Battle Monument is clear: “The Military Academy Chapel is too small, and its present condition—for lack of means to improve it—is not credible to the Academy.” [Larned 1898, 56]

One solution to the Chapel’s size was to expand it. The graphic on page 92 pulled from the 1900 Board of Visitors Report shows a proposed expansion drawn by Charles Larned, Professor of Drawing.

At the turn of the 20th century, the Academy decided on a massive expansion. Plans included a new, larger chapel for Protestant services. A Catholic chapel had been completed in 1900. The Academy envisioned a new house of worship on Trophy Point, located where the flagpole is today. The site of the 1830s Chapel was to become an academic building (now Bartlett Hall). The decision was made to save the 1830s structure, and in 1910 it was moved piece by piece to the Cemetery.

The official closing of the Chapel occurred in a driving rain at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 12, 1910. The Corps of Cadets, along with faculty and guests, gathered in front of the building, recited the Apostle’s Creed, and sang the Doxology and a verse of “The Corps.” Herbert Shipman, author of the poem that became “The Corps” and a former Academy chaplain, assisted with the ceremony. Reverend Edward S. Travers then locked the door and gave the key to Superintendent Hugh Scott. Scott then passed it to Major J.M. Carson, the Quartermaster and officer in charge of the building’s move. A salute was then fired, “America” was sung, and cadets

marched to the new chapel on the hill for its dedication. Thus, the Cadet Chapel became the “Old Cadet Chapel.”

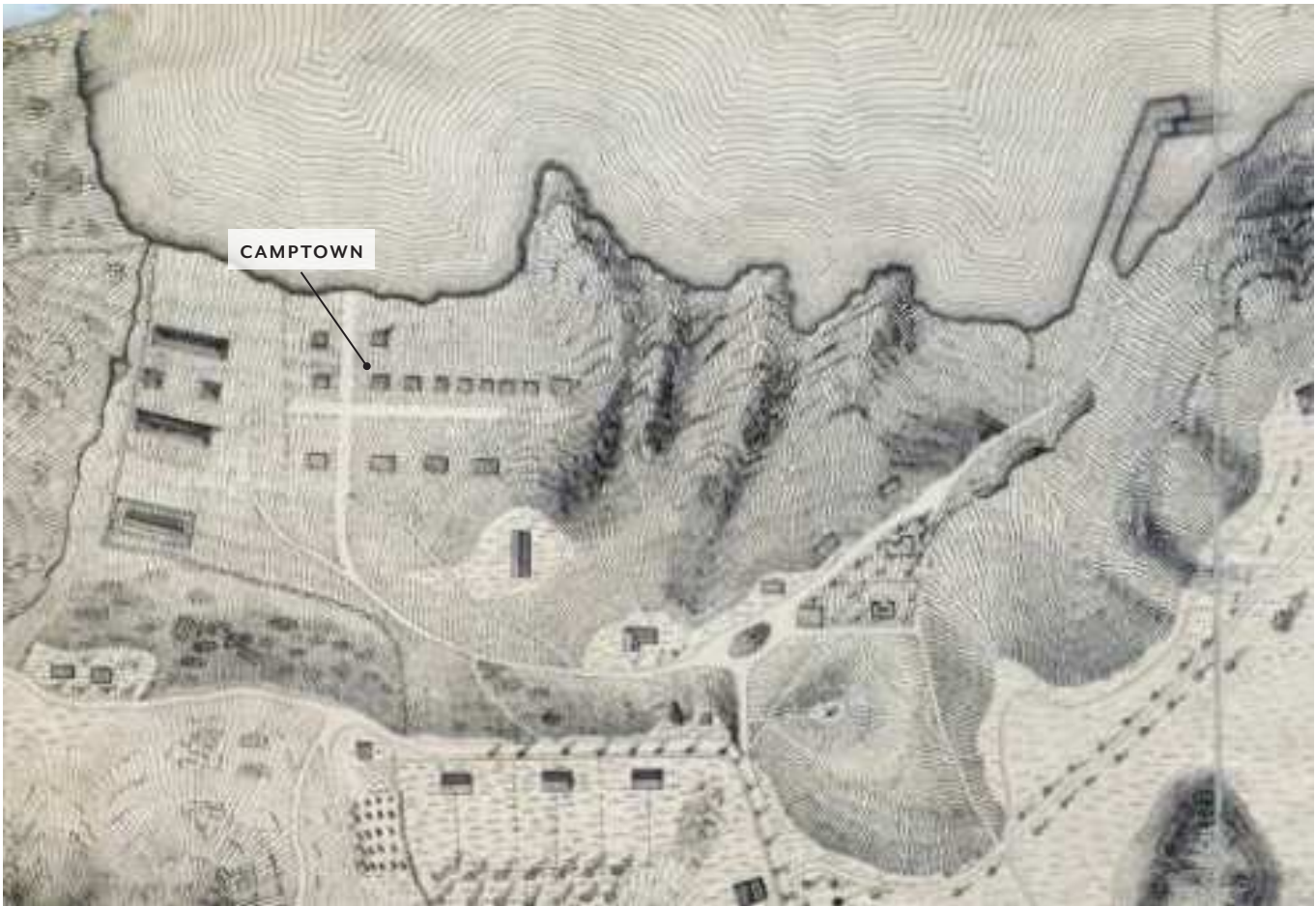
A letter by J.M. Carson gives details of the 1910 move. Because no plans existed, Carson had detailed plans and close-ups drafted. Photographs were taken of the interior and exterior, and each stone and detail were numbered and labeled so the building could be recreated exactly. Carson recalls, “For historical and sentimental reasons, the Chapel had to be rebuilt exactly as it was, and no errors were tolerated.” Carson recalls that \$40,000 was budgeted for the move, but he recalls it costing closer to \$30,000.

Because the relocated building would need heating, a basement was designed and excavated. It sat for a year to harden before the heavy stone building was rebuilt. A crypt was also included in the basement for temporary use when the ground was frozen. Coal boilers were chosen for the heat source. Slight modifications to the rear of the building were necessary. It was discovered that the Weir painting over the altar was canvas over a wood frame and thus could be moved with few problems.

During the move, a cornerstone dated November 12, 1837, was found along with a lead plate bearing the mason’s name. The latter has seemingly been lost. The date on the cornerstone is a bit of a mystery as the building was first used starting in the summer of 1836. Carson had the engraved stone placed in the front wall and a companion was created dated, “August 25, 1910,” the date that the rebuilding commenced at the Cemetery.

Since 1910, modifications to the building have included new organs, a ramp for accessibility, and other modern updates.

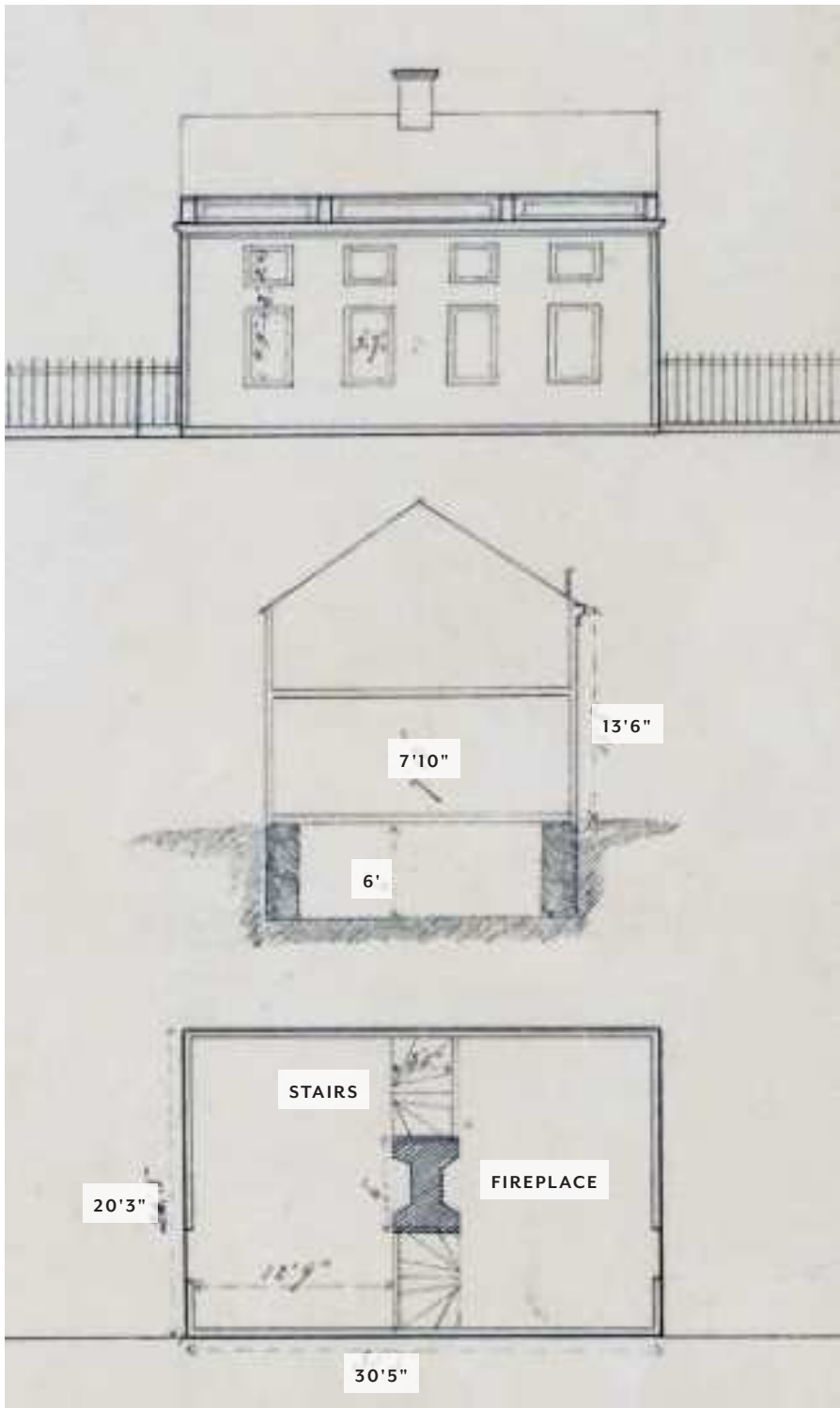
CAMPTOWN, 1837



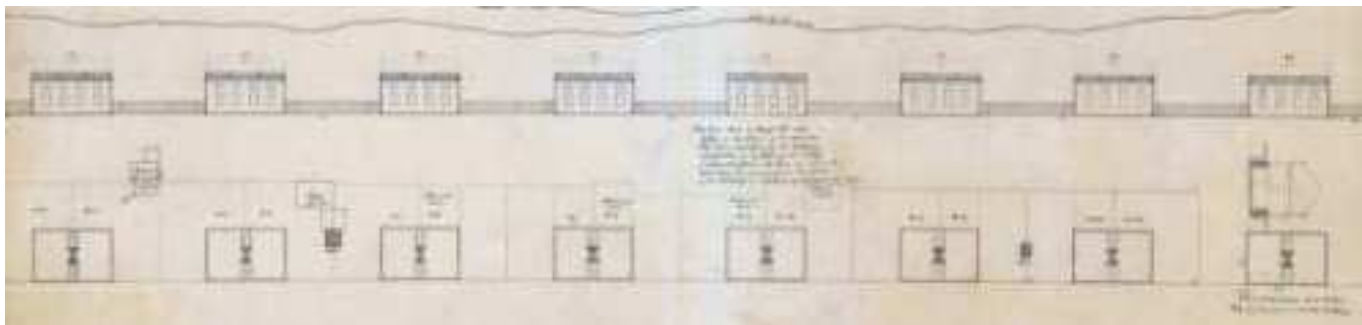
CAMPTOWN, SOMETIMES WRITTEN as Camp Town, was a dedicated housing area for service personnel. It later became a combination of soldier and civilian quarters. In 1837, eight double-quarter houses were constructed for the Artillery detachment of soldiers, but either then or soon after, the buildings were converted for use by laundresses employed by the Academy to clean cadet clothing.

Camptown was a green meadow in the early 1800s and, over time, a few houses were added. A poor couple named Camp, the wife Bermudian, came to West Point from New York City to work. In time, they converted a barn to a house, and the area became known as “Camptown.” The Camps lived there only until 1829, but the name stuck.

Camptown on an 1841 map by future Brevet Major General John P. Hatch, USMA Class of 1845. USMA LIBRARY ASC



Above and below are details from an 1844 plan reflecting houses built in the Camptown housing area in 1837. NARA



ACADEMY, 1838

AKA DRILL HOUSE, EXERCISE HALL

This 1839 drawing is an as-built rendering of the "Academic Halls" sent to the Engineer Department in Washington in December 1839. The artist was LT Arden, presumably 2LT Thomas Arden, Class of 1835, an Assistant Instructor of Infantry Tactics. The box-like skylights on the right (north) end of the building were added in the winter of 1838-1839, after the building was already being used. NARA

Facing: The Academy building in 1870. The clock tower was not original to the building. It seems to have been completed in late 1857.

2LT JOHN PITMAN/USMA LIBRARY ASC

WINTER WAS A problem for an institution that took so much pride in precision drill. Snow made the Plain unreliable for winter training. Thus, in the 1830s, funding was appropriated for the Academy to build a space for physical activities such as drill and fencing as well as areas for laboratories, recitation rooms, faculty offices, etc. In 1830s records, this building is often called "The Drill House" and is referred to in government budgets as a building for military exercises. \$6,000 was appropriated in 1833 and more in subsequent years. Williams, in 1889, lists the construction price as \$68,254.

Much of the first level was completed by the fall 1836. Academy accounting records show payments for quarrying of granite and Chatham Stone. The quarries of Chatham, CT, produced a red sandstone. The lower level and certain details above had considerable sandstone sections with rougher cut stone, presumably the granite.

Just months before the building's completion, fire completely destroyed The Academy that was built in 1815. With the loss of three laboratories in that building, plus public meeting spaces, the new Academy building took on increased importance. In March 1838, Superintendent DeRussy proposed to the Chief of Engineers to alter the floor plan of the ground floor of the new building to create a space for a library and an examination room. At the time, examinations were public and conducted in front of a board, and sometimes the public, and therefore required an adequate space. In April 1838, the Academy proposed a replacement building for the 1815 Academy, but this never came to fruition. The fire also added importance to the completion of a new dedicated library, which was completed, with instruction space, in 1841. As proposed, the ground floor of the new Academy building was adjusted to serve as the Library, according to 1839 drawings, but there is no mention of an examination room.





Given the stress on space from the fire, it is not surprising that officials used the new space as soon as possible. By September 1838, the new Academy was being used for classes, military exercises, and social events. An account of a ball held in September in the first floor exercise hall clearly indicates that the building was not completed. The author, a woman attending the function, noted that the term “drill-house” was being used. Many later books refer to it as the Academy.

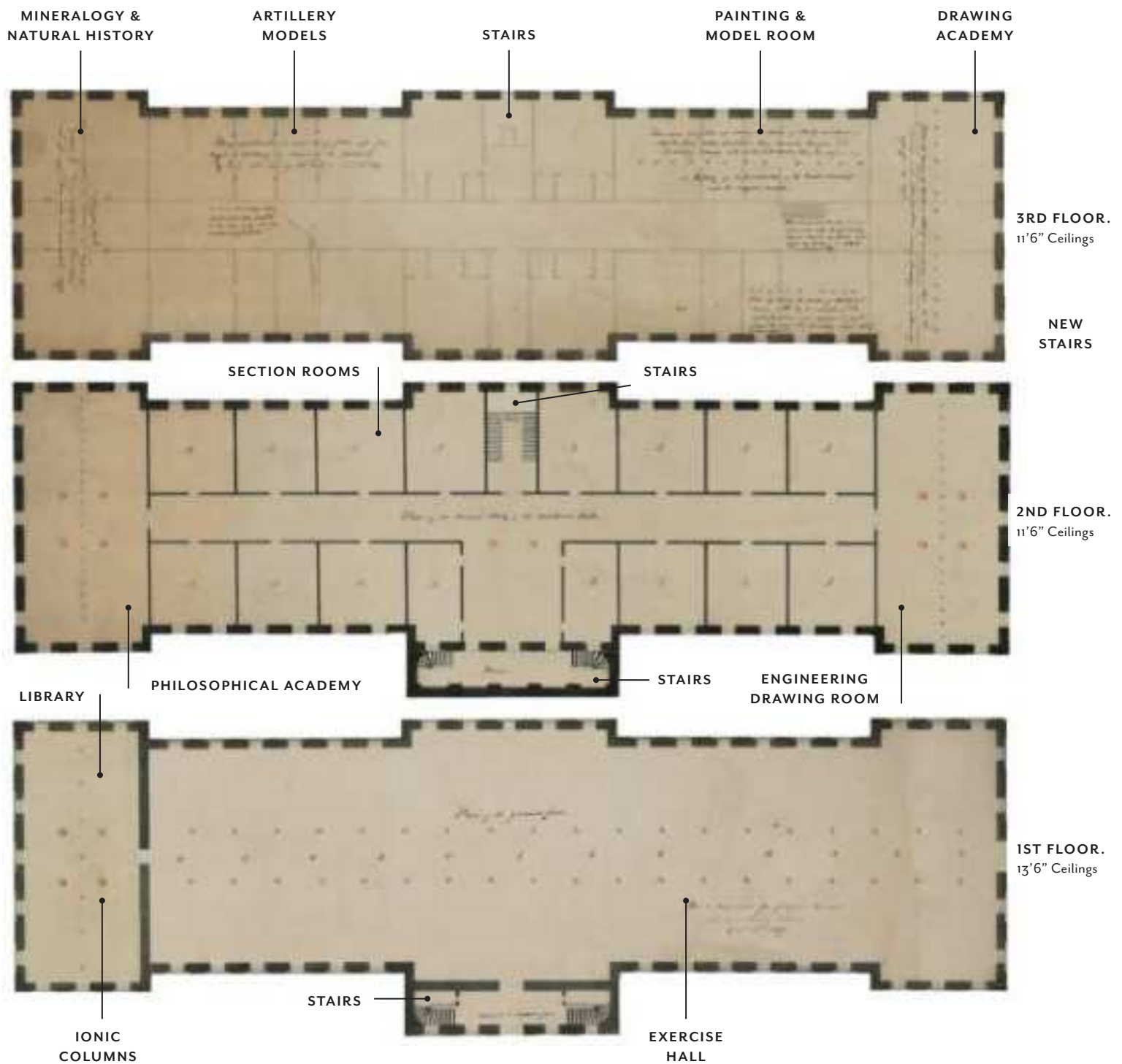
The building shared many Classical revival architectural similarities with the Chapel next door. The front had a portico with six Doric columns in the Greek order, a horizontal frieze around the whole building, and a first floor of windows set in semicircular arches with keystones. The

north and south ends of the front facade also had false Doric columns, as did the sides and back of the building. At least one of the first floor rooms had Ionic columns. Overall, the symmetry and low-sloped roof added to the Neoclassical character.

In 1839, the building had space for exercises, a temporary library because of the fire, a philosophical academy (i.e., a physics lab), drawing academies, and space to house and display minerals, models, and other items used in the curriculum. It is also clear that officials removed walls and added stairs and skylights to facilitate academic needs in the wake of the loss of the Academy. Amazingly, cadets rode horses on the first floor. An 1852 report describes “great danger, in



The 1838 Academy was located where Pershing Barracks is today, but the footprint was smaller.





rapid riding and wheeling by a corps of some thirty cadet” and that spectators were in constant fear of serious accidents, which are noted to have been common.

The construction of a proper Riding Hall in the 1850s allowed the first floor Exercise Hall to be subdivided to make a gymnasium, a fencing academy, a room for courts-martial, a water closet, and a storage room. The WC had four toilets and two urinals.

There were only minor alterations to the use of space in the building over the decades. An 1858 account described the need for the 2nd floor to be supported by extra timbers below, which had to be removed for dances and other events on the ground floor.

Heat was provided by stoves presumably until the construction of a steam plant in the 1860s. An official report confirms that stoves were used in each room in 1858.

A notable change in the 1850s was the addition of a clock tower. \$700 was authorized in 1856 and another \$800 in

1857. The clock was made by Ephraim Byram of Sag Harbor, NY. A September 1857 Secretary of War report states that the clock tower would be completed in the fall of that year, but USMA Centennial documents reveal the clock was purchased in 1858. Hence, the timing is a bit unclear. \$450 was appropriated for a bell in 1858.

The building was torn down in the summer of 1891 to allow the space to be used for the construction of a new academic building. The new building was designed by Richard Morris Hunt, completed in 1895, and is now named Pershing Barracks. The clock from the Academy was used for a few more years on an expanded tower on the 1841 Library next door. It seems that the clock was not transferred to the new academic building in 1895.

Professor of Drawing Charles Larned during a class on the top floor of the Academy, probably 1880s. This angle gives a nice look at the skylights and the ropes used to open them. The statue is a copy of the Apollo Belvedere in the Vatican collection. The frieze includes copies of the Borghese Dancers from the Louvre.

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Facing: The Academy building as arranged in December 1839. Just 15 months after opening, leaders at West Point had already modified the building, including the removal of walls and the addition of stairs and skylights. Plans drawn by 2LT Arden. NARA

Top: The rear of the 1838 Academy had a steep staircase that cadets used to get to section rooms and laboratories. The clock tower is an 1850s addition. GEORGE KENDALL/GETTY MUSEUM



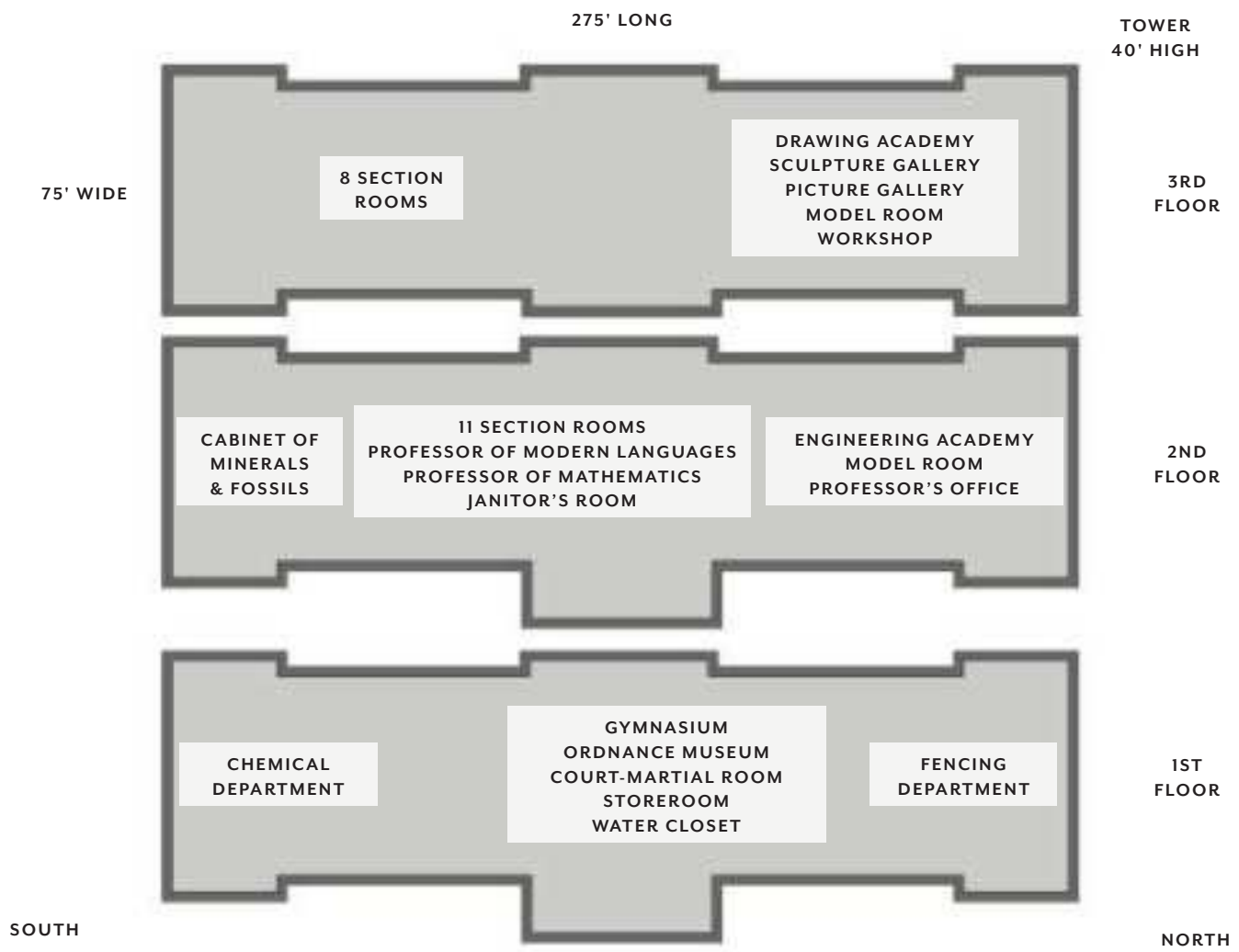
Bottom: Photos of the interior of the 1838 Academy are rare. This 1880s image shows the very crowded Ordnance Museum on the first floor. STODDARD, 1886

Facing, top: The Academy as arranged in 1889. The major change over the years was that the addition of a Riding Hall in the 1850s allowed a subdivision of the first floor. As there was no dedicated gymnasium until 1891-1892, this building remained an important area for physical activity. It also doubled as a location for hops and social events. In the 1860s, the south end of the third floor had an Artillery Model Room, a Mineralogical Recitation Room, a Geographical Room, and a Mathematical Model Room.

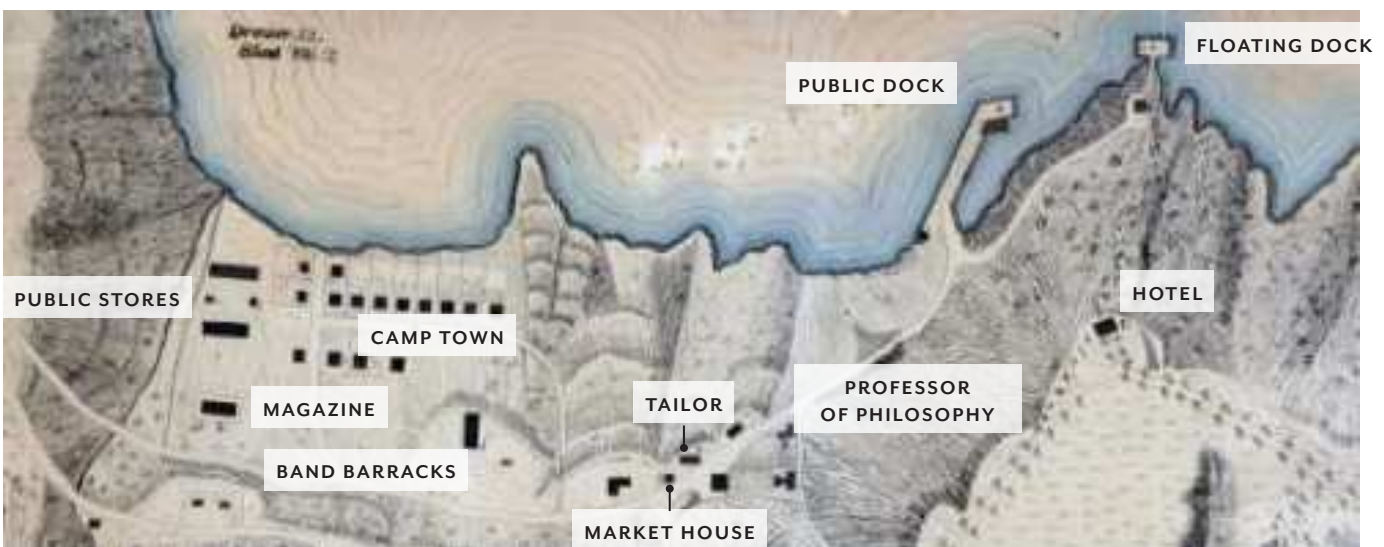
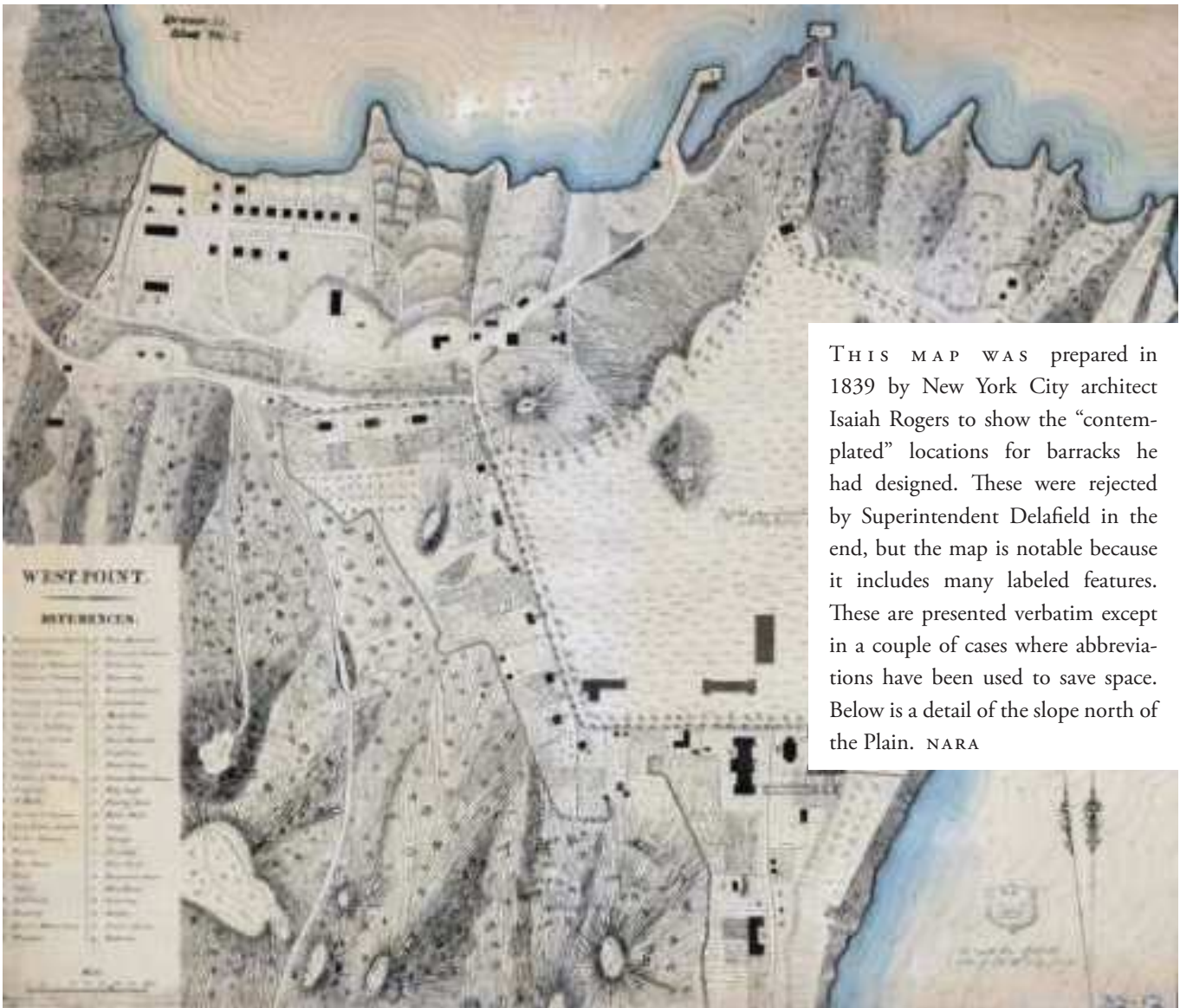
WILLIAMS, 1889; BOYNTON, 1864

Facing, bottom: The 1838 Academy was razed in the summer of 1891. This photo, dated July 29, 1891, gives a rare glimpse of the building's structure, including the width of the central hallway. The last section standing was the tower. It finally came down on August 22, 1891. USMA LIBRARY ASC





PROPOSED EXPANSION, 1839





Above is a proposed, but never built, Academy for Mineralogy and Chemistry, corresponding to the map on the right. It was drawn by 2LT I. Carle Woodruff, likely in 1838 before he left the Academy for his next post. The plan is signed by Superintendent De Russy but was forwarded to Washington with a letter by his successor, Major Richard Delafield. This building is decidedly Classical Revival in design—note the rounded arches—and, had it been adopted, there may have never been a Gothic West Point. It is unclear if architect Isaiah Rogers had any direct influence over the drawings. NARA

At right is a detail of the map showing Isaiah Rogers' suggestions for the location of new buildings. Building along this axis would not be adopted until Cullum Hall was built at the end of the 19th century.



MOST BOOKS THAT address West Point architecture emphasize the gray Gothic buildings. Of course, the Federal Superintendent's House and Neoclassical Old Cadet Chapel remind us that tastes change. The Gothic is so important to the West Point landscape, however, that it makes sense to discuss it in more detail.

Gothic architecture emerged in 11th century Europe, dominated there until the 16th century, but receded during the Renaissance. In the late 18th and early 19th century, it reemerged. Pointed arches are the defining characteristic of the style, but towers, medieval design elements, sallyports, large windows, dripstones (hoodmolds), and crenellated rooflines are all common.

There are four distinct types of Gothic architecture at West Point:

EARLY GOTHIC

Early Gothic institutional buildings, sometimes called Tudor Gothic, English Gothic, or Military Gothic. The term Elizabethan Gothic is commonly used in 1840s publications. This style was promoted by Superintendent Richard Delafield between the late 1830s and the early 1850s. Examples discussed in this book include the 1840 Ordnance Compound, the 1841 Library, and the 1851 Barracks. Delafield is credited with designing each of these buildings.

Gothic architecture was on the rise in the 1830s and the Hudson Valley was one of its centers. For example, the Lyndhurst

mansion in Tarrytown, designed by Alexander Jackson Davis, was finished in 1838 and would have been visible to West Point travelers riding steamboats to/from New York City. Even earlier, Gothic architecture was being used by colleges. Certainly, Delafield would have been aware of and likely seen the University of the City of New York's University Building designed by architects Ithiel Town, A.J. Davis, and James Dakin, as well as NYU engineer David B. Douglass. Douglass was an Assistant Professor when Delafield was a cadet. The University Building featured crenellations, towers, Gothic arches, buttresses, and dripstones (hoodmolds) that would also appear on Delafield's buildings.

Why Delafield chose Gothic is not entirely known. It was certainly a style on the rise at the time. Some argue that he thought it was appropriate for a military college. Scholars have also noted that Gothic was seen by some as a return to Christian themes after a period of Greco-Roman architecture.

GOthic REVIVAL HOUSES

At West Point, this style is mostly contained to the 1850s. The 1842 publication of *Cottage Residences* by Andrew Jackson Downing, illustrated by Alexander Jackson Davis, made Gothic Revival houses extremely popular from the 1840s until the 1880s. These homes are sometimes called Carpenter Gothic or "Gingerbread Houses" because of the decorative, carved

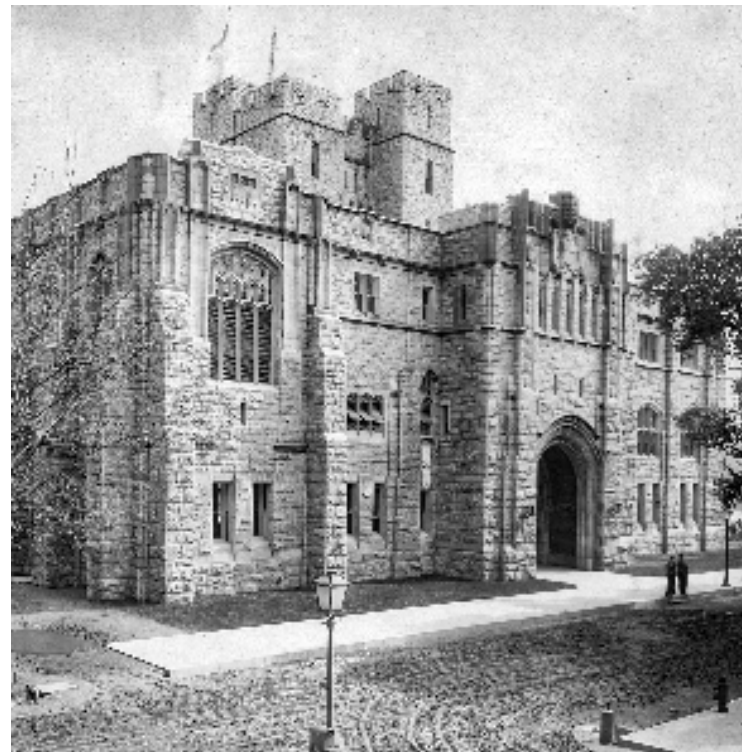
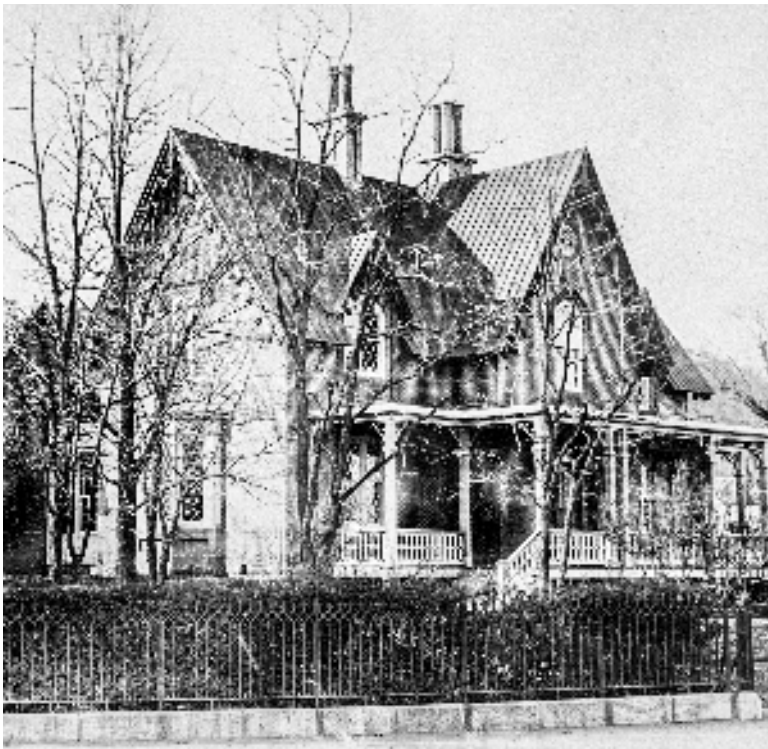
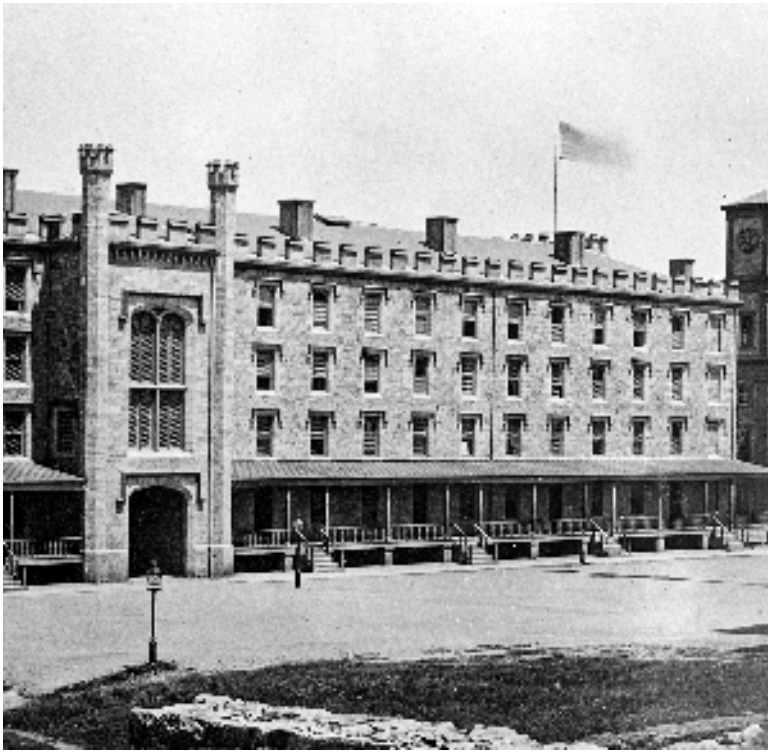
wood designs along the roofline. At West Point, several Gothic Revival houses were built in the 1850s.

HIGH VICTORIAN GOTHIC

High Victorian Gothic is seen in the 1870 Administration Building. This style was more eclectic because Gothic was no longer in revival. It was established, and therefore architects could stray a bit from orthodoxy. At West Point, the complex detailing of the building, mansard-esque roof, and tower are breaks from earlier Gothic buildings.

COLLEGIATE GOTHIC

Collegiate Gothic refers to the popularization of the style for institutional buildings that emerged primarily in the late 1800s, especially after architects Cope & Stewardson significantly expanded the Bryn Mawr campus and then were hired for buildings at Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and others. A proponent of this style was Ralph Adams Cram, whose firm Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson was awarded the USMA campus expansion after 1903. Charles Larned, Professor of Drawing and creator of preliminary Gothic designs for the 1900s expansion, believed that Collegiate Gothic as built at West Point merged militant medieval Gothic with Tudor Gothic common at famed academic institutions such as Oxford.



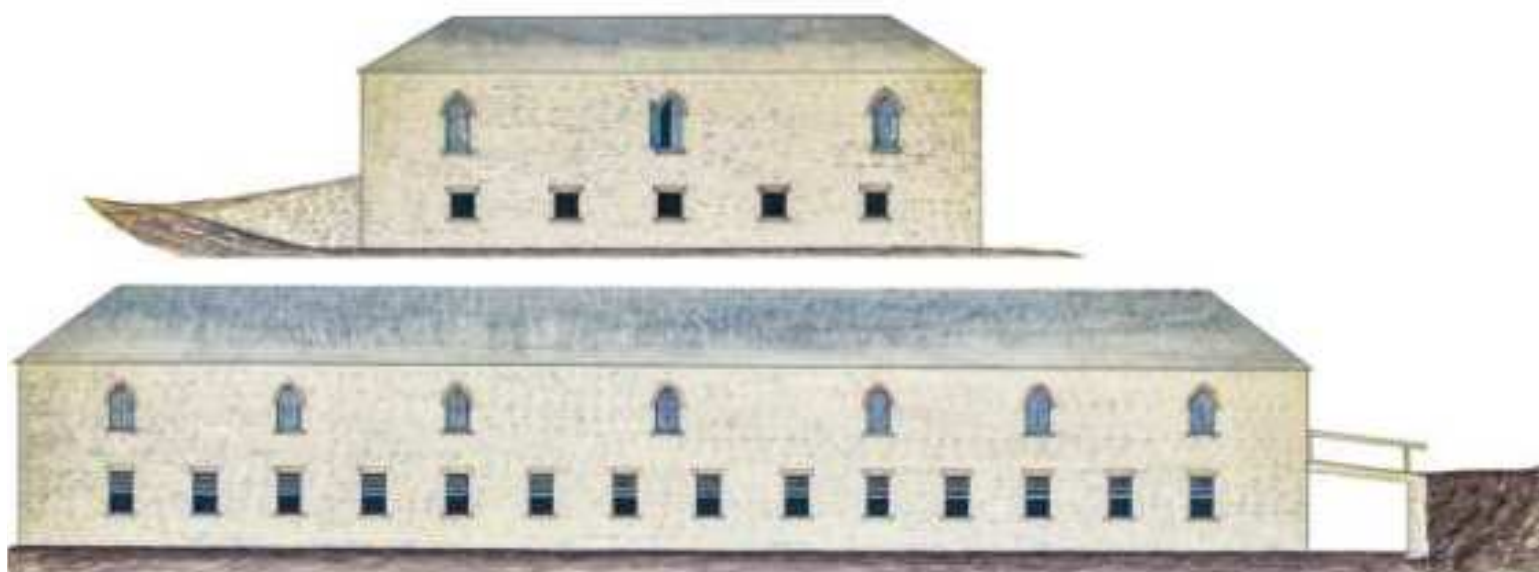
Above: What is now known as the Dean's House, built in the 1850s, is a fine example of a Gothic Revival house. This photo is from about 1870-1871 USMA LIBRARY ASC

Top, left: Gothic in the Delafield era. The 1851 Barracks as seen in about 1871. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Top, right: In 1870, the Academy built this High Victorian Gothic administration building. The tower, room, and details stray from designs from earlier in the century. This photo is dated 1903. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Above: This 1909 photo of the new Administration Building, now Taylor Hall, was one of several new buildings that served as a template for nearly all Collegiate Gothic buildings at West Point up to the present. USMA LIBRARY ASC

QUARTERMASTER STABLE, 1839 DRAGOON STABLE, 1839



Top: 1839 illustrations of the Quartermaster Stable (top) and Dragoons' Stable. Note the Gothic arches on the upper level. The stalls were on the lower floors with feed storage above. NARA

The long Dragoon Stable and shorter Quartermaster Stable were located close to today's Ike Hall. The Quartermaster building became part of the Gas Works and was torn down in 1936. The other building was in use until the late 1960s.

THESE TWO BUILDINGS may have been the first Gothic-inspired buildings at West Point. Both were completed in 1839 and designed by Superintendent Richard Delafield according to drawings submitted to the Chief Engineer in January 1841.

In the mid-1830s, the number of horses at the Academy increased rapidly as training evolved. Prior to this time, cadets dragged artillery pieces around using ropes. In 1837, an instructor of cavalry tactics was appointed and by 1839, a detachment of five dragoons and a sergeant had been relocated to West Point from Carlisle Barracks. The sergeant soon became a civilian riding instructor. At the same time, horses were purchased by the Quartermaster for artillery training.

Ahead of these changes, a letter from Delafield to Chief Engineer Gratiot on December 1, 1838, asked for approval and funding of Dragoon barracks and stables as well as a stable for the Quartermaster. The Superintendent promised that work could

begin as early as the spring of 1839. The Dragoon stable was estimated by Delafield to cost \$4,500, as it was to be a two-story stone building with a slate roof. This matches the 1841 drawing. Thus, 1839 or conservatively 1839–1840 are safe dates for construction. The stables were 155' by 23' and 75' by 23'.

Both of these stables were located where the ODIA building is now and would have been close to the Ordnance Compound being built at the time. The Quartermaster Stable, the smaller of the two, is visible in a photo found in an 1859 class album. The longer Dragoon Stable was closer to where Eisenhower Hall is today.

These large stone buildings are largely absent from West Point histories. One reason is that they were converted to other uses fairly quickly. Superintendent Robert E. Lee wrote to Totten in 1852 that one of the stables was dilapidated and unsafe. Soon, with the construction of new stables, the smaller of



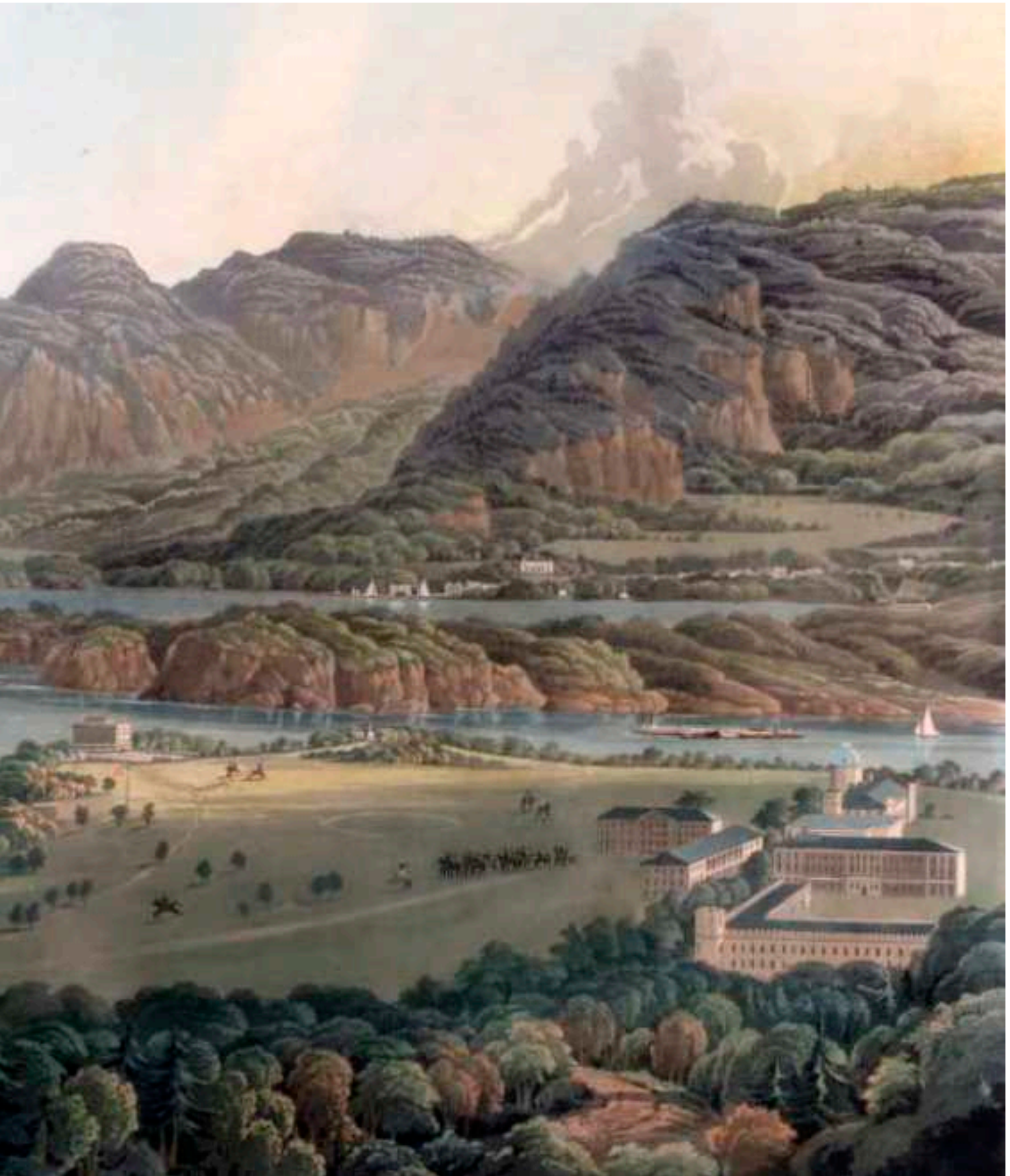
the two stables became part of a gas-house. Delafield proposed this use in a November 1856 letter. The Gas Works is dated to 1857. In the 1860s, the larger stable is said to be a storehouse. In the 1880s, it was being used as a public stable leased for \$100 a year for a public carrier, presumably an omnibus or livery service. Photos from the 1940s indicate that both stables had long lost their second floors. This could be a result of the problems mentioned by Lee in 1852. The smaller building was torn down in 1936 and the larger was razed to build Eisenhower Hall.

This photo from an 1859 class album looking north from Trophy Point shows the Quartermaster Stable on the left side. By this time, the building was part of the Gas Works; hence, the photo may be a few years old.

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WEST POINT IN THE 1840S

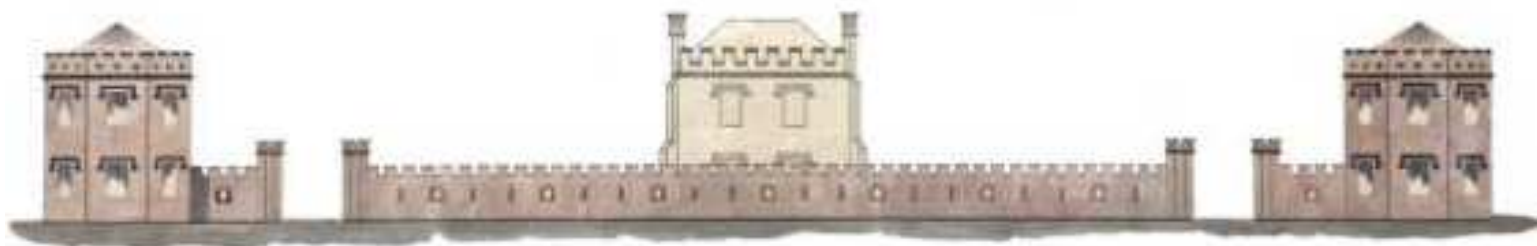




"View of West Point." 1848. Artist: Robert Havell.

MABEL BRADY GARVAN COLLECTION, YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

ORDNANCE & ARTILLERY LABORATORY, 1840



Above: A rendering of the new “work shops” included in correspondence from Richard Delafield to the Engineer Department, February 1840. NARA

Facing, top: An 1870-71 photo of the east side of the Ordnance Compound showing the original diamond-pane windows. Gothic details include dripstones, towers, crenellation, and pointed arches (in the wall). The flanking buildings have small skylights.

JOHN PITMANZ/USMA LIBRARY ASC

Facing, bottom: An early photo from an 1857 class album shows the western side of the Compound. The hill on the left has been altered over the decades. USMA LIBRARY ASC

THE ORDNANCE COMPOUND is architecturally significant because it is the oldest Gothic building at the Academy and the most intact from the mid-19th century. While the building has few large pointed arches, it has crenellations, towers, dripstones, and buttresses common in Gothic architecture.

In 1837, the Government appropriated \$8,000 for a “yard and workshops.” Early plans for a new Library meant that the gun shed and laboratory on the Plain would have to be moved. By the 4th quarter of 1838, \$1,595.35 had been expended, a sign that construction, or at least ordering of materials, was underway. Records indicate that stone was being ordered throughout 1839 and some roofs were being tinned by the middle of that year. Painted renderings of the building sent to Washington in 1840 by Superintendent Richard Delafield, the building’s designer, imply that the blacksmith shop on the east side of the structure may not have been completed yet. The smithy is presented as an outline while other parts of the building are depicted with color. But there is also no indication that the building was completed much later than the rest. Thus, we can date the building’s construction to 1838-1840 with some confidence.

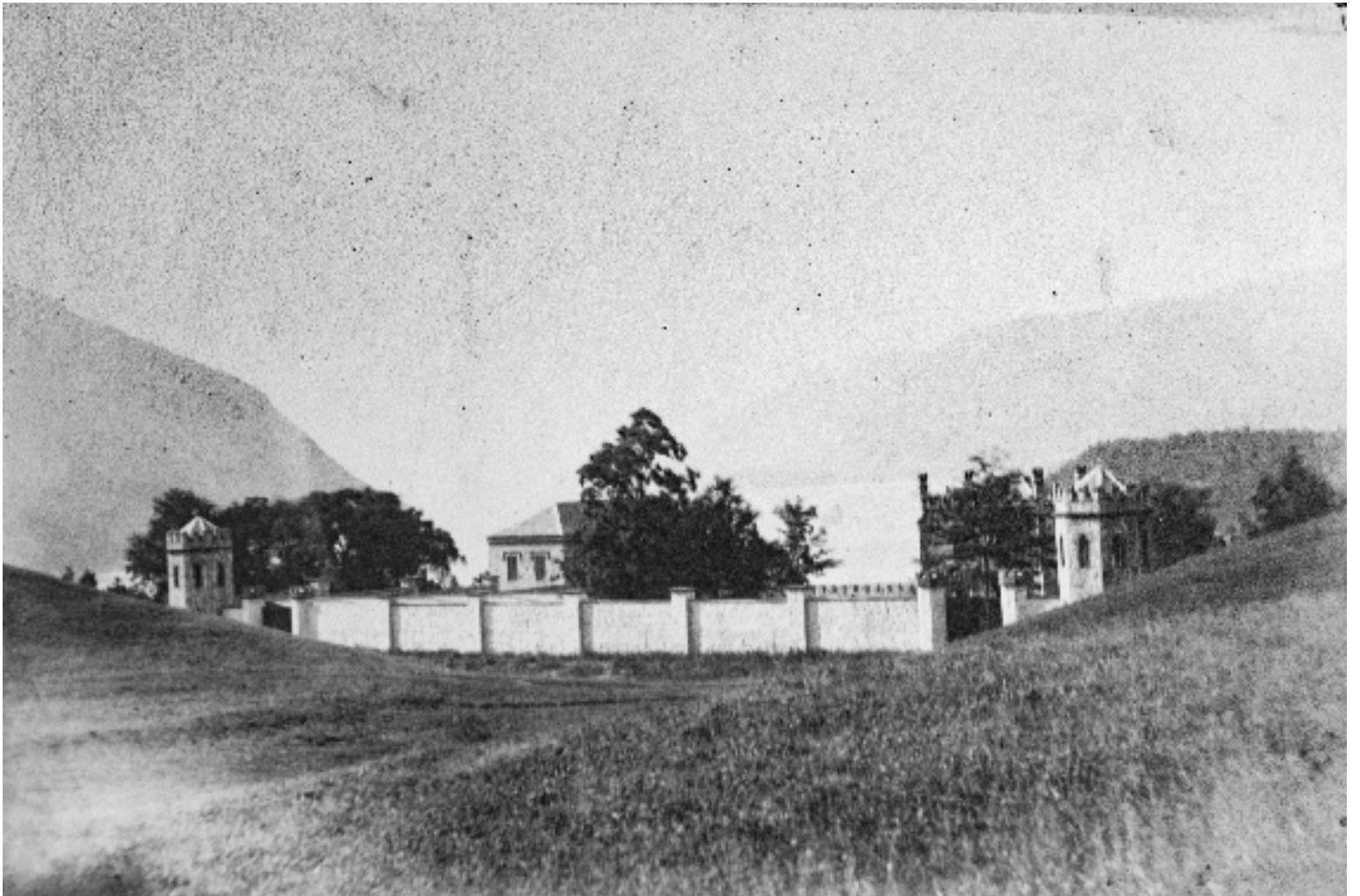
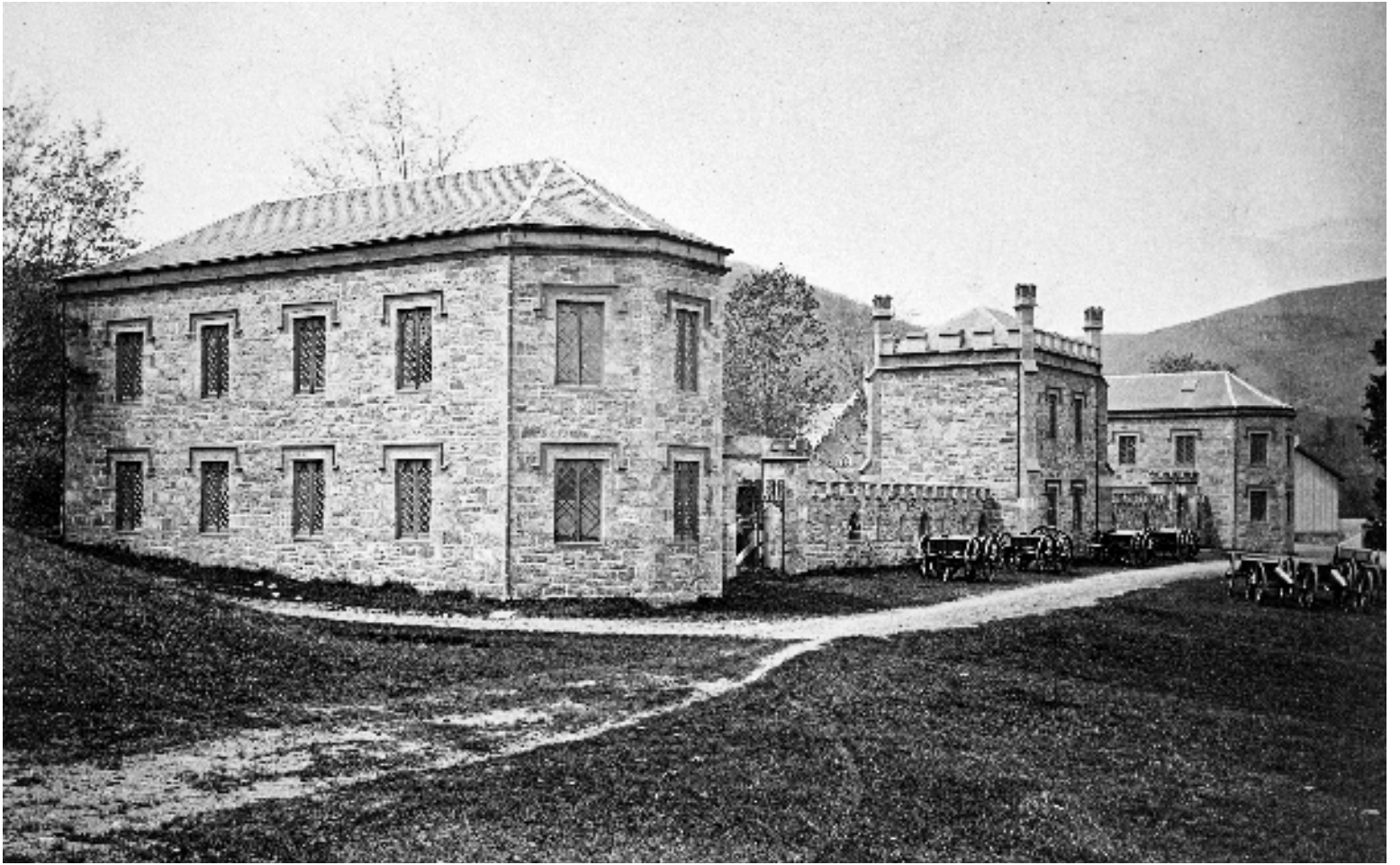
Attached to the outside walls are one stone building centered on the eastern wall and two flanking, elongated structures. The central building has had numerous modifications to openings over

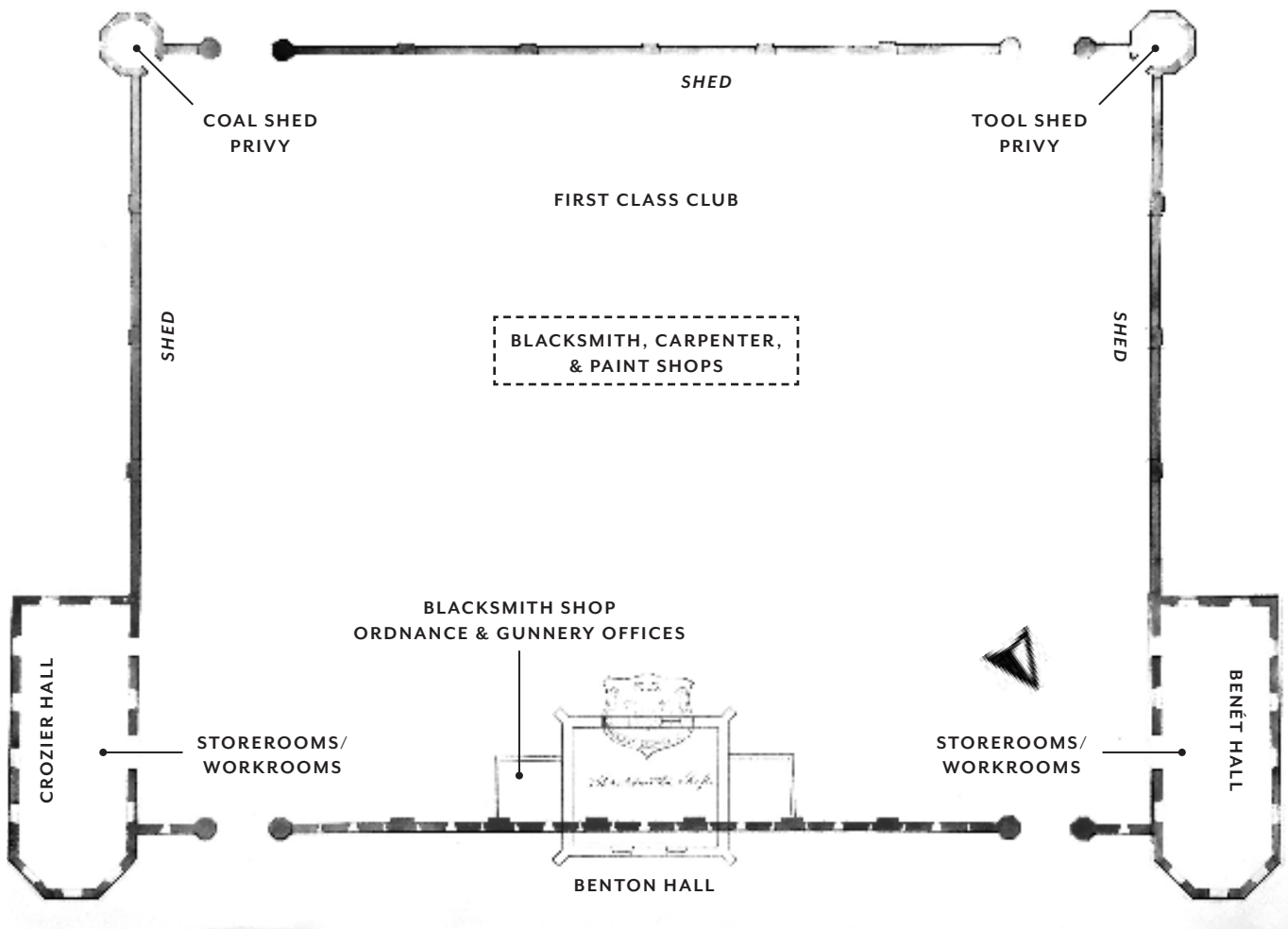
the decades, with windows and doors becoming doors and windows and then switching back again. There is evidence, for example, of stairs that once went to the second story. The original windows in the compound were diamond-paned, but these were replaced in the 1870s.

The space within the walls of the structure was designed to be utilitarian, including the making of ammunition, the repair of ordnance equipment, and hands-on instruction of cadets. The 1840 rendering describes the building as “the Work shops, store houses, and Yard enclosed for Quarter Master supplies.” Until into the 20th century, the outer walls on all but the eastern side were lined with simple, open sheds 14’ wide and 8’ high. The use of the flanking buildings changed over time, but one or both seem to have served as storehouses at times. For a few decades in the 20th Century, the side buildings were used as enlisted quarters. The central building on the east side became offices for the Ordnance Detachment.

The octagonal towers on the eastern side are identified as water closets (privies) in 1889, but the 1840 plan lists the southernmost tower as a “coal-house” and the northern one a “tool-house.” When they were adapted to restrooms or ceased being used as necessaries is unknown. The towers serve as storage today.

The building in the middle of the compound seems to date to the 1880s. It is not on an 1877-1878 map by 1LT



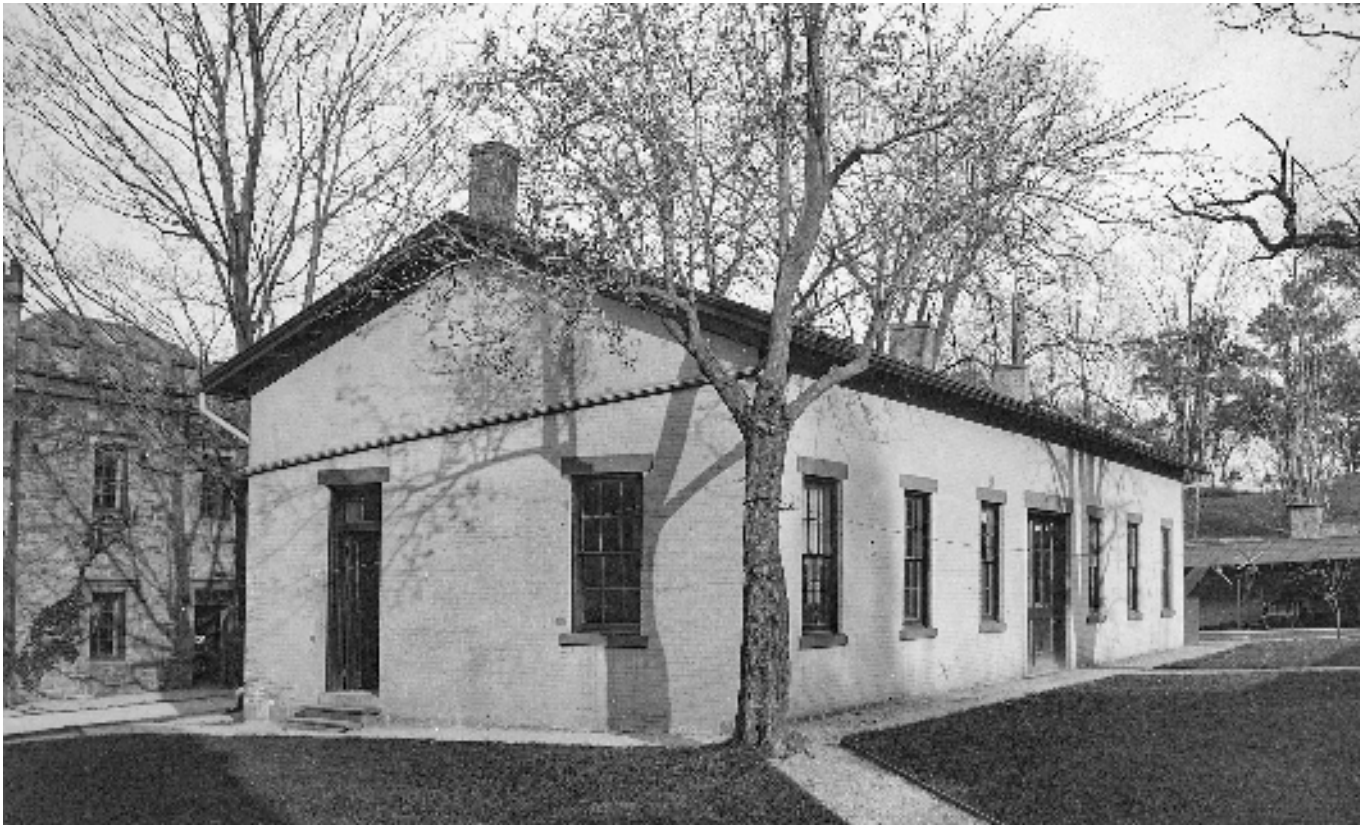


Above: The shape of the Ordnance Compound has not changed since this 1840 drawing. The labels show the use of the space in 1840 (bold text) and 1889 (italics). The building in the middle is mentioned by Quartermaster Williams in an 1889 report and is on an 1891 map, but is not on 1877 or 1883 maps. Furthermore, it is not visible in an image from the Civil War era. Thus, the building can be dated with some confidence to the 1880s. The exact 1840 uses of the side buildings are unknown. The three original buildings are now named Crozier Hall, Benton Hall, and Benét Hall. NARA

Henry A. Reed nor an 1883 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map surveyed in 1880. It is, however, mentioned by USMA Quartermaster Williams in 1889 and is on an 1891 map by Cadet Butler Ames. Early on, it held paint, carpentry, and blacksmith workshops. In 1910-1911, the building was expanded and provided electricity and steam heating. It is worth noting that this space was used for cadet instruction. The Ordnance Department largely moved instruction to the East Academic Building (now Bartlett Hall) in 1913.

In 1939, the brick building became Ordnance barracks, but this use was short-lived. In 1947, it became a Signal Corps workshop for developing and storing film. A decade later, the entire compound became a cadet recreational space, and by the early 1960s, the central brick building was formally the First Class Club. The “Firstie Club” has had numerous alterations and upgrades since the 1960s, but the original brick building hides underneath.





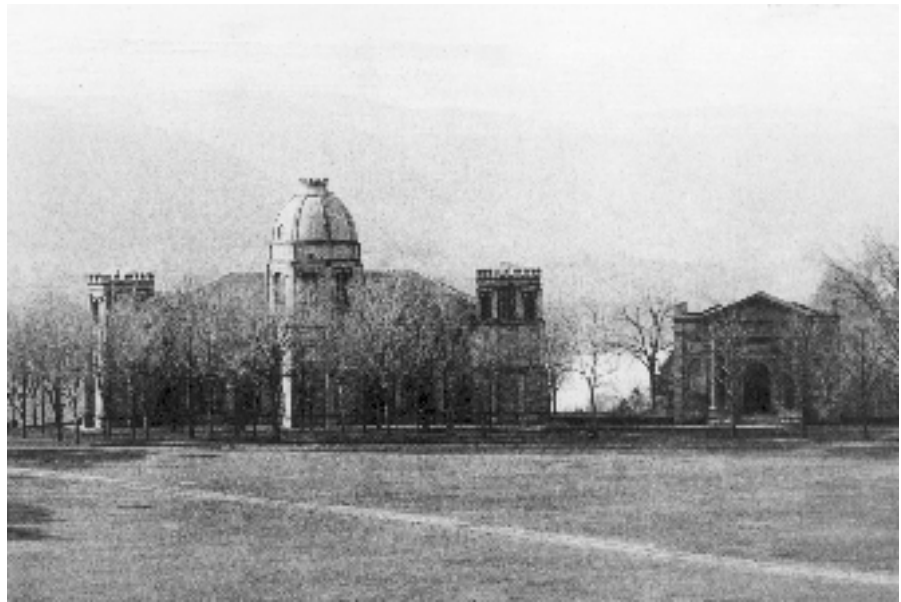
Above: An early 20th century photo shows the 1880s brick workshop that, over time and after numerous additions and modifications, became the First Class Club. This original structure can be partially seen on the back of the Firstie Club. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Right: A rare photo of the inside of the Ordnance Compound showing the sheds along the walls and mortars captured in the war with Mexico. Before guns and other items were displayed on Trophy Point, this space served the role of an outdoor museum. There were some Mexican mortars on Trophy Point by the 1860s, meaning that this photo could be from as early as the late 1850s, but an accurate date is unknown.

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Facing, bottom: Examples of Gothic details on the Ordnance Compound today, including pointed arches, dripstones, towers, and crenellation.





Above: The 1841 Library was located on the site now occupied by part of Bartlett Hall and across the street from Jefferson Hall, the current Library.

Top: The 1841 Library and 1836 Chapel on the Plain, mid-19th century.

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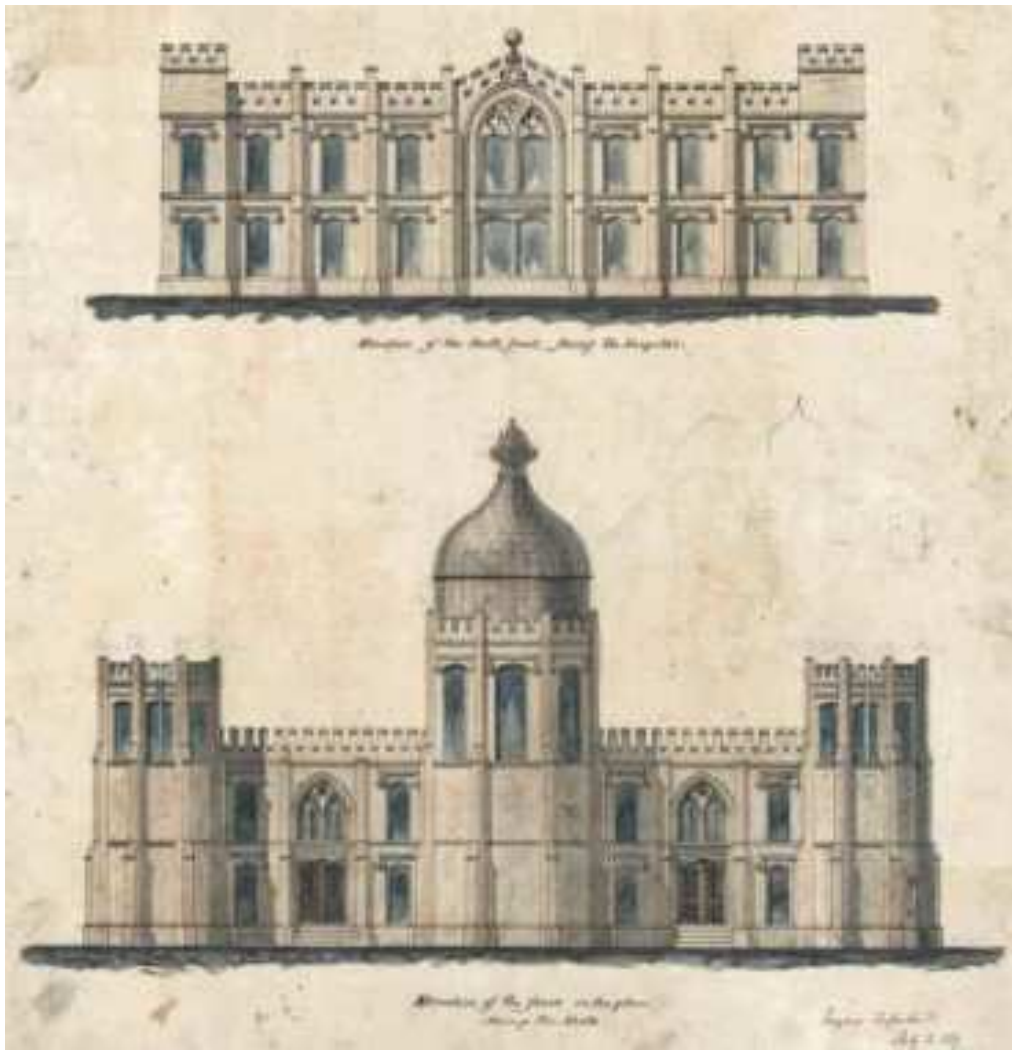
Right: An 1838 proposed design for a building to house the Library and Philosophical Department maintained the neoclassical look of the 1838 Academy. Superintendent Delafield switched to a Gothic design, but the basic interior layout of the Library on one end and academic space on the other was maintained. NARA

THE HISTORY OF the 1841 Library is complicated. The February 1838 fire that destroyed the Academy caused problems for the administration. First, changes had to be made to the new Academy building that was under construction. Second, leaders sought to replace two key functions of the earlier building, a library and a place for teaching natural philosophy (physics). By June, Superintendent De Russey had plans for a new building that matched the neoclassical design (arches and columns) of the new Academy building.

Nevertheless, De Russey's superintendency was ending and Richard Delafield

took over in September of that year. He rejected the De Russey design, but the interior layout, with the library on one end and the Philosophical Academy on the other, resembles the building eventually built. Delafield assembled a committee of officers—Mahan, Bartlett, and Clark—to draft a plan for new buildings. Consultations with architects Isaiah Rogers and Frederick Diaper did not yield plans that Delafield accepted. The input of architect Robert Mills was more influential, although Delafield made modifications of his own. The plan that emerged was for Elizabethan Gothic designs and a rearrangement of key





Architect Robert Mills' 1839 plan for the Library certainly impacted the final design. Delafield rejected the ogee (double-curved) dome and proposed an elliptical dome. Chief Engineer Totten pushed back on that choice and the final dome is a hybrid. NARA

buildings to a location along the edge of the Plain, where Cullum Hall and Lincoln Hall are today. In the end, the relocation was rejected. The decision was also made during this period to include an observatory.

A July 1839 design by Mills shows most of the features that would end up on the final building, including pointed arches, dripstones, towers, buttresses, and crenellations. Mills' drawing was partially approved by the Secretary of War in the summer of 1839, with some changes. The Academy then made other modifications, despite Chief Engineer Totten repeatedly reminding Delafield of the approval of the Mills plan. The final building resembles Mills' plan, but nearly every detail was different. Mills' choice of an ogee (double-curved) dome would be modified by Delafield to a rounded shape,

but this change was rejected by the Chief Engineer, and the final design contained a more pointed dome.

Even if the building designs were not entirely finalized, accounting records show that construction was underway in 1839. The stone for the building was likely from multiple sources. Sources say that most of the rock was local, but the brownstone trim was purchased from Chatham, Connecticut. There are also payments for shipments of granite. It seems that the main buttress supports were granite and the walls were local rubble stone. The sandstone was for details such as the hoodmolds and water table. The building's dimensions were 160' by 78'.

With construction underway, Professor William Bartlett obtained permission to go to Europe to visit the leading observatories and astronomical

equipment manufacturers. He was away from the Academy from July to November 1840. His recommendations led to the purchase of three pieces of equipment for the top of the new building. Each of the building's three towers housed a separate piece of equipment. Each piece of equipment rested on brick columns that traveled through the building without touching the surrounding structure. The columns rested on gravel 12' below the ground.

On the middle tower was an equatorial telescope with a mechanism by Thomas Grubb of Dublin, Ireland, and telescope section by Lerebours. Surrounding the device was a 27' dome that rotated on six 24-pound cannon balls set in a cast iron groove. The two side towers also housed equipment. In the east tower was a transit instrument by Ertel & Son of Munich for



measuring star positions. The west tower held a mural circle by William Simms of London, used to measure the angular height of a star.

The building's interior had an asymmetrical layout. On the east end was the library, consisting of two large spaces, 46' square and 31' high. The second level was an open gallery overlooking the first floor. Books lined the walls. The building was divided down the middle. On the western side, the two floors held smaller rooms. For a few decades, some of these served as offices for the Superintendent, Adjutant, Treasurer, and Quartermaster. The second floor included spaces for housing philosophical apparatuses and for teaching cadets.

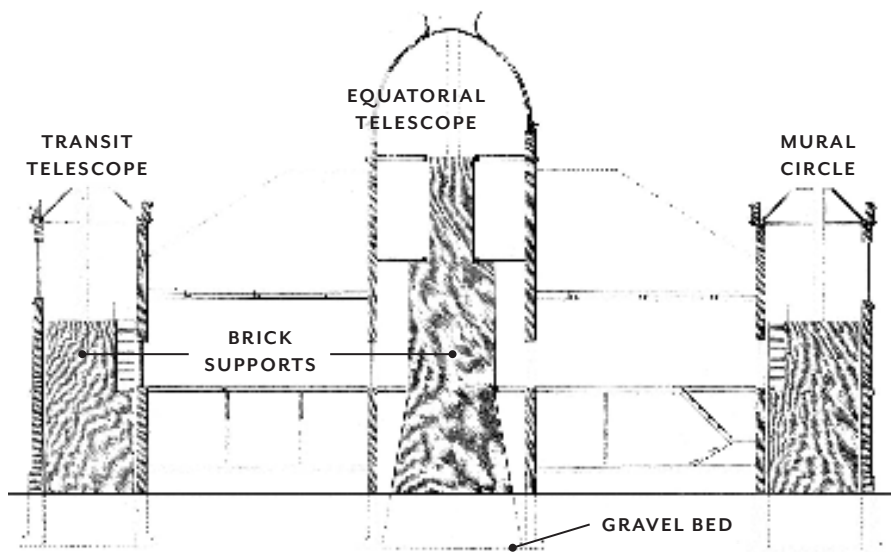
Over time, the interior was modified. When the Academy built an administration building in 1870, key offices moved

there and the west end of the Library expanded its academic spaces. In 1889, it had three recitation rooms (classrooms) on the first floor and a large lecture hall, 49' by 45'4", on the second. A new 10" refractor telescope was purchased in 1856, but the construction of a train tunnel under the Plain in the 1870s and 1880s made the instruments unusable and a new observatory opened on the hill near what is now Lusk Reservoir in 1883.

In 1895, plans for a Library renovation were drawn up and funded by Congress. Famed architect Richard Morris Hunt worked on the designs, but he died the same year and work was continued by his son R.H. Hunt. George Goethals supervised the work after contractors backed out. After removing all books, remodeling began in October 1899. The academic spaces were eliminated, interior walls

removed, and the space used specifically as a library expanded to occupy the entire building. The spaces used for astronomical equipment were converted, the brick support columns taken out, and the roof dome removed. The Library reopened in October 1901, but work continued for several years afterward, including making attic and basement spaces more usable and the introduction of electric fixtures.

In December 1954, an addition on the back of the building was completed and became known as the Bryant E. Moore Wing. The 1841 structure was emptied in October 1961 and razed almost immediately. The Moore Wing is now part of Bartlett Hall, but few traces remain of the original Library. A few stones from its exterior are now in the wall of Bartlett Hall, near the stairs that lead down into Thayer Hall.

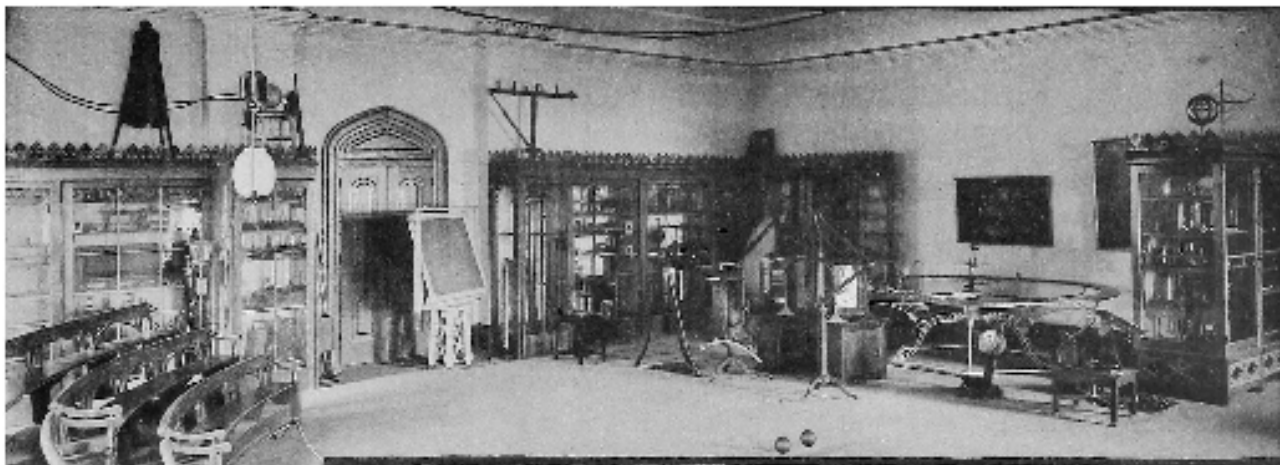


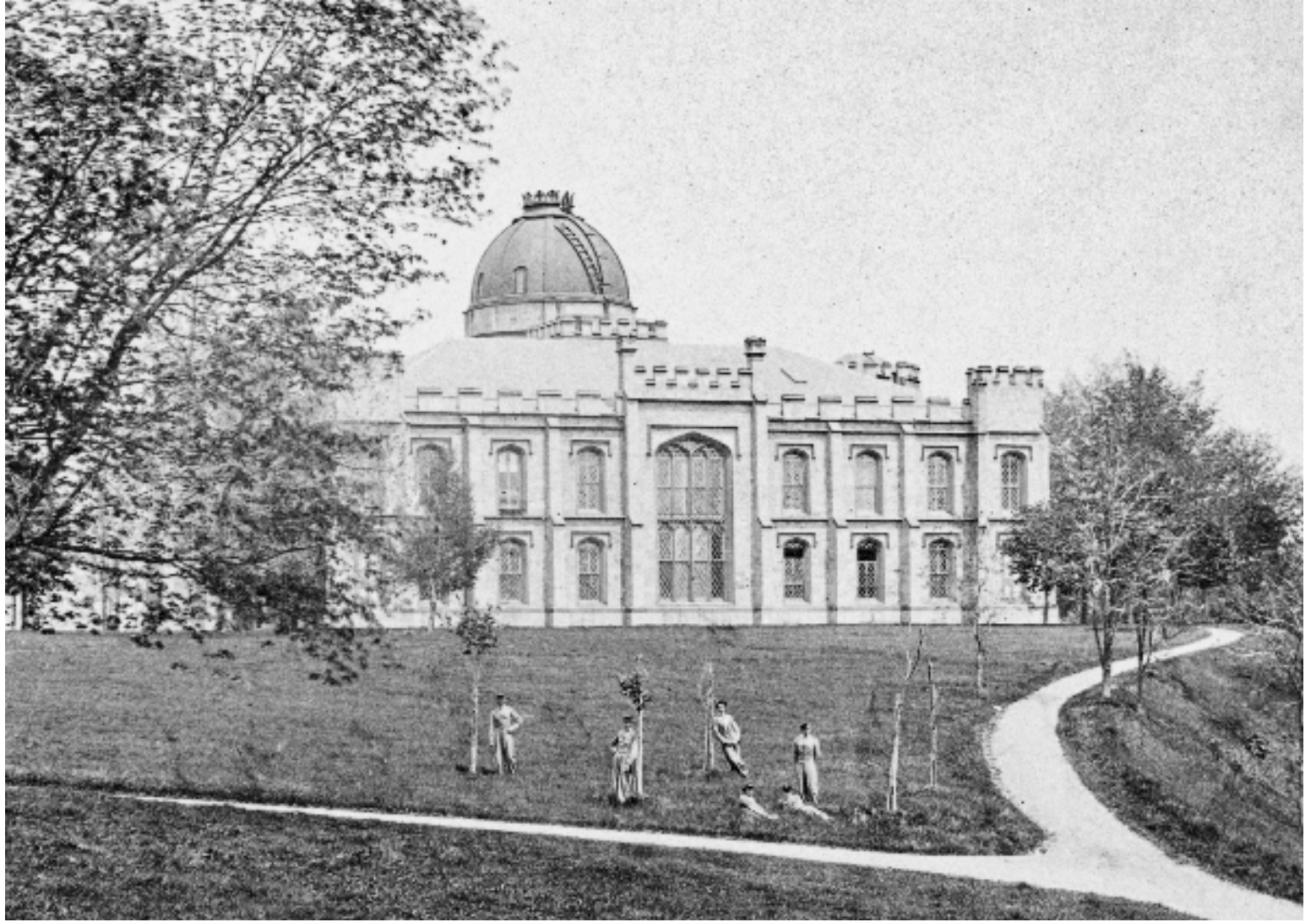
Over its history, this building was called the Library, the Observatory and Laboratory, the Philosophical Building, the Library and Observatory, and other similar names.

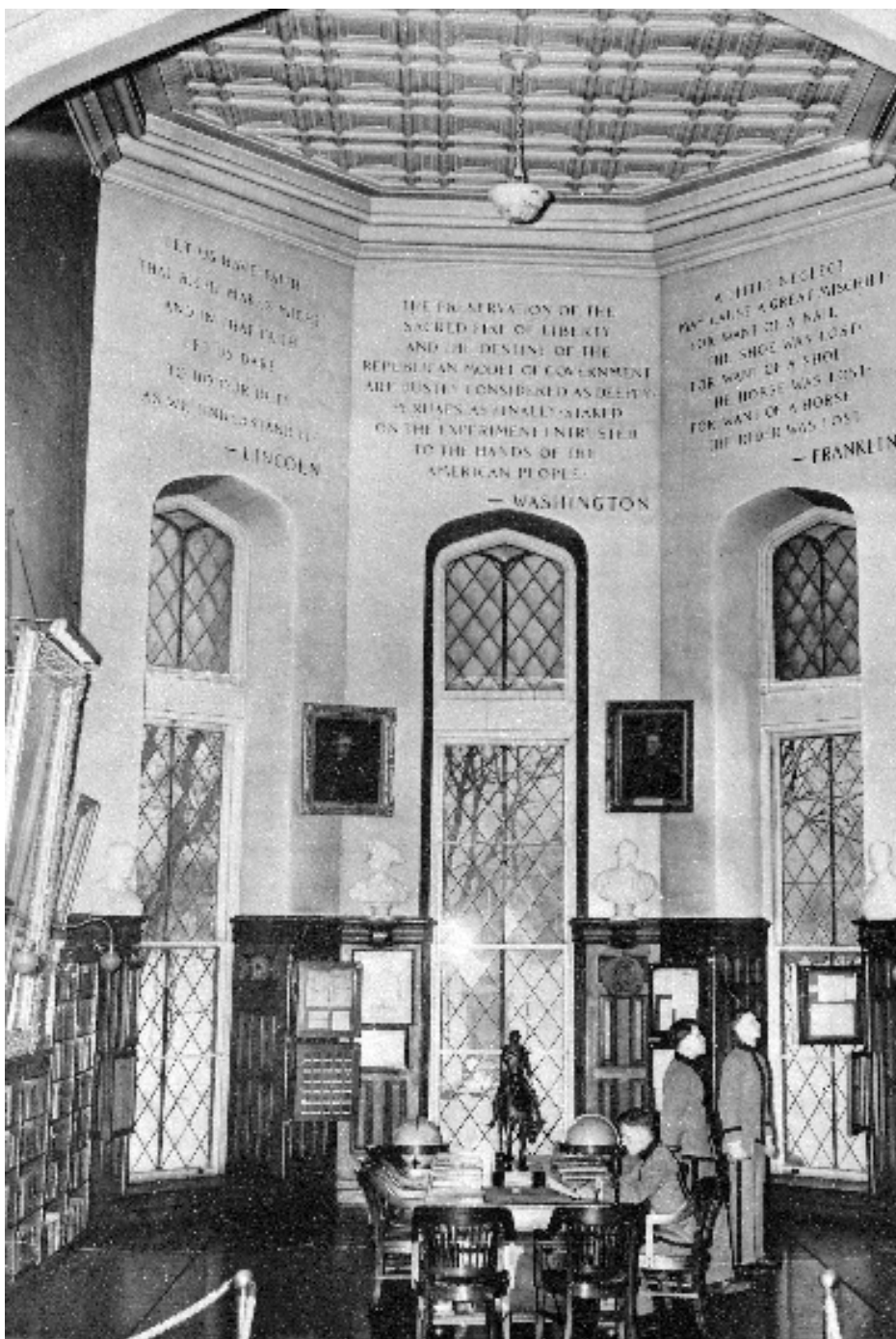
Facing: The interior of the Library, about 1875. This is looking west toward the center wall separating this area from the academic side of the building. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Above: The equipment at West Point made it an important early American observatory. BARTLETT, 1845

Below: At left, a rare view of the academic side of the 1841 Library. The philosophical lecture room was for displaying and teaching from models. At right, is another look at the library side. STODDARD, 1885







Facing, top: The beautiful south face of the Library, 1870.

JOHN PITMAN/USMA LIBRARY ASC

Facing, bottom: An early 1900s image showing the expanded library space after renovations and the removal of teaching spaces. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Mid-20th century image showing the interior of the Library.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING



Top: The dome was removed when the Library was renovated at the turn of the 20th century. This photo is dated 1904-1905.

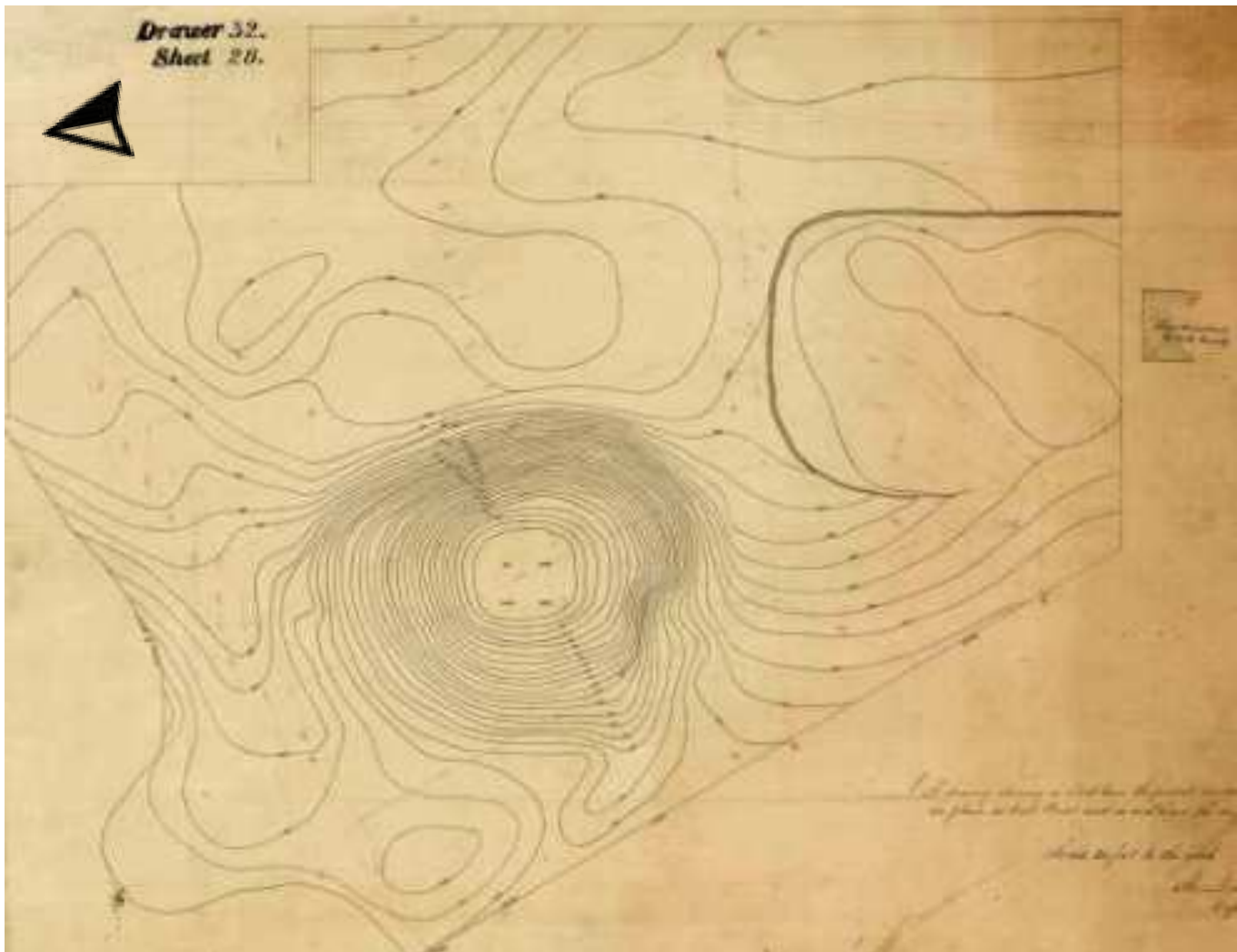
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Bottom: Cadets watching the demolition of the Library in February 1962.

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EXECUTION HOLLOW, 1843



SUPERINTENDENT DELAFIELD SENT a map to the Chief Engineer's office in 1843 to show plans for level parts of the Plain. Because there are no photographs of the Plain before it was evened out, the detailed section of the map above is invaluable to understanding the size and shape of Execution Hollow.

The depression was likely a glacial kettle formed when ice sheets retreated from the Highlands leaving a piece of ice in the Plain. When the ice melted, a hole was left behind. As depicted here, the Hollow was over 300 feet across on both its north-south and east-west axes. The bottom was 30' below the rim.

The other interesting feature is the rectangular, flat area adjacent to North Barracks. How much of this area was natural and how much leveled for an activity space is not known. The flat area is not shown on any other map found during the research for this book.

The above map shows a portion of the Plain with Execution Hollow. Because the contour intervals are 1', it is a very detailed snapshot of the landscape. NARA

Below: This 3D rendering shows the contour lines on the map above looking west to east across the Plain in 1843, the year the map was created. For scale, the white cubes are about 12' feet on a side. RENDERING BY AUTHOR



TRADER'S STORE, 1843



THIS BUILDING IS listed in 1889 as being built in 1843. It is close to the same location as buildings on earlier maps, but its connections, if any, to older buildings is unclear. Williams, the 1889 source, calls this the Trader's Store. An 1883 map has it labeled as Post Sutler's Store. An early 20th century photo is labeled the "Meat Market", and a 1940 inventory calls it the Post Exchange Market. These various names are listed to emphasize that while what the building was called varied, it seems to have been steadily used as a retail space.

An 1889 report notes that the store occupied the first floor of the building and that there was storage space above. Some late 19th century maps show another building, or a connected section, on the west side. This second building may be an addition from 1868 that cost \$385, as noted in the Report of the Post Fund (see page 125 for information on the Post Fund). No addition is visible in 20th century photos.



The 1843 store was located close to where Eisenhower Hall is located today (see top left). The photo on the top right is undated, but the car is from the 1920s. The photo directly above is from the early 1900s. The building in the background is the Band Barracks.

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This photo of the 1849 cottage dates from about 1870-1871.

2LT JOHN PITMAN/USMA LIBRARY ASC

THIS COTTAGE, PUT up between July and December 1849, was built with money from the USMA Post Fund, a locally-controlled pot of money that grew out of accounts begun during Thayer's superintendency to handle revenue such as the sale of wood on government lands and, over time, sales of goods on post and rentals of buildings, including the West Point Hotel.

Located south of the 1830 hospital, this building was rented for decades to Francis Newlands, longtime disbursing

officer and Quartermaster's clerk. He began working at USMA in 1847 and passed away at West Point in 1892. He worked at least until 1889.

Over time, the house lost a chimney and received new windows, but kept its overall appearance. It was torn down in 2021 because of the construction of the Cyber & Engineering Academic Center.

CADET PRIVY, 1849

WORK ON A latrine to complement the new Cadet Barracks (see pages 134-143) began at least as early as 1847, when plans were sent to Washington. There is also discussion by letter between the Chief Engineer and the Academy about privy design. Another set of plans, dated March 1849, and marked “approved”, likely corresponds closely to what was built. The completion date is uncertain, but may have been as early as the summer of 1849 as the Board of Visitors report from that summer refers to one completed out-building. This would also make sense given that the Cadet Barracks were partially occupied by the end of that summer.

The Privy was located across the barracks yard from the cadet rooms. Today, the location would be under Bradley “Long” Barracks. It was reported that 1,000 cubic yards of rock were removed to create the barracks yard, aka Central Area.

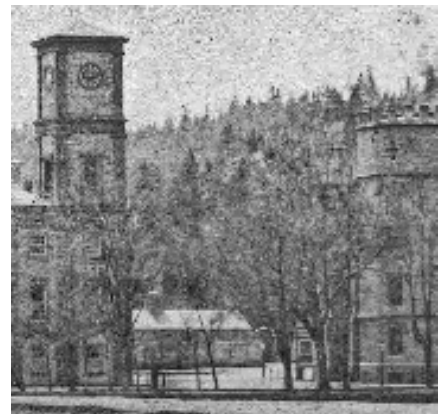
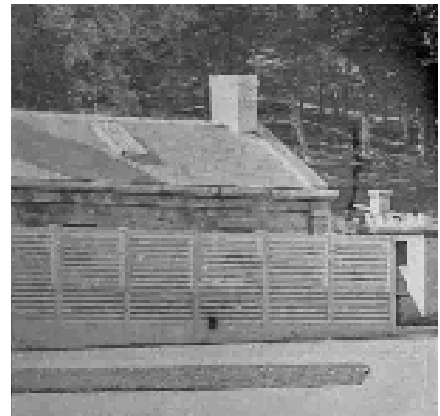
The building was stone and measured approximately 64’x23’, although the 1849 plans and later measurements are not entirely in agreement. Based on the plans, it was likely built with 24 water closets (toilets) and 20 urinals. Fireplaces on both ends provided heat and light may have come from skylights, not included on the 1849 plans but visible in photos from 20 years later. Photos show that the building had a fence in front of it blocking much of it from view, possibly because of the nature of the building.

Beneath the entire structure was an elliptical vault lined with brick that sloped down to the east. At the bottom

it connected, after a trap and gate, to a large brick sewer line that drained much of Central Area and dumped into the Hudson River near South Dock. A water reservoir on the uphill side of the vault allowed the line to be flushed periodically.

The toilet seats were 32” above the floor with two steps. Drawings indicate that the seats may have been connected to the doors by pulleys (“lid down, door closed”), but it is unclear if this was implemented. In 1847, Chief Engineer Totten recommended a “stout plank above [the seat] to enforce a sitting posture.”

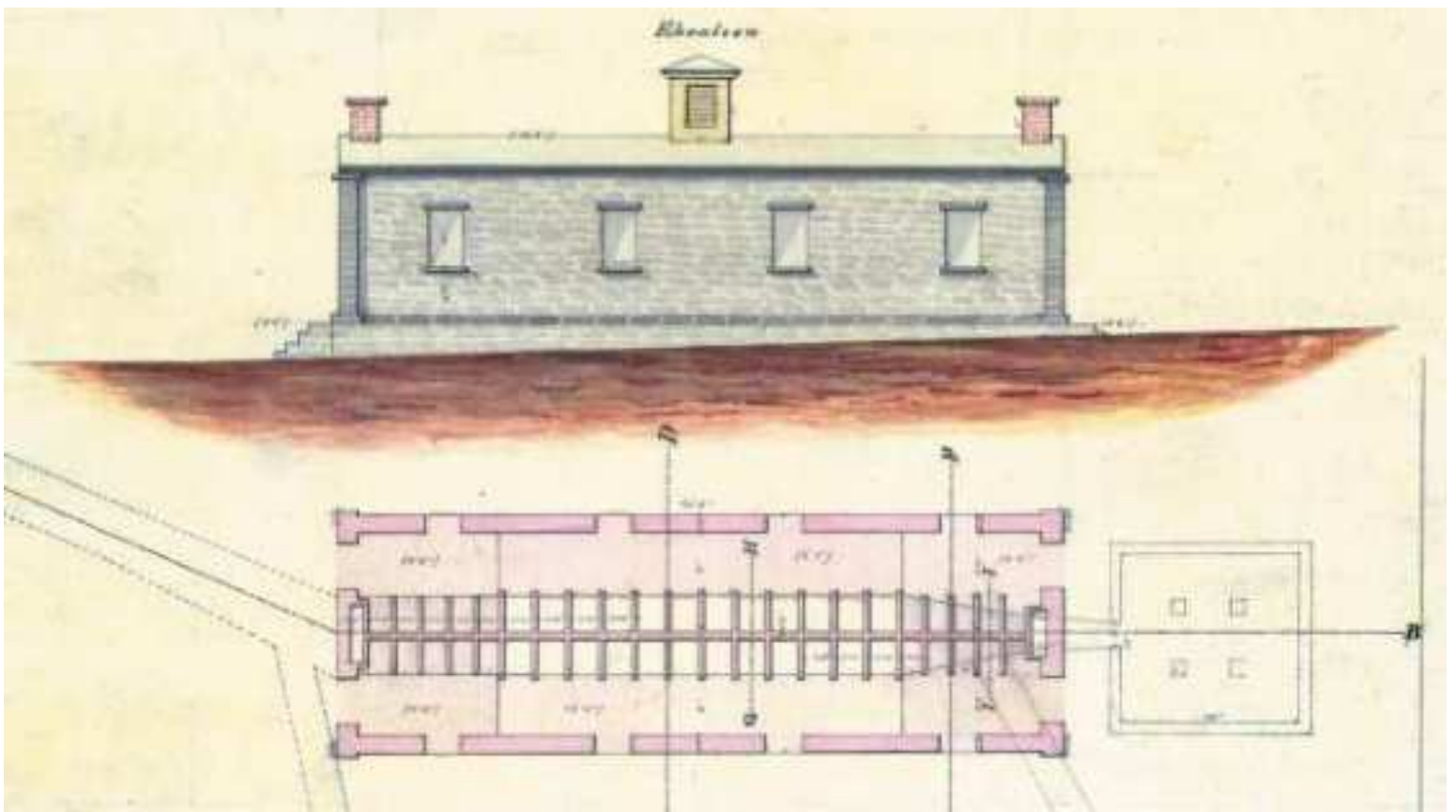
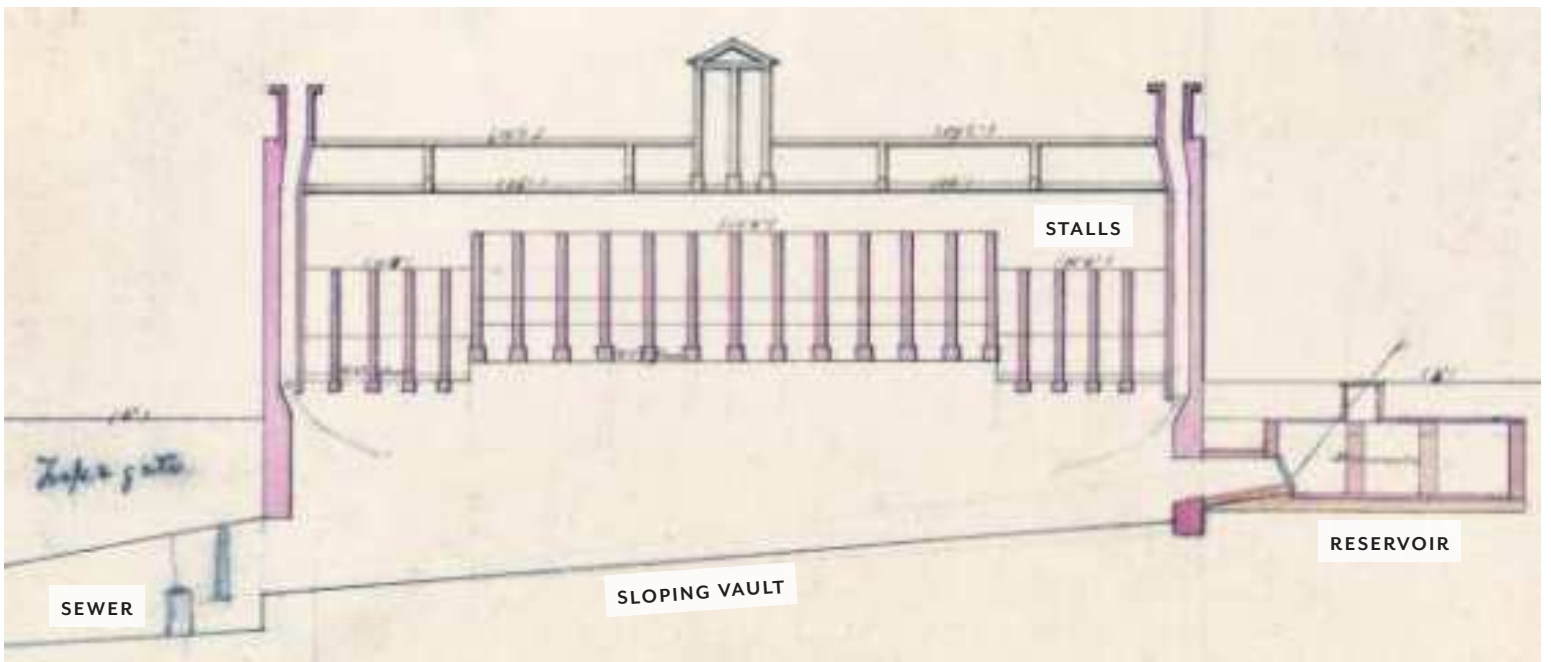
Sometime before the late 1880s, a second privy was added near the first. It was brick and measured 29.75’x10’. Additionally, before 1879, “hopper closets” were added. These toilets were a precursor to modern designs and had water flushing and an S-curve below to reduce odor. By 1884, the open pit under the urinals and toilets was no longer used and each was attached directly to a sewer pipe running through the vault. It is unclear if this was added at the same time as the hopper closets. The Cadet Privy was used until the early 20th century when toilets and urinals were installed in the basement of the Barracks.



Top: The 1870 photo above shows the west end of the Cadet Privy. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Bottom: Cadet Privy was visible from the Plain in this photo, framed by the Academic Building (L) and the Barracks (R).

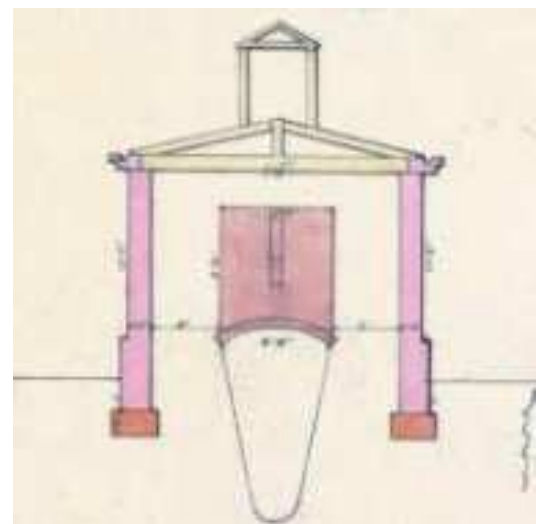
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Top: This detail below from an 1849 plan shows the stalls of the Cadet Privy (see page 126) and the deep vault underneath. On the right is the water reservoir used for flushing out the vault. On the left is a trap and gate and the connection to the sewer. NARA

Middle: The rendering above closely matches the limited photos of the Cadet Privy that have survived with the exception of skylights seen in some images. The drawings on this page are by Second Lieutenant Barton S. Alexander, Superintending Engineer of the construction of the Cadet Barracks, the Mess Hall, and other projects of the time. NARA

Right: A cross-section showing the elliptical vault. NARA



WEST POINT IN THE 1850-1860S





"Untitled." 1854. Photographer Victor Prévost.

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POST OFFICE, 1850



THIS SMALL HOUSE was built to be the residence of the postmaster and also to serve as the main post office. The building was needed because the previous location of the post office was in the North Barracks and scheduled to be razed when new barracks were finished. The cottage is significant because it seems to be the first of a handful of Gothic Revival houses built at the Academy in the 1850s.

Gothic Revival houses were quite fashionable in the 1840s and 1850s, due to publications such as those by New Yorker Alexander Jackson Davis and the Newburgh-born Andrew Jackson Downing. The style is characterized by steeply-pitched, cross – gabled roofs, decorative bargeboard along the roofline, pointed Gothic windows, and details such as one-story porches. The 1850 Post Office contained many Gothic Revival elements, although the pointed windows are not really arched.

The cottage was started in November 1849 and occupied in May 1850, although there are hints that the building was not quite finished. It was outfitted to be a post office on the east end with the rest of the space dedicated to quarters for the postmaster. Until the 1890s, it was occupied by the widow and daughter of

USMA French professor Claudius Berard, who died in 1848. Mary Berard was postmaster from 1848 to 1871 and her daughter Augusta Blanche Berard took over from 1871 to 1897.

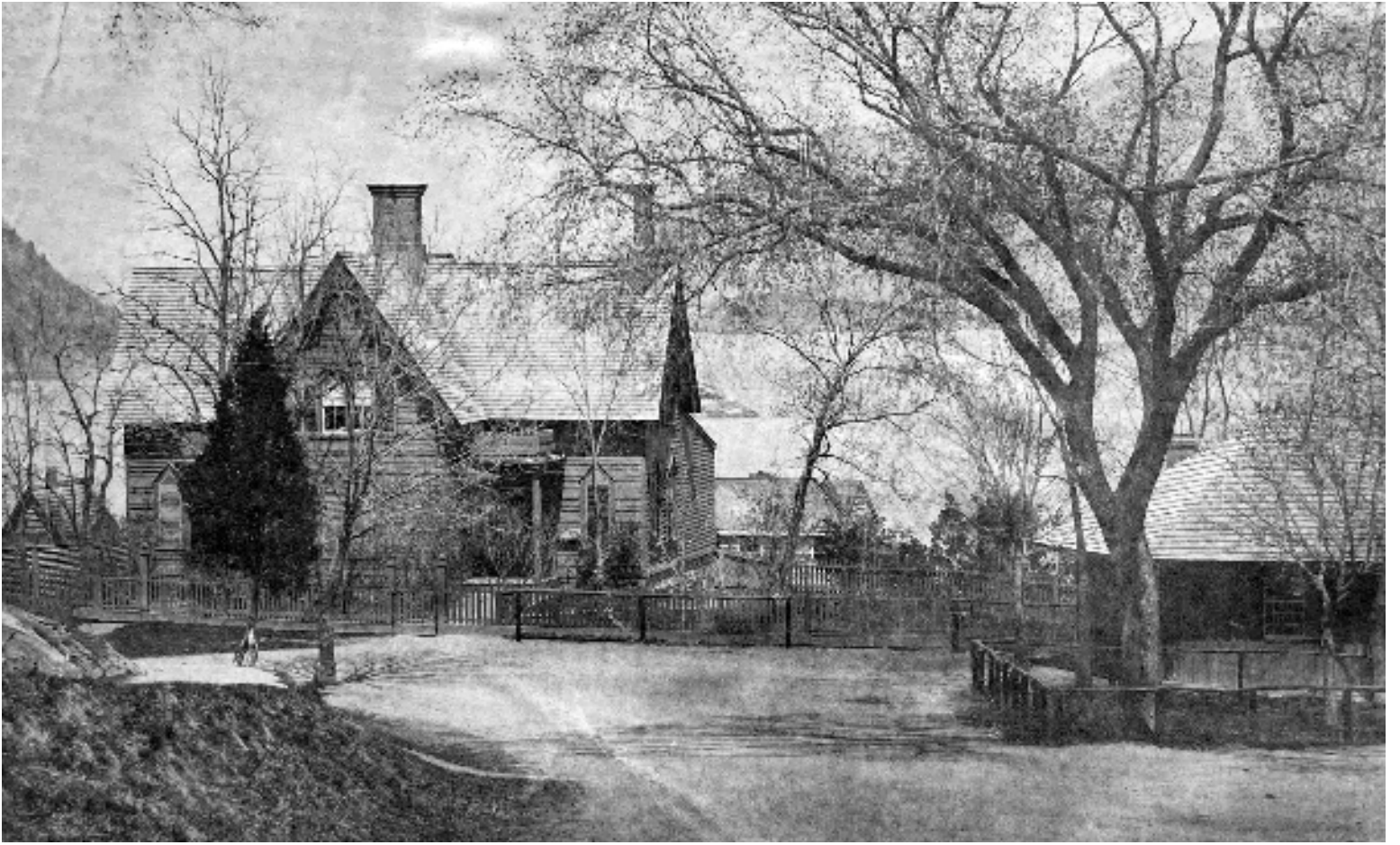
The money to build the house came from the Post Fund and generated a rent of \$150 a year for a half-century. The structure's cost is listed as \$2,862.86 in 1888, but it is unclear if this includes expenses after construction. By 1888, \$5,863 in rents had been collected.

The Post Office had nine rooms over two floors, plus a cellar. The post office proper was on the first floor and was 16'x14' with a 9' ceiling. It is not known if there were modifications to the basic structure of the building over the years.

When the building ceased to be the post office is unclear. It is still listed as such on maps as late as 1916, but 1930s maps list it as an officer's quarters. The house can be seen in the 1955 movie *The Long Gray Line* because it stood next to the fictional home of the protagonist, Marty Maher. The cottage was torn down to build Eisenhower Hall, completed in 1974.

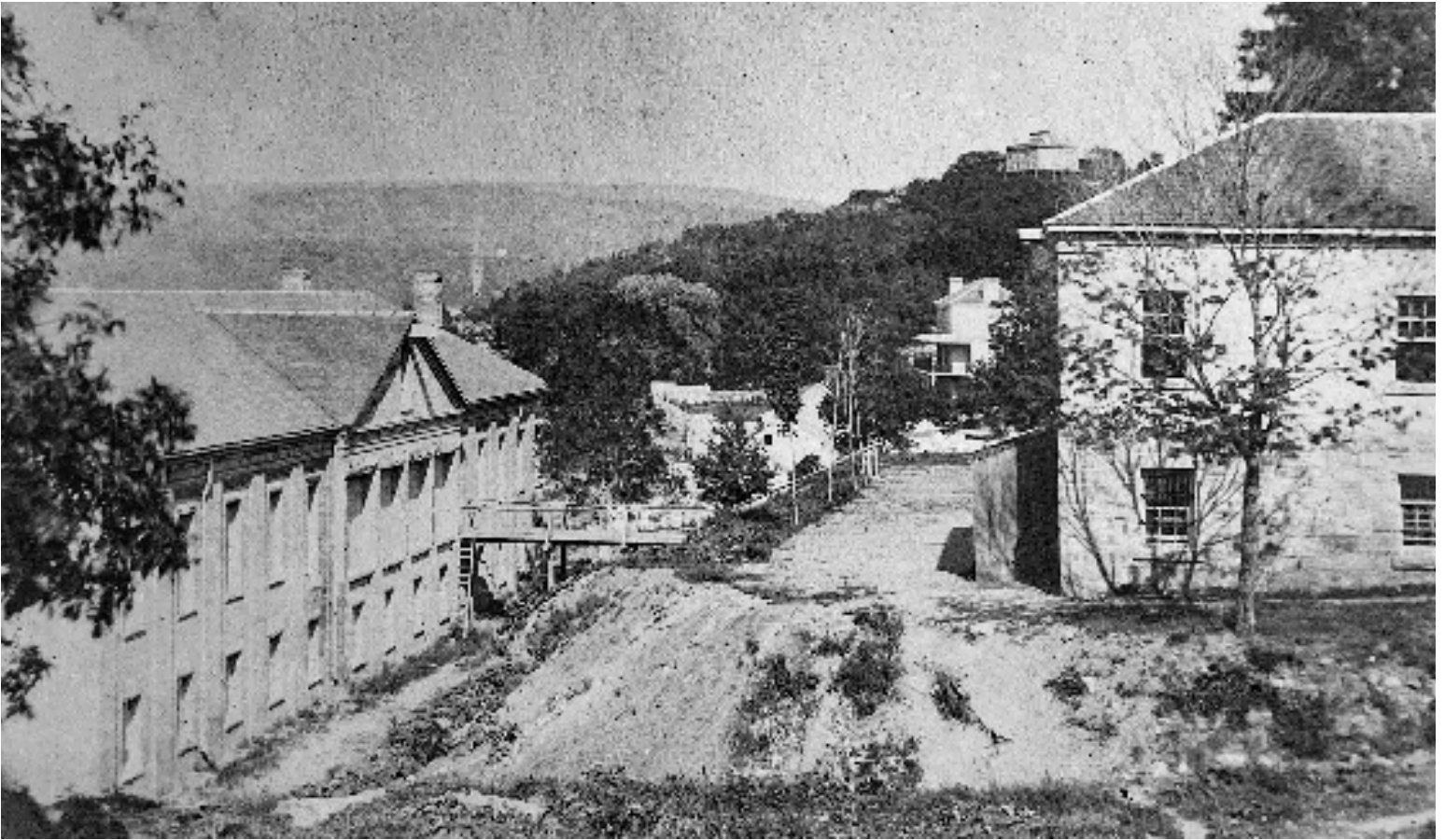
The Post Office in the early 20th century. USMA LIBRARY ASC

The 1850 post office was paired with the 1859 Gothic Revival cottage next door for much of its life.



This undated photo of the post office is probably from the late 1860s or early 1870s. After this time, maps do not show the multi-sided building on the right side of the photo. USMA LIBRARY ASC

GUARDHOUSE, 1850 EQUIPMENT SHED, 1851



THESE BUILDINGS OFTEN escape mention when discussing the older buildings at West Point, but they have stood for over 170 years.

The 50'x25' Guard House was completed in 1850 based on plans approved in August 1849. Designed to be both a commissary storeroom and post guard house—it was close to the wharf—it seems to have been used only as a guard house and, early in its usage, as barracks for engineer soldiers. It had two 9'x9' cells on the main floor and four more in the basement.

In the 1920s, the Guard House was converted to an electricians' shop. By the 1940s, it was a changing room for the enlisted pool. A patio was added on the west side. In recent decades, the building was dedicated to the Boy Scouts before its

current usage by the West Point Cultural Resources Manager.

The Engineer Equipment Shed was built from April or May 1851 to December 1851. The speed of construction is evidenced by the fact that 175,000 bricks were laid in July 1851 alone. The final dimensions were 153'8"x53'4" and 50'8" high. When completed, the building had storage for items used in teaching practical military engineering plus workshops for the engineering detachment. Labeled spaces include Smith, Rigger, Carpenter and Wheelright, Lathes, and Harness Maker. There was a stable for eight horses next to the building.

By the 1880s, the basement continued to be used as engineering storage, but the upper floor was $\frac{2}{3}$ post commissary sales and offices and $\frac{1}{3}$ workshops/



storerooms. In the 20th century, the building continued to be used as a commissary and for storage, but also had an enlisted gym. In the 1940s, the building became the Enlisted Service Club.

By the 1980s, the building housed the post day care center. In 1984, multiple allegations of child abuse at the facility emerged. *Newsweek* and media outlets across the country reported on the story. In October 1985, a federal grand jury found there were indications of abuse but decided not to indict based on lack of evidence.

In the 2000s, the building became increasingly connected with athletic uses. In 2021, it was dedicated as the Anderson Athletic Center and houses locker and fitness rooms for intercollegiate teams.

Facing: This photo of the Equipment Shed (left) and the back of the Guard House (right) is among the earliest West Point landscape photos, appearing in an 1857 class album. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Above: The Guard House in about 1873 with the Equipment Shed behind it.

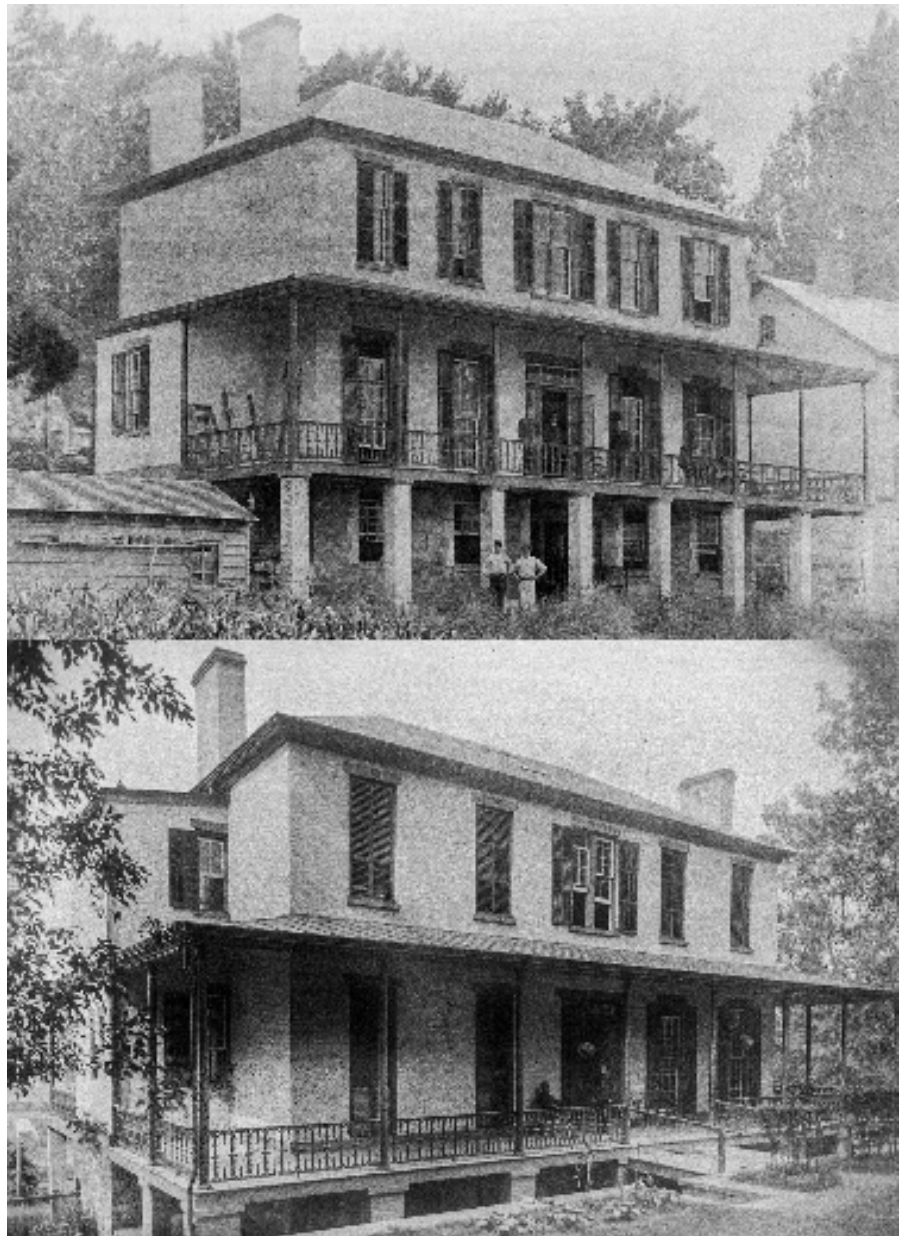
USMA LIBRARY ASC

SOLDIERS' HOSPITAL, 1851

A HOSPITAL FOR soldiers was badly needed by the mid-19th century. This 50'x28' two-story brick building stood by the waterfront where Gillis Field House is today. It had utilities like a kitchen and furnace room in the basement and wards and a surgeon's office on the upper two floors. It had 22 rooms in total. There were verandas along both sides. In 1854, *Colburn's United Service Magazine and Naval and Military Journal* called the building spacious and "one of the most convenient hospitals in the service." The total construction cost was reported as \$5,530.

The building was expanded in the late 1880s. After the opening of a new hospital for soldiers in 1892, the 1851 building was converted to barracks. An early 20th century photo is labeled the Service Detachment Barracks and shows what is presumably an expansion from the late 1880s.

An addition was added to the building in late 1918. The building was approved for salvage in 1933. The addition was demolished in 1934 and the rest of the building was torn down in March 1936.



Above: Undated photos of the Soldiers' Hospital. NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Left: The Service Detachment Barracks in the early 20th century. The section on the left is the original hospital. USMA LIBRARY ASC



An 1860s photo of the Bunker Hill carving that used to be located near South Dock and was removed in the 1920s to widen the road.

GEORGE KENDALL WARREN/USMA
LIBRARY ASC

The Palo Alto inscription is along Flirtation Walk on the north slope below the Plain. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

WEST POINT'S UNIQUE rock carvings came in two waves. The first set was carved in 1847 during the superintendency of Henry Brewerton in honor of fallen graduates and victorious battles in Mexico. The amount of \$166.22 was paid to stonemason Samuel D. Flagg to carve *PALO ALTO*, *RESECA DE LA PALMA*, and *VERACRUZ* along Flirtation Walk.

A decade later, Richard Delafield approved the carving of Revolutionary War battles at a cost of \$109.60. These included *BUNKER HILL*, *SARATOGA*, and *YORKTOWN*. *BUNKER HILL* was near South Dock. *SARATOGA* is located in Kosciuszko's Garden, and *YORKTOWN* is on the north slope near the Sheridan Memorial. The craftsman was Peter Fritz. A carving reading *MEXICO 13, 14 SEP 1847* along Howard Road commemorates the fall of Mexico City at the hands of Major General Winfield Scott. It is

from an unknown date but more closely matches the 1857-58 Delafield-approved inscriptions. *Bunker Hill* was removed in the 1920s to widen the road from the train station.

CADET BARRACKS, 1852



Top: The iconic (Central) Barracks, completed in 1852, as it appeared in about 1868. The far left section survives. GETTY MUSEUM

Bottom: One of the earliest known West Point photos shows the south side of the Barracks in 1854, just two years after this section was completed.

VICTOR PREVOST/USMA LIBRARY ASC

WITHOUT A DOUBT one of West Point's most iconic buildings, the Central Barracks was home to all cadets from the early 1850s until 1908 and dominated the skyline of the Plain for over 110 years. Pershing, MacArthur, Flipper, and countless other famous graduates called this their home. Before 1908, when North Barracks was completed, this building was often called just "the Barracks" or the "Cadet Barracks."

The building's design and construction is a long story. Plans were being worked on at least as early as 1838-39 and work ended on October 16, 1852, approximately 14 years later. Construction itself took 6-7 years and there were two subsequent additions, one in the 1880s and another in the 1920s. A remnant of the Central Barracks remains in the Old 1st Division, commonly called Nininger Hall after the top floor room where honor hearings are held.

The 1810s North and South Barracks were in bad shape by the 1830s. Both needed constant repairs, were cold, infested, and prone to fires. It is therefore not surprising that new barracks were part of plans in the late 1830s along with a library and new academic building. The 1839 Board of Visitors Report says of the old barracks:

On the score of health, too, such is the want of ventilation, and of space in

the rooms, that nothing but a rigidly executed system of police has prevented even greater evils than have been felt.

In 1839, Delafield solicited plans for a new barracks from architect Isaiah Rogers. Rogers was a luxury hotel designer known for the Astor House in New York City, opened in 1836, and for institutional work such as a redesign of the interior of the Old City House in Boston. Rogers' neoclassical design did not meet with Delafield's liking and the Academy turned to architect Frederick Diaper, who submitted an English Gothic design that bears a lot of similarities with the final building. Both designs were submitted to the Chief Engineer by June, 1839.

As other historians have concluded, it is clear that Delafield modified Diaper's designs to create a new plan, completed by the end of 1839. These were in turn modified over the ensuing 4-5 years, including with input from Chief Engineer Joseph Totten. Yet, no funding meant that it was not until 1844 that the project got underway and modified plans were drawn up.

In April 1844, Captain Alexander J. Swift, USMA Class of 1830, was made superintendent of construction for the new barracks, but most of the correspondence about the building in 1844 focuses on design issues such as the use of iron

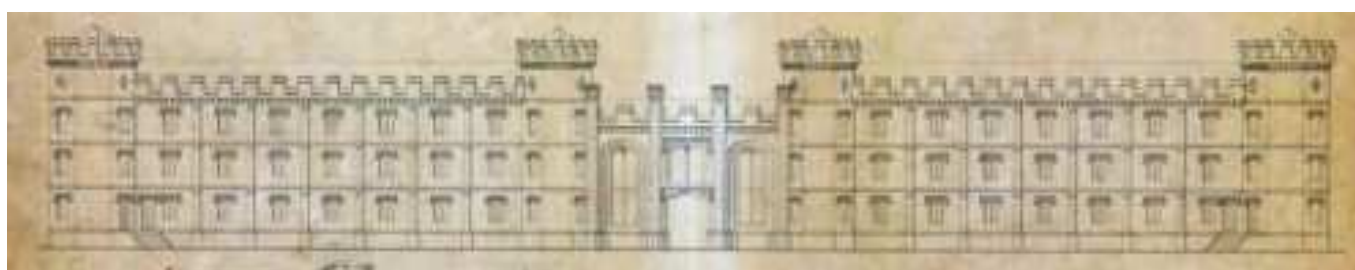
EVOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL BARRACKS



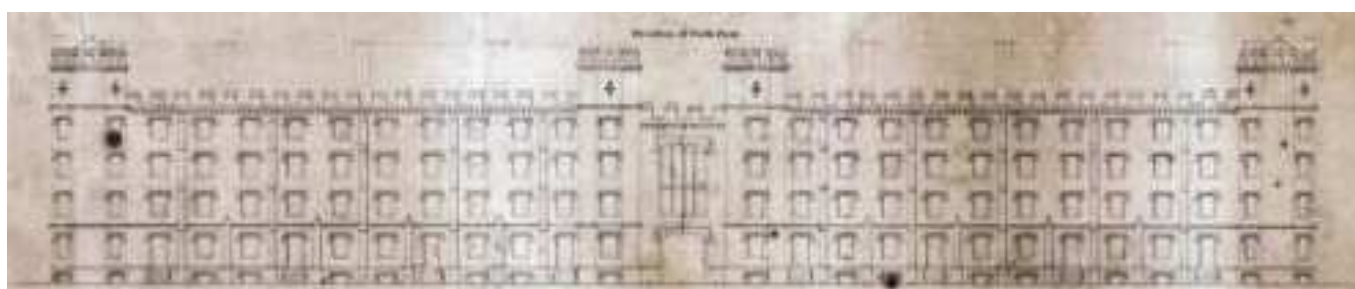
1839: THE TWO DRAWINGS ABOVE REPRESENT EARLY DESIGNS FOR A NEW BARRACKS. Both are from 1839. The top plan is by famed architect Isaiah Rogers and is clearly very neoclassical. Superintendent Delafield rejected this style and favored Frederick Diaper's Elizabethan Gothic design shown on the bottom. Both of these designs measure just under 500' in length. NARA



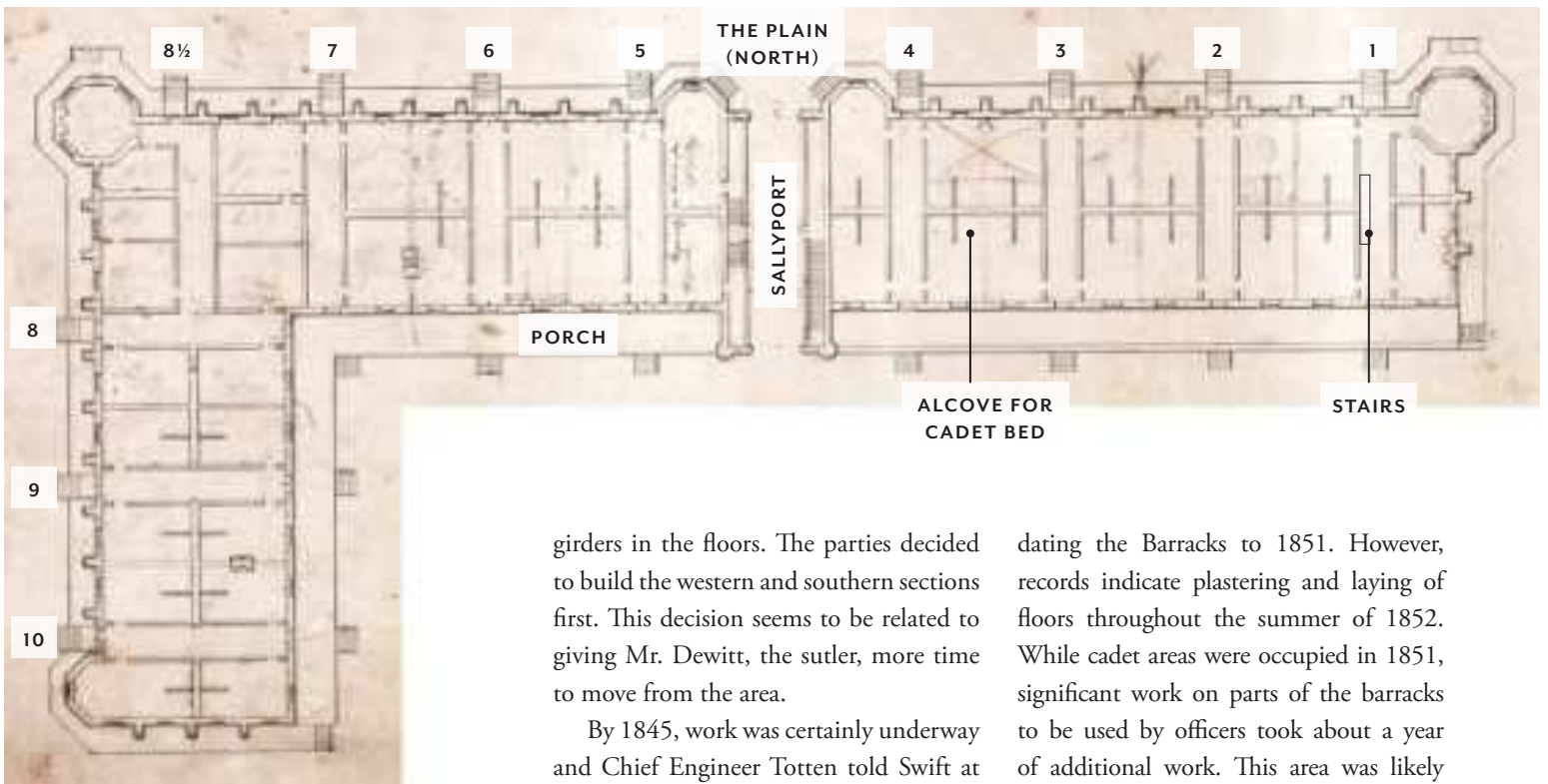
1840: SUPERINTENDENT RICHARD DELAFIELD'S JANUARY 1840 PLAN, DRAWN BY CAPTAIN SETH EASTMAN, CLEARLY BUILDS ON DIAPER'S GOTHIC DESIGN BUT ADDS A NUMBER OF DECORATIVE ELEMENTS. This plan is considerably longer than the earlier designs, measuring 625' end to end. Delafield wanted to build this along the edge of the Plain along the line now occupied by Cullum and Lincoln Hall. NARA



1843: AFTER THREE YEARS, A PLAN SENT TO WASHINGTON BY DELAFIELD SCALED BACK ON DECORATION. The length was shortened to about 350'. NARA



1846: THIS DESIGN IS QUITE CLOSE TO THE BARRACKS AS BUILT. It is clearly labeled as being drawn "under the direction" of Colonel Totten, Chief Engineer. Thus, it is safe to characterize the final building as including design input from Diaper, Delafield, and Totten. NARA



This working plan of the first floor, undated but estimated by the National Archives to be 1845, shows a room layout that very closely matches the final building. Division numbers have been added. At times, officers lived in what was later known as the 8½ Division and perhaps other areas of the south wing. Stairs to upper floors were in the middle hallway of each division. Before WWI, Cadet First Captains lived in the 1st Division, but in the 1910s they shifted to the 8½ Division. The porches on the back were originally wood and were likely replaced in the late 1800s before being changed to concrete just prior to WWI. Note there are no passages running the length of the building. NARA

Facing: The south side of the Barracks, 1870. Both towers appear to have flags. There is no evidence that the windows on the back of the 1st Division ever had glass. They were kept stone because the arrangement of rooms in the tower sections of the building required a bed to be placed there. The stone was removed in 2023 and replaced with glass.

USMA LIBRARY ASC

girders in the floors. The parties decided to build the western and southern sections first. This decision seems to be related to giving Mr. Dewitt, the sutler, more time to move from the area.

By 1845, work was certainly underway and Chief Engineer Totten told Swift at one point to “push on with vigor” in an effort to “prepare for the roof.” The roof, however, would take a while. From correspondence, it is clear that the exterior walls and main interior walls were finished up to the roofline by September 30, 1846, but the towers and roof were not complete. The only work on the east end of the building in 1845 was on the foundation.

By October 1847, there is correspondence about the design of new privies (see page 126), indicating habitation of the barracks was foreseeable, but another year and a half would pass. In March 1849, Chief Engineer Totten writes to LT Alexander, in charge of building, that he should get the completed portion ready for occupation immediately and the privies ready by the first of September. It thus seems likely that the first cadet moved into the western side of the Barracks after the summer encampment of 1849. This is supported by the Government giving the Academy consent to tear down the South Barracks in April 1850.

The 1851 Board of Visitors Report is clear that cadets would occupy the new barracks after encampment that summer, hence August or early September 1851. Totten confirms occupation in an October 1851 report to the Secretary of War. This is likely the source of many historians

dating the Barracks to 1851. However, records indicate plastering and laying of floors throughout the summer of 1852. While cadet areas were occupied in 1851, significant work on parts of the barracks to be used by officers took about a year of additional work. This area was likely in the western tower as well as part of the southern wing. The building was officially declared finished on October 16, 1852.

The completed 1852 Elizabethan Gothic building was shaped like an “L” with the long side (360’x60’) running east-west on the southern edge of the Plain. The short side of the “L” (100’x60’) ran to the south from the western side of the building. The front of the building had hexagonal towers at each end with a sallyport in the middle flanked by smaller towers. Over the central sallyport was a large room used for decades by the Dialectic Society. Gothic elements include hoodmoulds, crenellation, and even a fake moat. The windows each had 78 panes of glass.

The building was composed of four floors (11’, 10’8”, 10’6”, and 10’ high) and a basement (9’6”) arranged in divisions. This meant that when a cadet entered a section of the barracks, he could go up to the top but not laterally to the next division. There were eight divisions in the original building plus an additional division in the western tower area. This area in the Western Tower was later named the 8 ½ Division. The surviving section of the Barracks is the old 1st Division.

The early configuration had 176 rooms according to an 1854 description, 136 of which were cadet rooms generally 22’x14’ in size. This was twice the size of a



South Barracks room. A typical room was designed for two cadets and each had a 7'x7' sleeping alcove.

An 1854 account lists the furniture per room as “two iron study tables, a clothespress, wash-stand, gun-rack, &c., and two iron bedsteads, hair mattresses, and necessary blankets, &c.” Plebes were charged 20 cents a month to pay for maintenance of the iron bedsteads.

The building, at times, also had lockable “light prison” rooms for cadets in trouble. These seem to have been in the corner section and were off limits to cadets except the cadet officer of the day, who would let prisoners out for class and other duties.

There were bath rooms in the basement, but these were only for bathing; there were no toilets. Cadets were required to bathe but were charged for the service. In the first two months of 1853, Cadet James McNeill Whistler was charged 40¢ for baths, about average among others listed, and 85¢ for cleaning of the barracks, another cost passed along to the Corps. Some employees, such as Bentz the bugler, lived in the basement. Nine unmarried subalterns (junior officers) lived in the Barracks in 1889.

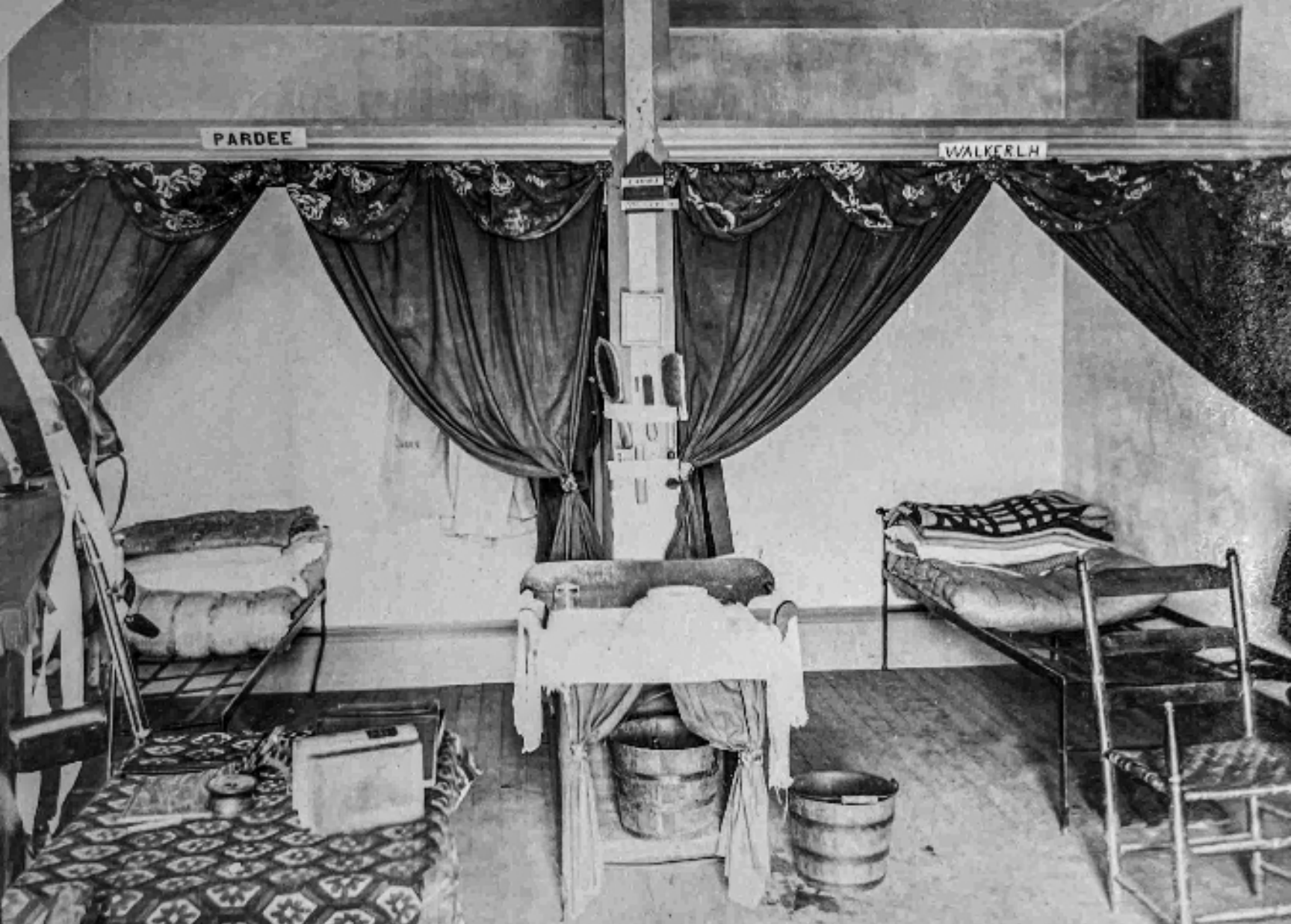
The building was initially heated by means of a boiler in the basement that heated air which then was distributed by flues to each floor. The system did not work well. An 1860 report noted, “During the coldest weather of winter some of the rooms cannot be occupied; others are so warm as to be oppressive, and require the windows to be opened during the most inclement nights.” At least one cadet at the time the building opened was unhappy that the heated air system removed a place for illegal cooking in the room, as had been done in the old barracks on the coal grates.

In 1867, the Barracks were connected to a new steam plant behind the building. Lighting was provided by oil lamps until after the completion of the gas works in 1857. Electricity would not arrive until the end of the first decade of the 20th century.

An expansion of the south wing of the Barracks costing \$72,000 was completed in 1882. It added 33 rooms and extended the building by 105'. The expansion included a second sallyport with partial octagonal towers on the west side. Like the original sallyport, it had a large room over it. This room was used as storage in 1889.

Most water was carried into the building in buckets. Other than the subterranean baths, the building had minimal plumbing until 1907-08, when basements were converted to latrines and sinks were added to most floors. In a 1958 renovation, numerous toilet rooms were added, requiring some doors to be relocated.

A large addition, forming an east-west south wing, was built between 1918 and 1921 and was occupied at the end of the 1921 summer encampment. Its footprint was essentially the same as today's Bradley Barracks (“Long”). This era also saw the replacement of wooden porches, reported completed in the 1916 Annual Report of the Superintendent, as well as the addition of skylights over the stoops to give ground-floor rooms a bit more light.



This photo from about 1870 is one of the oldest known photos of a cadet room in the Barracks. Each young man, members of the Class of 1871, had his own alcove. Bedding was put up every morning. On the right wall, one of the flues for warm air is visible. As there was no plumbing in the rooms, cadets would use the buckets to carry water from the area or, later, hallway spigots. Although room decorations changed over time, this basic room layout was largely unchanged into the 1960s. Rooms had fireplaces, but they were not used except for storage, and hiding contraband, after steam heating was added in about 1867. Cadets were charged for the services of custodians (policemen) who cleaned and maintained fires during the cold months. USMA LIBRARY ASC

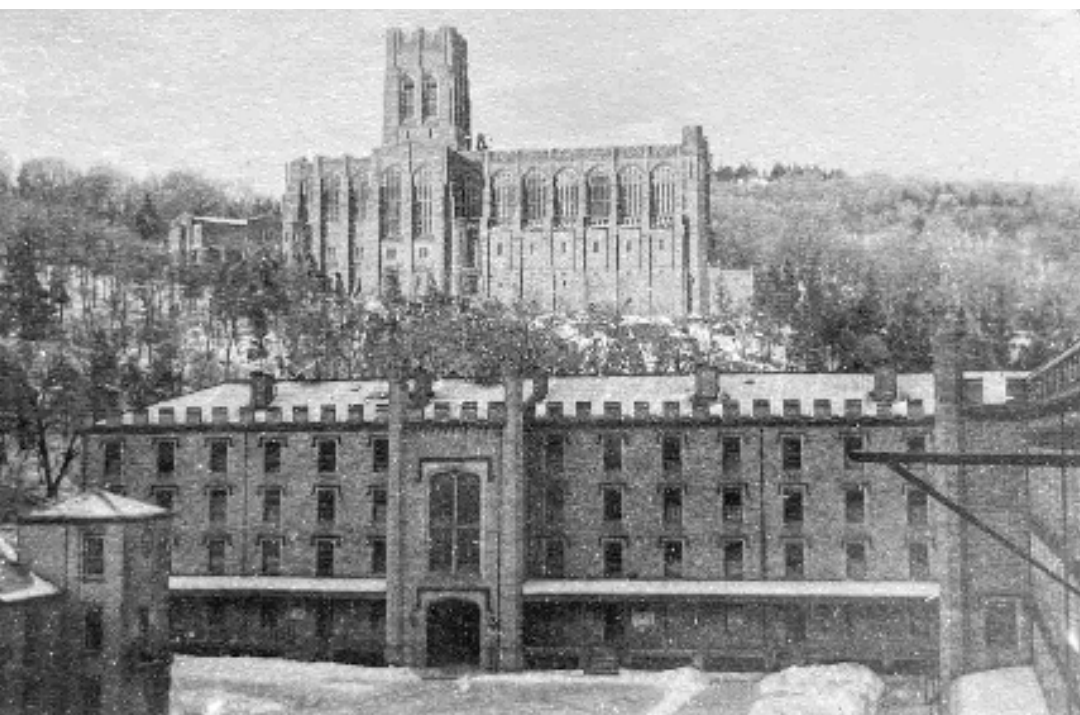




Facing, bottom: Thirty-five years after the photo above it, cadet rooms were largely the same. The curtains on the alcoves have been removed and gas ceiling digulamps are prominent. Gas was introduced into the barracks in the late 1850s, but earlier lamps were smaller and attached to the walls. Note the on-off valves on the lamp. The location of clothing and other items was laid out by regulation. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Above: This 1890s photo shows the front (north) side of the Barracks and a sentry post. The Plain is to the left. The photographer's location would be inside Washington Hall today.

1897 CLASS ALBUM, USMA LIBRARY ASC



Left: The 1910s photo below by future General Joseph Stillwell shows the 1880s wing of the Barracks. It included everything from the sallyport to the left. USMA LIBRARY ASC



Left: Louis Bentz blows his bugle just inside the Gothic central sallyport of the Barracks. Above the opening was a room for the Dialectical Society. Both are associated with fires. In January 1867, Bentz (sometimes Benz) caused a fire when his pipe started a blaze in his room in the basement. Four years later, a major fire started in the room over the sallyport (see below). USMA LIBRARY ASC

Below: On February 5, 1871, a fire broke out at about 2a.m. in the Dialectic Hall over the central sallyport of the Barracks. Fire spread up to the roof and then east and west through the roof. Many cadets living on the top floor, mostly plebes, were trapped and had to be rescued by ladder or by human chains through the smoky hallways. The nearby Cadet-operated fire engine froze up and was not immediately useful. In the end, the fire did \$50,000 of damage and many 4th floor residents had to move temporarily into other rooms. Classes were canceled, but just for one day. USMA LIBRARY ASC





A 7th Division room of the Central Barracks just before demolition started, 1965. Other than flooring and paint, the room would have been fairly familiar to cadets 110 years earlier.

A middle floor hallway with a nice view of a utility sink. All plumbing seems to have been in the hallways or basement.

Showers, toilets, and urinals were in the basement. These were added in the early 20th century. Before then, the basements were used for utilities, staff rooms, bathing tubs, and storage. An 1884 story published in several newspapers recalls how cadets snuck a billiards table into the basement of the 6th Division and made a small club out of the space. They reportedly went undiscovered by the Tactical Department for a year. When the Tacs finally got word and raided the space, they found a note saying the table was a gift for the instructors.

A top-floor view shows sinks on one side of the hallway and a utility sink along the opposite wall. ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE ARE IN THE COLLECTION OF THE USMA ASC



This 1960s aerial photo shows the final configuration of the barracks with sections from all three periods of construction. A parade is underway on the Plain! USMA DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Facing, top: The eastern end of the 1921 wing of the Barracks included the Commandant's Office. USMA DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Facing, bottom: Nearly all of the Central Barracks were torn down in the 1960s to make way for Eisenhower Barracks. USMA DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

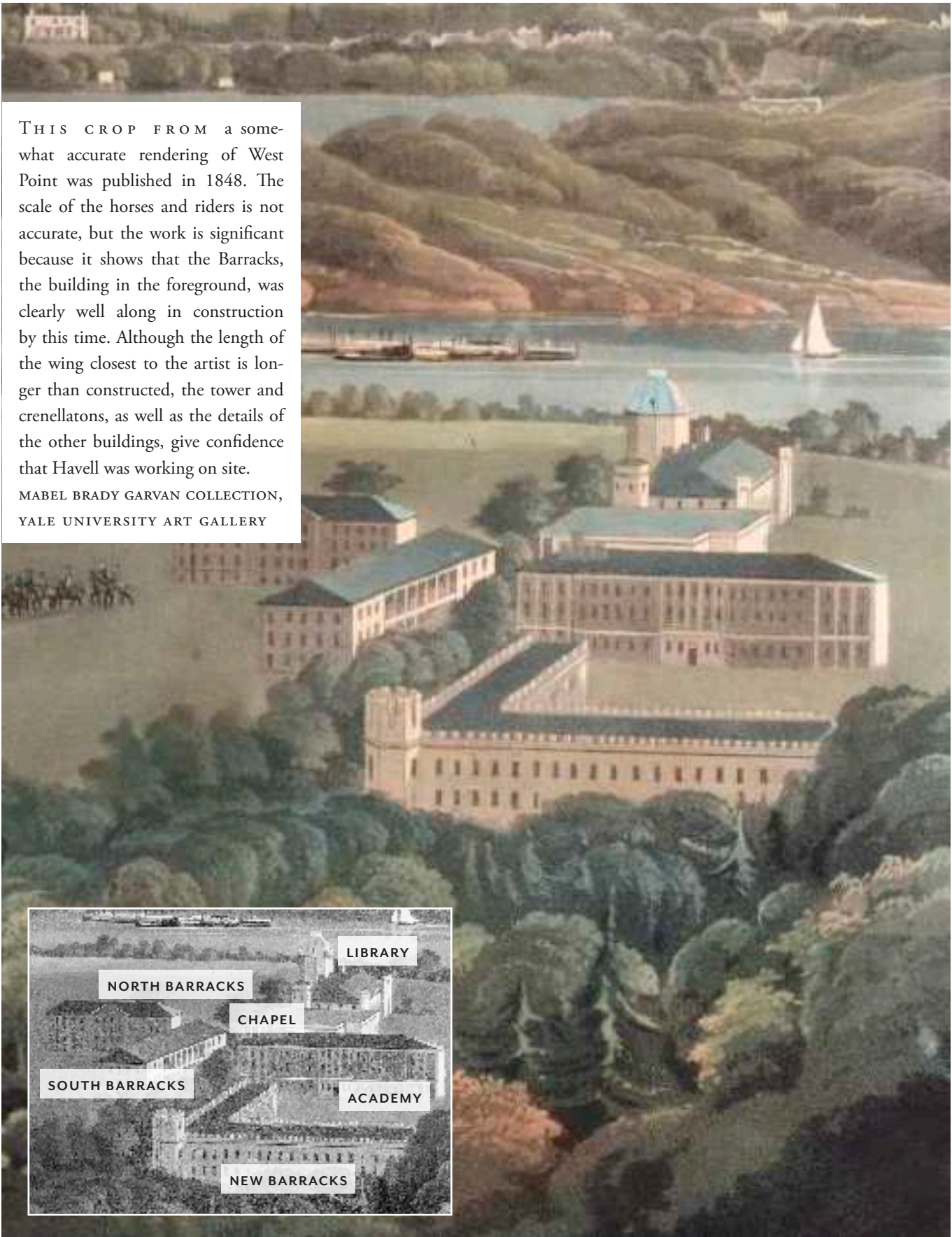


VIEW OF WEST POINT

ROBERT HAVELL, 1848

THIS CROP FROM a somewhat accurate rendering of West Point was published in 1848. The scale of the horses and riders is not accurate, but the work is significant because it shows that the Barracks, the building in the foreground, was clearly well along in construction by this time. Although the length of the wing closest to the artist is longer than constructed, the tower and crenellations, as well as the details of the other buildings, give confidence that Havell was working on site.

MABEL BRADY GARVAN COLLECTION,
YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY





THE RAZING OF the North Barracks when the Central Barracks was completed also eliminated the guard room on its south end. Plans for this new building were approved in March 1852 and evidence suggests it was finished the same year. The Guard House was built in the newly created barracks yard excavated on the south side of the barracks. It was used until construction on a new wing of the Central Barracks commenced in the late 1910s. This building is also called the Commandant's Office and Cadet Guard House because it served both functions.

The Guard House was brick and measured 34'x52' (or 51'4" by one source). It was two stories high but had a single-room, third-floor tower. Most of the building was administrative, but it contained a garage on its east side, 14'x31'4", for a "fire apparatus." This was a steam fire engine.

The first floor was designed with an entrance hall, a guard room, two prison cells, a furnace and coal storage, and a room for the drummers that, with buglers, announced events and could alert cadets during an emergency.

Overlooking the barracks yard on the second story was the Officer in Charge's room. From the room's balcony, the officer

could take reports from cadets in the area, such as at Taps check. By the early 1900s, this balcony was being referred to as the "poop deck," a term that has persisted until today in the Cadet Mess. From the 1910 *Howitzer*:

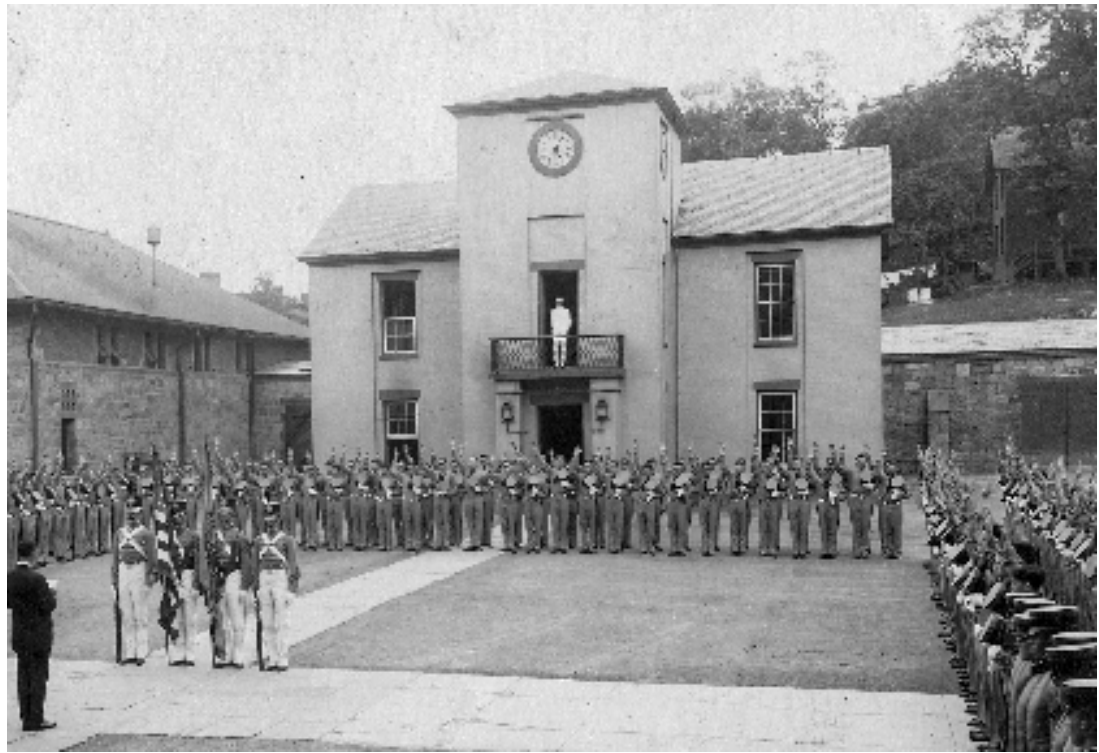
Poop-Deck n. The balcony of the guard house where are wont to stand the demi-gods of destiny to harvest the daily yield of quill.

On the west side of the second floor in the Guard House, was the Commandant's Office and the Corps of Cadets Adjutant's office. On the east side were four rooms designed to be armories but used for other purposes as time passed.

The single room in the third floor tower was conceived as a light prison room. In the 1870s or 1880s, a large window in the tower was replaced with a clock. In later USCC *Regulations*, this was the official clock for formations. The USMA Centennial also notes that a clock presented to the Academy by Lafayette in 1824, manufactured by Massachusetts craftsman Aaron Willard, was kept in the Commandant's Office. The clock is now in the collection of the West Point Museum.

This photo, likely from the mid-1860s, shows the Guard House and the wall behind it built at the same time. To its left is the castellated coal shed and the Cadet Privy behind a simple fence. This angle shows the east side opening where a fire engine was stored.

PITMAN COLLECTION, USMA LIBRARY ASC



The uses of rooms in the Guard House changed over time. In 1889, the first floor had two storerooms, a guard room, and the fire engine garage. The second floor at this time had the Commandant's Office, a clerk's room, a visitors' room, a storeroom, and a water closet. The visitors' room, where guests could wait for a cadet, must have undergone some interior redesign as a plan for it in the 1887 Board of Visitors Report does not easily line up with earlier interior plans (or the earlier plans are incorrect). This room was also the only place where cadets in confinement were allowed to see family or friends. The attic was categorized as storage. Academy records note a fire in the Guard House on March 13, 1870. It is unclear if this resulted in a change in the interior layout.

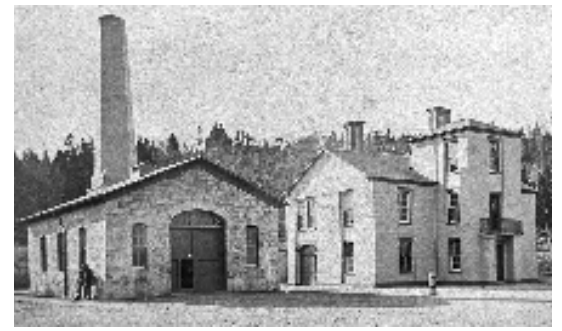
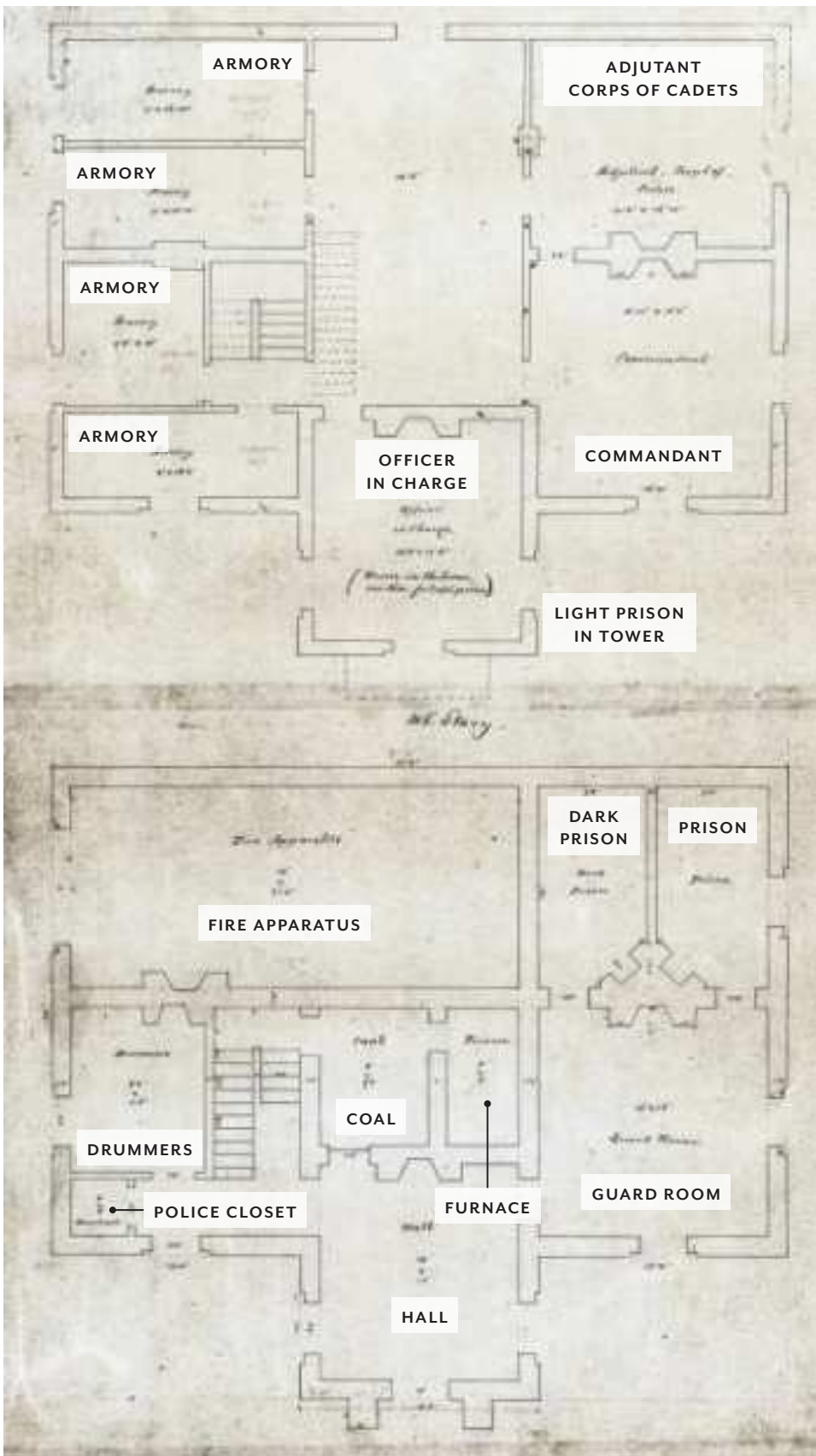
The Cadet Officer of the Day was required to stay in the area of the Guard House from 30 minutes after reveille roll call until taps.

The Guard House was torn down in the late 1910s.

Top: In 1913, the Guard House looked the same as it did 50 years earlier. New Cadets are being sworn in. The building to the left is the 1867 steam heating plant. There is a wire connecting the two buildings, but whether it is electrical or utility is unclear.

USMA LIBRARY ASC

Bottom: The Guard House, Cadet Privy, and coal shed were located where Bradley Barracks are today.



Left: This is the approved plan for the Guard House, dated May 1852. It is described as a "Proposed Building in rear of Cadet Barrack for Offices, Fire Apparatus, &c." The "police closet" would be a custodian's area. NARA

The Guard House and Steam Plant, late 1860s at the earliest and mid-1880s at the latest. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Cadets practicing with the fire engine stored in the Guard House. Cadet regulations governed who did what during a fire.

USMA LIBRARY ASC



AFTER MORE THAN a decade of building Elizabethan Gothic structures, the 1852 Mess Hall represents a turning point. The reasons for a new mess are not particularly interesting. Calls to increase the Corps from 250 to over 350 in the mid-1840s got the ball rolling for a larger and more modern mess hall. Class of 1846 graduate Egbert Viele, buried in a pyramidal tomb in the West Point Cemetery, once wrote, “The very odor of the old mess was revolting to an extreme degree.”

Quarters on the construction site, where Grant Hall is today, were torn down in 1849 and building plans approved by the spring of 1850. Occupied in October of 1852, this was a fast project by Academy standards.

The 1984 *Historic Structures Inventory* for USMA refers to the 1852 Mess Hall, renamed Grant Hall in 1887, as a “less impressive version of the Gothic style.” This characterization is hard to justify. There are no Gothic arches and none of the crenellation found on the Delafield-era Gothic buildings.

It is more accurate to describe the Mess Hall as Norman, a form of Romanesque Revival. The name Norman came from the well publicized construction of the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, DC in the second half of the 1840s. A

design by James Renwick, Jr. had been chosen. In contemporary press accounts, Renwick’s plan is referred to as Norman or Lombard, both forms of Romanesque.

In early 1849, before USMA had drafted final designs, Robert Dale Owen, a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, published a book titled *Hints on Public Architecture*. This well-illustrated book argued for the suitability of the Romanesque Revival for public buildings. Many of the design features in the book are present in the 1852 Mess Hall. In addition to the semicircular arches used in the Mess Hall doors and windows, the most striking similarity is the repetitive nebule moulding along the roofline.

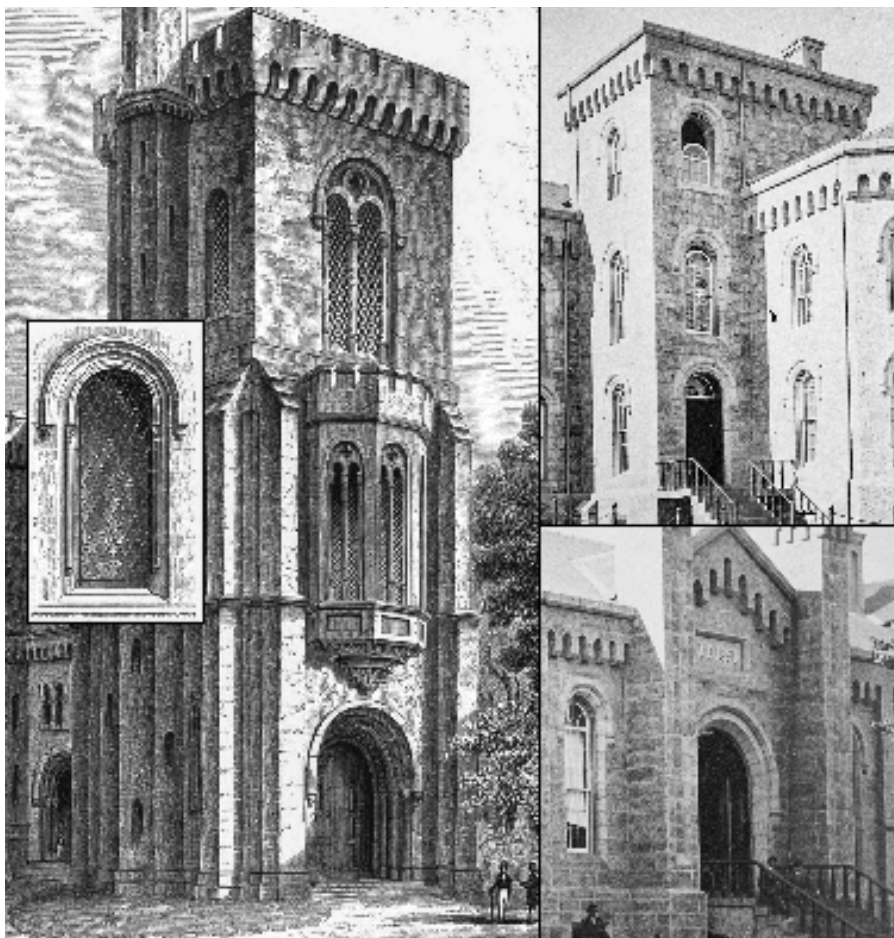
Whether or not the Academy chose a Romanesque design because of its use for the Smithsonian Castle is unknown. Given the Academic building next to the new Mess Hall was of a neoclassical design with rounded arches, perhaps the Romanesque design was believed to be more appropriate. There was some consideration of proximity because the first floor of the Mess Hall was elevated to correspond to the height of the first floor of the Academy.

The designer of the Mess Hall, according to 1850 plans, was Lieutenant Barton S. Alexander. He also supervised the construction of the building and the Barracks,

Above: This photo of the 1852 Mess Hall was made by the studio of Mathew Brady during the Civil War. NARA

Facing: On the left side are illustrations published in 1849 of the Norman-style Smithsonian Institution building designed by James Renwick, Jr. On the right are details of the Mess Hall.

OWEN (1849) & USMA LIBRARY ASC



while also serving as USMA Treasurer. In 1852, Alexander left West Point for Washington, DC, where he oversaw the completion of the Smithsonian building.

It should be noted that accounts from the 1850s, including one by famous magazine author Nathaniel Parker Willis, refer to the Mess Hall as Norman. West Point had turned from Gothic and would build only one Gothic institutional building on the Plain in the next half-century, although Gothic Revival designs were chosen for houses later in the 1850s.

The original building had a dining room for cadets that measured 96'x46' with a 20' ceiling. The north and south ends of the building were separate sections. On the south end was a mess for officers, the West Point Army Mess. Officers paid to eat here and abided by membership rules such as a dress code. Crackel writes that there was a billiards club above the officers' mess that merged with the Army Mess in 1859.

The north end of the building was set up to be quarters for the purveyor of the mess, a contractor. It is unclear how long the north end was used for this purpose. By 1889, this area was officer quarters. The rear of the Mess Hall had an extension that housed a kitchen on the ground floor and a bakery and flour room in the basement. The construction cost is reported as \$43,187.

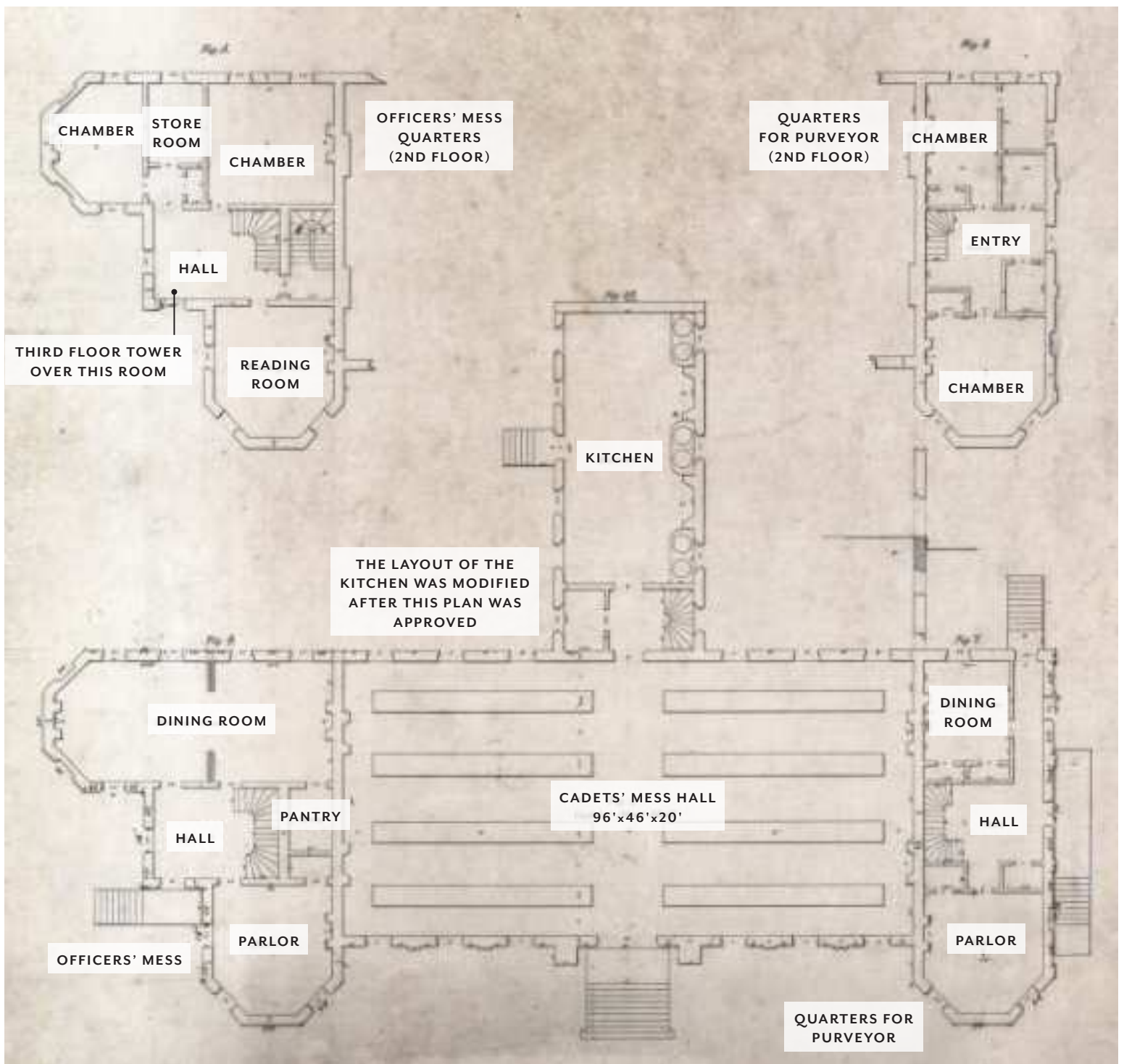
Behind the Mess Hall was a building with dormitories for workers as well as privies, baths, a stable, and a coal shed. The completion date and any updates to this area are unclear.

The first major addition to the Mess Hall seems to have been an entertainment space on the south end of the building known as Schofield Hall. The space was 62'x30' and was connected to the south wing of the building by a covered passageway. There was also a furnace room in the basement.

A newspaper account from 1882 refers to the 1876 addition as Schofield Hall, seemingly making it the first named space or building at the Academy. Some historians claim Grant Hall as the first, but that name does not seem to have been used until the mess building was dedicated as such in 1887. President Grant died in 1885, but the particular impetus for the naming seems to have been the donation of a portrait of Grant by Helen Darragh. It was delivered to the Academy in May of 1887 and is said to have hung on the north wall. The building was officially named Grant Hall on June 4, 1887. Numerous portraits hung in Grant Hall. The Grant portrait, and likenesses of Sherman and Sheridan, had the financial backing of Philadelphia newspaperman and philanthropist George W. Childs. With the new decorations came a new floor and wall frescos under the direction of Commissary and USMA Treasurer William F. Spurgin, a non-grad from the Class of 1862.

In the late 19th century, Grant Hall also served as an event space for the Academy. Hops, speeches, and entertainment performances were held there. Perhaps the most famous was a performance of *Merchant of Venice* by Sir William Irving and his company in March 1888. In attendance was Irving's business manager Bram Stoker, the future author of *Dracula*. For the performance, a small stage was set up, tables removed, and benches brought in to allow the Corps and community to enjoy the show. Irving and actor Helen Terry were among the most famous performers of the day.

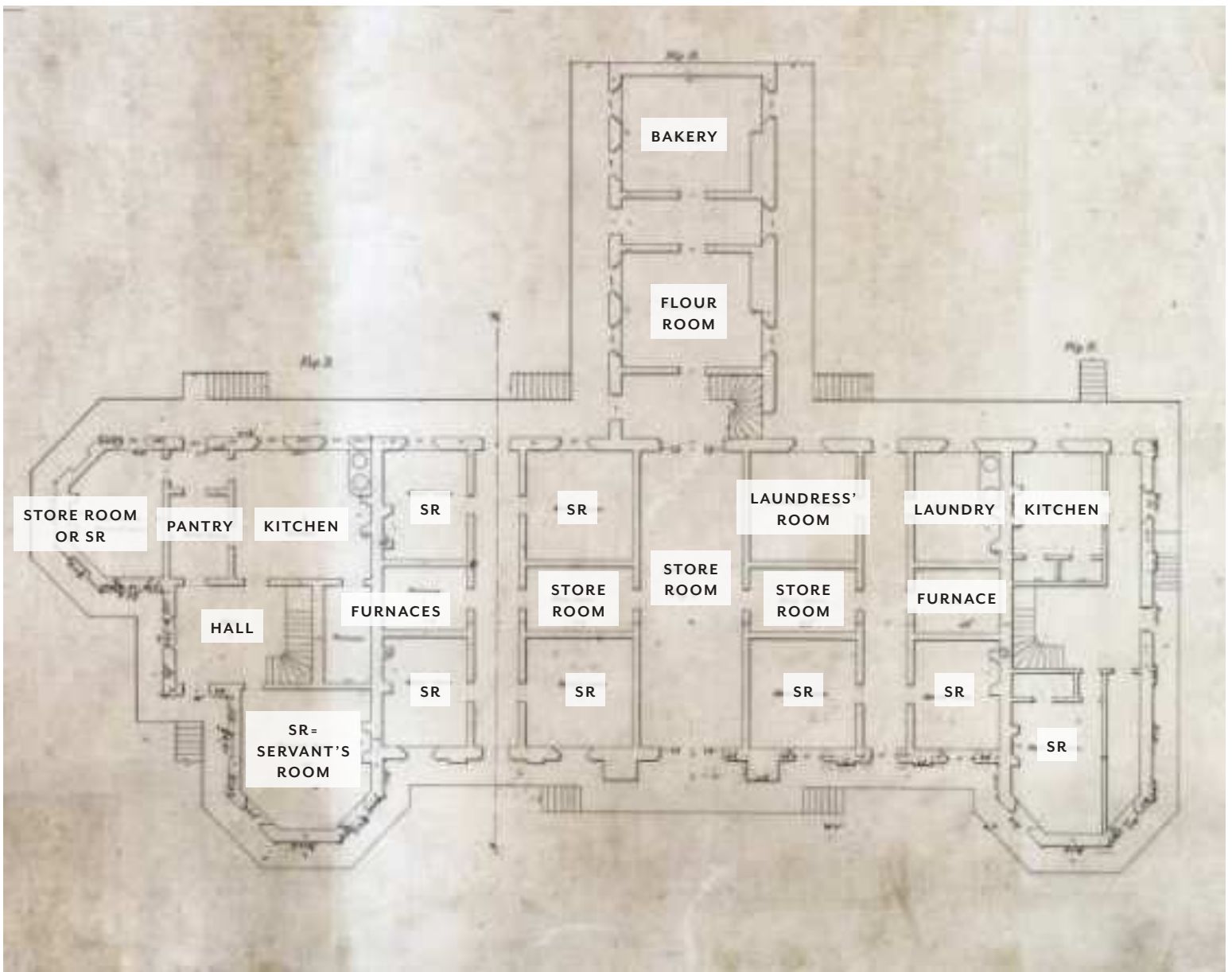
The first decade of the 20th century brought a significant enlargement and renovation. A Government increase in the number of cadets led to the expansion. In 1900-01, some cadets had to eat in Schofield Hall. The cadet dining area was expanded by knocking out the end walls and incorporating space formerly used by the West Point Army Mess and as quarters. To do this, second-floor windows on the end wings were removed.



Most of the work seems to have been completed by 1904, but some aspects of the job, including floor replacements (wood to concrete) and roof work, appear to have carried over for several more years. A temporary kitchen was used during the construction. The first contractor turned out to be unable to handle the job.

An important part of the renovation was a significant modernization of the machinery around the Academy. Powered

by its own steam-driven dynamo, there was ample electricity to power the entire Mess Hall plus lights in the library and sewing machines in the cadet store, located where Washington Hall now stands. With the added power, the Academy was able to add refrigeration, water heaters, and an elevator. Cooks were able to take advantage of labor-saving devices such as a potato peeler that could prepare a half bushel in four minutes and ice cream



makers. Milk was sterilized on location and electric fans cooled work areas.

Another technological innovation was the installation of bells that were set off by the cadet adjutant in Central Area when the Corps was ready for meals. This allowed food to remain in warmers until the very last minute.

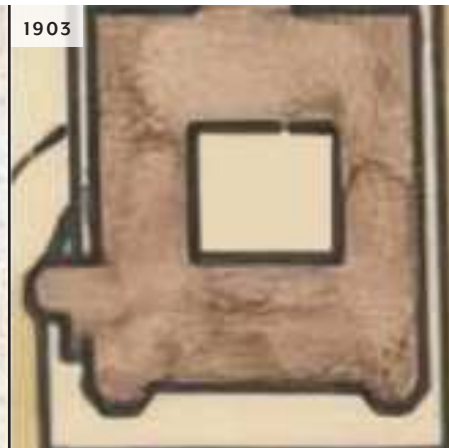
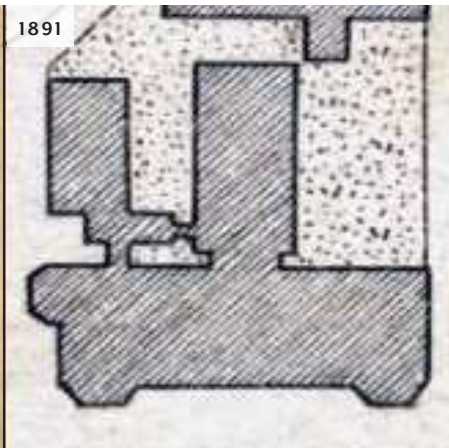
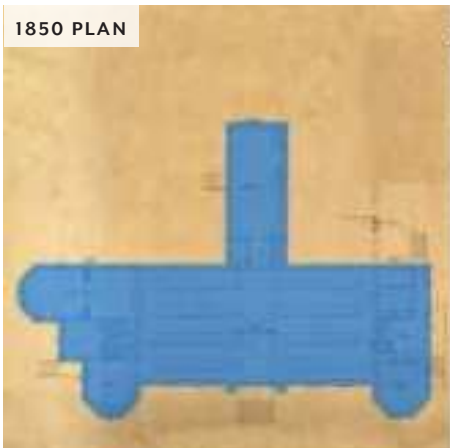
Based on photos, the renovated building had at least the following rooms or equipment besides the main dining room: boiler room, coffee urn area, squad room, lavatories for employees, ice plant room, linen room, a “butter box” refrigerated area, a “fruit box” cold storage area, sculleries, pantries, a butcher shop, soup kettles, flour/sugar storeroom, potato peeling room, a bakery, servant dining areas, pot

washing areas, serving rooms, an equipment switchboard, a power plant, and the main kitchen.

Grant Hall, the 1852 Mess Hall, was torn down after the completion of Washington Hall in 1929. The location is now the second Grant Hall and Grant Barracks.

Facing: The approved plans for the first and upper floors of the new Mess Hall, 1850. The south end of the building, on the left, was the officers' mess, aka the West Point Army Mess, until 1901. The north end was designed as quarters for the contracted purveyor of the Mess Hall, but by 1889 this area is listed as quarters for officers. The area over the kitchen had become dormitories by 1889, but it is unclear if this was an expansion or a retrofitting of the existing space. NARA

Above: The basement of the Mess Hall was a hive of activity. Employees lived and worked in the same space. Note that there are no bathrooms. The water closets were in buildings in the back. By the 1880s, several basement rooms had changed function. NARA



The original Mess Hall had a single wing in the back for the kitchen and bakery (basement), seen in the 1850 plan above. In 1876, the addition seen on the 1891 map in the middle was added. It contained a large room, 62'x30', used for hops and social functions. It was later named Schofield Hall. Between 1901 and 1904, Grant Hall got a major renovation. The larger footprint is clear in the image on the right (1903 map). Much of the kitchen moved to the back wing of the renovated building. NARA; USMA LIBRARY ASC; NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



The back (west) side of Grant Hall during the expansion, December 1903. This section of the building had the main kitchen and numerous specialty areas. USMA LIBRARY ASC

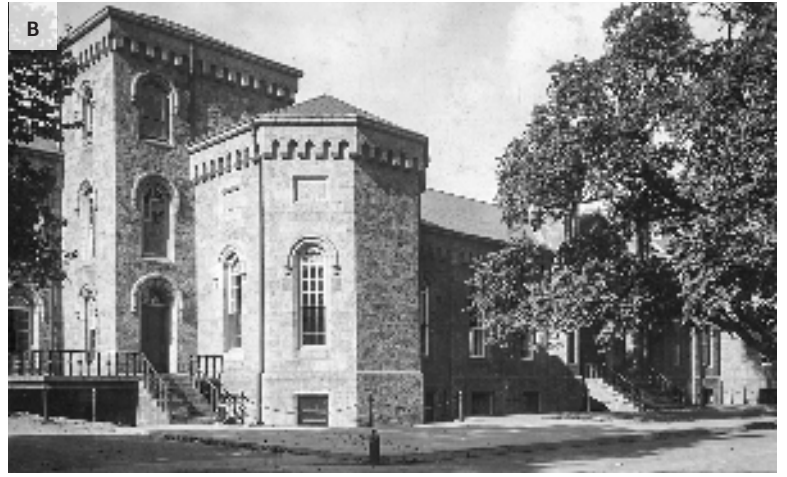
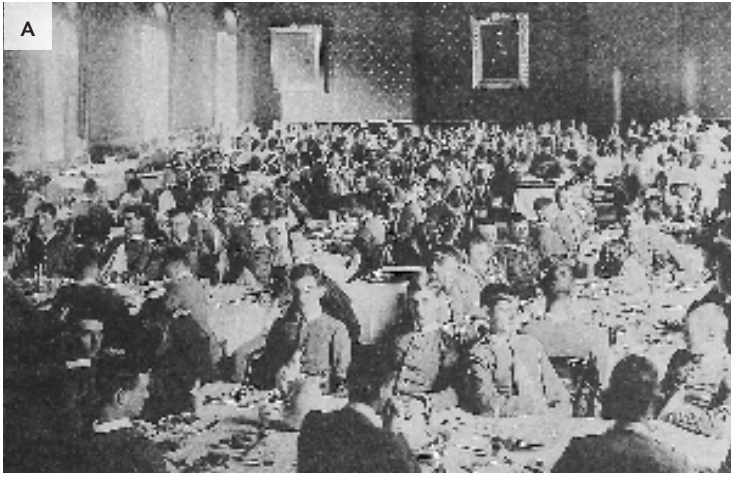
The main kitchen of Grant Hall in 1903. This was on the west side of the building. USMA LIBRARY ASC



FACING PAGE

A: This is the original Mess Hall room, seen here as it was in the 1880s. Note that there are no windows at the end of the room. The portrait of Ulysses S. Grant by Helen Darragh was delivered to the Academy in May 1887 and is said to have hung on the north wall. The building was officially named Grant Hall on June 4, 1887. STODDARD

B: This 1902-03 photo shows that the windows were changed when the dining area was enlarged. Instead of two windows on each tower, there is only one enlarged opening plus a decorative rectangle above each. USMA LIBRARY ASC



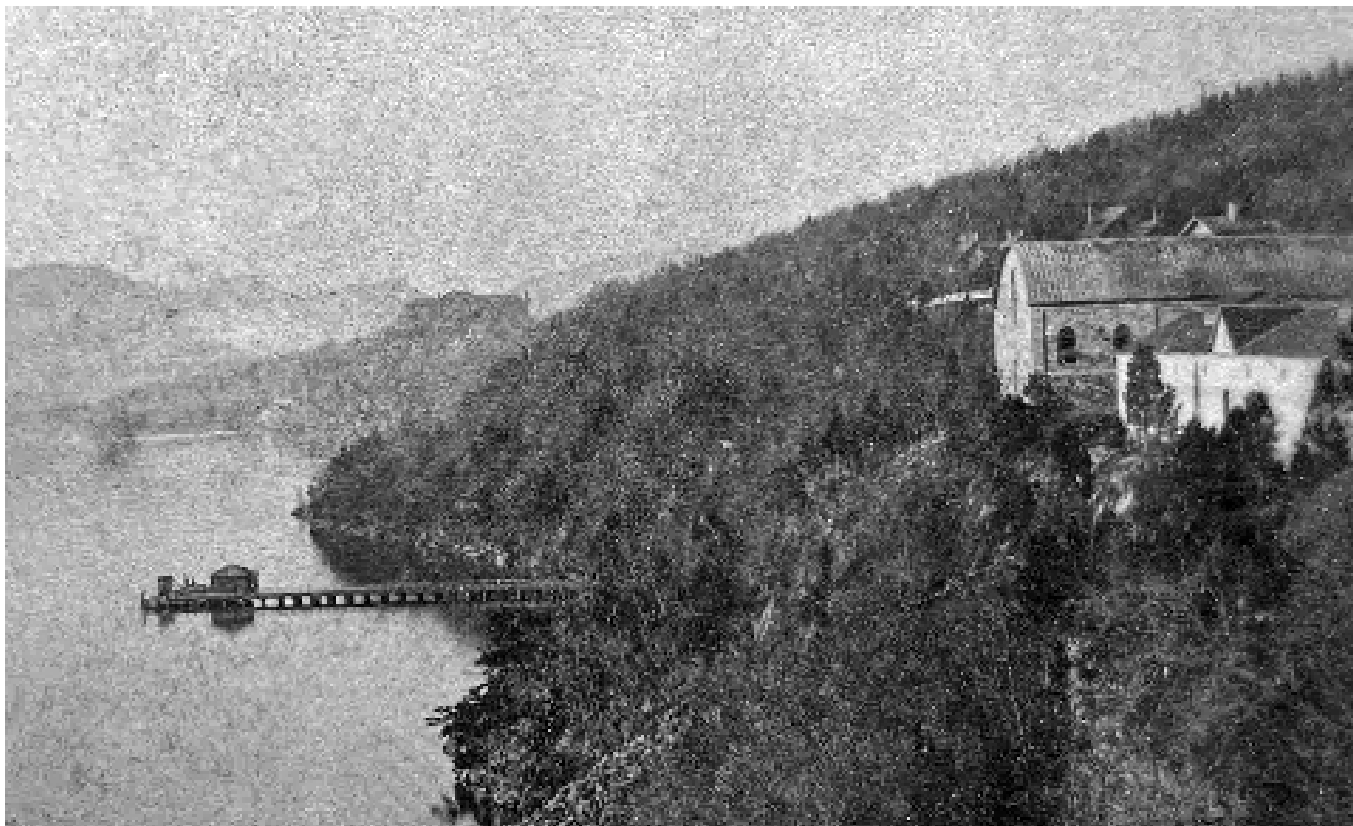
C: The renovation of the opening years of the 20th century required expanding the main dining area. The walls on the north and south ends were removed and spaces converted to allow for more seating. USMA LIBRARY ASC

D: Fresh bread right out of the oven, 1919. In 1904, the Commissary of Cadets reported that

146,344 pounds of flour were consumed that year. In 1925, bakers were producing about 400 3-pound loaves of bread daily as well as 200 pies or 1,100 rolls or an equal amount of coffee cake. Electric toasters could make 600 slices in 30 minutes. A donut maker was able to make 960 an hour. USMA LIBRARY ASC

E: The "fool-proof" hydraulic service elevator, 1904. The Otis Elevator Co. was the contractor. USMA LIBRARY ASC

F: Employee lavatory, 1904. The stalls on the right are showers. USMA LIBRARY ASC



A late 1850s or 1860s photo of South Dock. The wharf connected to a road that led up the hill toward the Riding Hall, visible on the right along with the Cavalry Barracks. On the hill in the background is Cozzen's Hotel in Buttermilk (Highland Falls). Over time, the shoreline has been expanded.

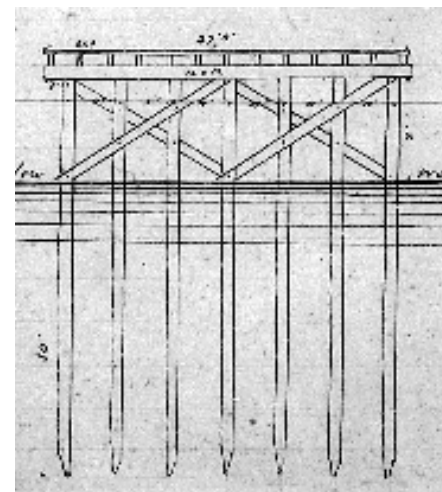
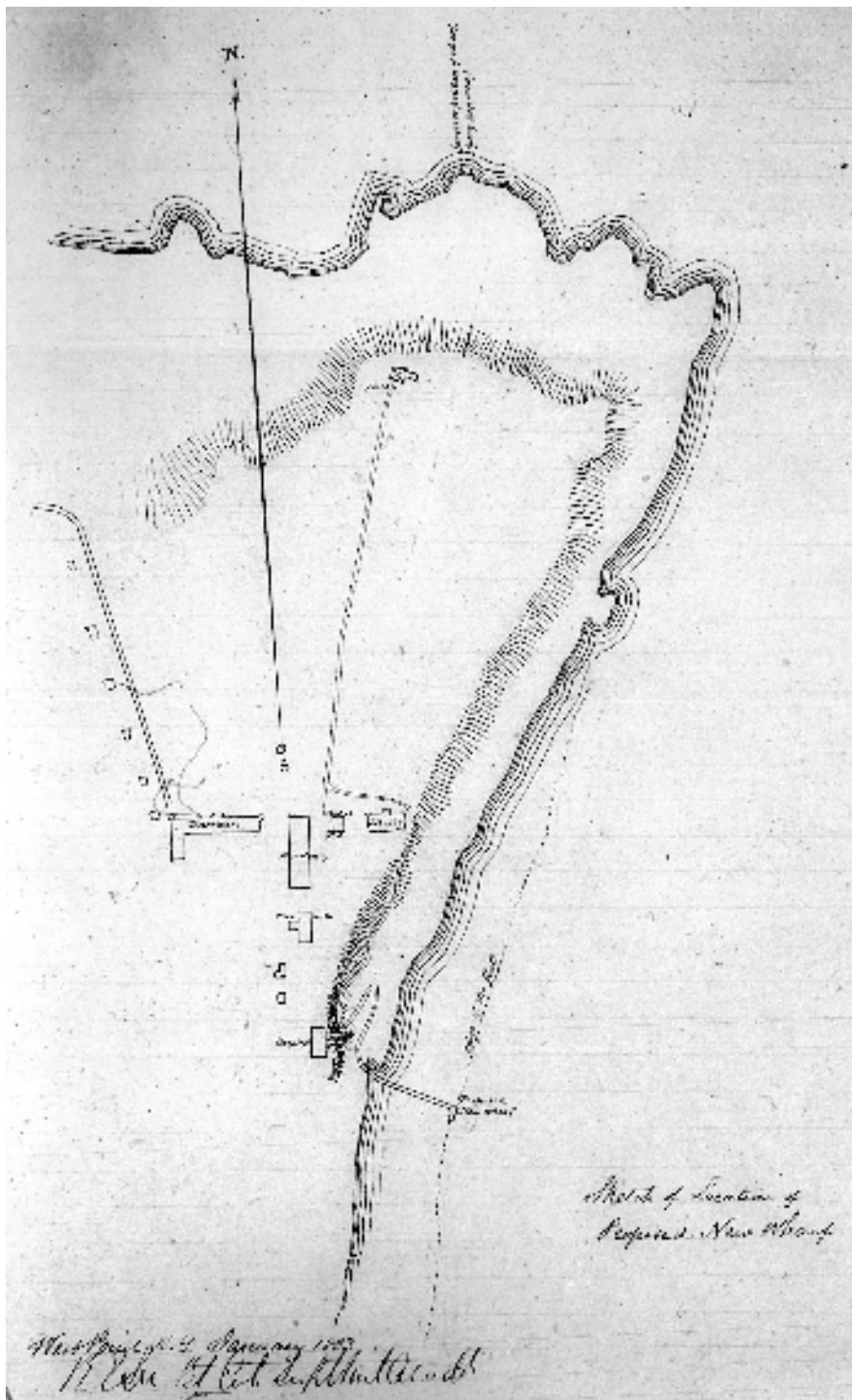
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ALTHOUGH SMALL DOCKS dotted West Point's shoreline, until the 1850s nearly all significant landings occurred at the landing on the north shore, now commonly referred to as North Dock. However, the North Dock's location was quite exposed to currents and the weather and not ideal for the landing of large steamboats. In the fall of 1850, a raft, likely something being towed, took out a floating dock. In response, officials requested money for a new wharf and suggested a location on the southern end of post.

Plans and estimates for the new landing were finalized by January 1853. Since the profile of the River in the proposed location was quite shallow, the plan required building a "pole bridge" 19' wide and 300' long to clear the shallows. The 27.5'x100' dock was located on the edge of the flats. According to preliminary

plans, 30' posts extended 22' below the water and into the riverbed to support the dock platform. Records show \$4,330 was spent on the wharf in the 1853-1854 fiscal year, but the actual completion date is unknown.

It certainly must have been a consideration that the Hudson River Railroad line to Garrison was completed in December 1849. Having a better dock allowed West Point to connect by large ferries to the station and gave Academy personnel and visitors a range of options to get to and from USMA with easier transfers. Ferry service is mentioned between the two locations as early as 1851, but it is unclear where the ferry landed on the West Point side of the river. By 1854, a ferry named the *Putnam* was in service. In March 1855, Putnam County resident John Garrison was granted legal right by New York law to operate the ferry for 21 years.



Left: A January 1853 map proposing the new wharf location, signed by Superintendent Robert E. Lee. The elevated road over the water to the dock was designed to be 19' wide and 8' above the water.

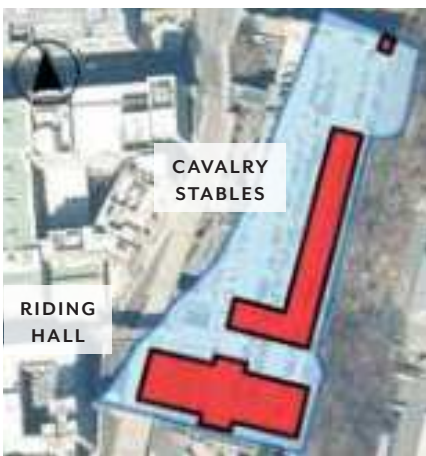
NARA; USMA LIBRARY ASC

Above: The 1853 plans call for a main dock 27.5x100' sitting 8' above the low water line. The piers go down 22' below the surface. NARA; USMA LIBRARY ASC

Photos show that by the 1860s, an additional dock had been built a few hundred feet south of the 1853 wharf. Maps from a decade or so later do not show the earlier dock at all, and by the 1880s, the location to the south had been abandoned and a new dock built closer to the 1853 location. The 1880s construction was certainly related to the completion of the West Shore Railroad, which was designed to

provide passengers options to board there from steamboats, or to catch steamboats after leaving the train. The train depot located there lasted until the 1920s, when it was replaced concurrent with the opening of the Hotel Thayer. The South Dock area had to service ferry, steamboat, and railroad passengers while also providing safe crossing of railroad tracks and keeping unwanted visitors off post.

RIDING HALL, 1855



TEACHING CADETS TO ride horses on the cramped bottom floor of the 1838 academic building was dangerous and inadequate. For several years, the Board of Visitors and Academy officials had been underscoring the need for a better training space. In Washington, the Senate supported the construction of a riding hall but it repeatedly stalled in the House. Amendments to authorize funds were voted down in 1851 and 1852. The Academy kept up the pressure. Superintendent Robert E. Lee wrote in his 1852 annual report:

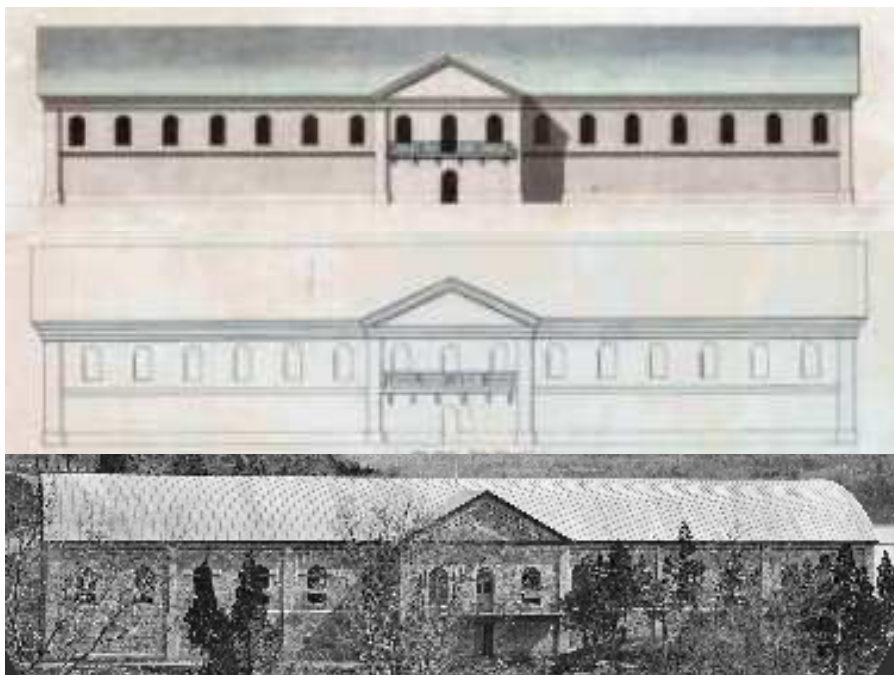
So much has been said by the various boards of visitors of the necessity for a riding and drill hall, and you are so well acquainted with its importance, that I feel it unnecessary to do more than, in asking for an appropriation for its construction, to state that the course of equitation cannot, in my opinion, be properly taught without it; and that the room now used for the purpose is extremely dangerous to the lives and limbs of the cadets.

Years of asking finally paid off, and in 1854, \$20,000 was approved. Plans had already been drawn up, including one that was sent to the Academy from London in 1851 by USMA graduate James M. Hawes, then stationed at the famed École de cavalerie in Saumur, France. The record is clear that this design, with some modifications of size and roof, was the one that was approved and built. It is quite similar to the Manège des Écuyers that still stands in Saumur.

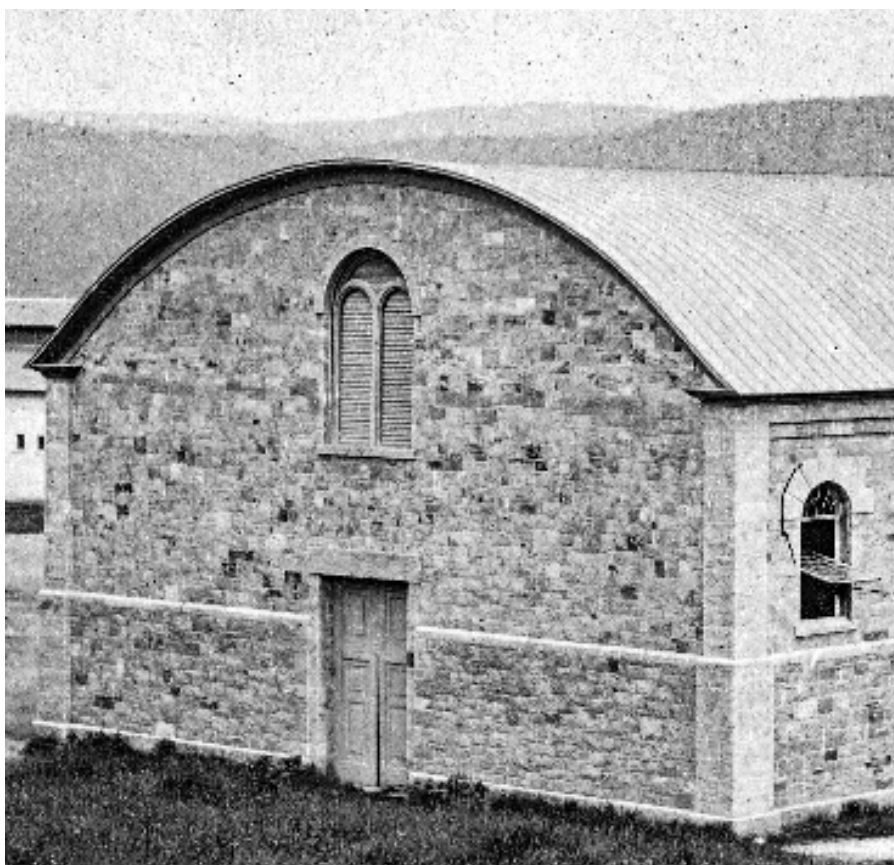
The building was stone and essentially one large open area for riding. Stone from the 1817 North Barracks may have been used. The interior riding area was 210'x70' with a height of 58'. The overall footprint was 218'x78' with walls that measured about 3' thick. There were balconies on each side of the hall for observers, about 100 per side. The roof was curved. Given the building in Saumur did not have a curved roof, the design element may have been modeled after a building in the Providence Railroad Depot at Park Place in Boston, or a

Top: The Riding Hall, 1870 or 1871. It sat where the Power Plant is today. The curved road follows almost the same path today. USMA LIBRARY ASC

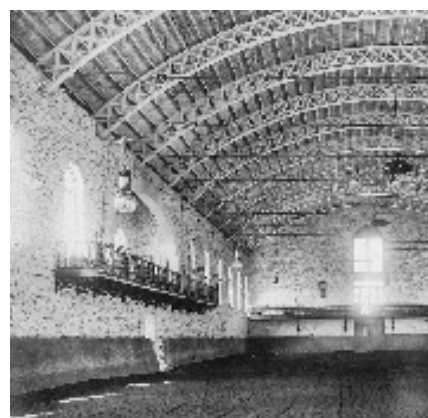
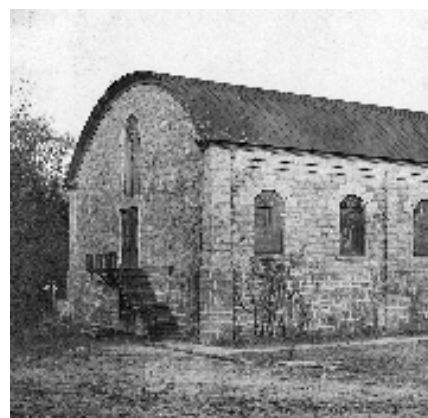
The Riding Hall and Cavalry Barracks were located under the footprint of today's Thayer Hall and Power Plant. The area in blue was the open space used for preparing and grooming horses and also some riding.



On top, an 1851 plan sent from Saumur, France, by USMA grad James Hawes. It's influence on the 1852 drawing by Fitz John Porter, USMA 1845, (which became the approved plan for the Riding Hall) is clear. The final building is shown in the bottom image. NARA; USMA LIBRARY ASC



Detail of the side of the Riding Hall from the late 1860s. GETTY MUSEUM



Above, a view of the exterior in 1903-04, showing an iron staircase added to reach an interior viewing area on the west end. Below, the viewing area is visible in a 1907-08 photo along the back wall. Electric light fixtures have been added. They appear to be arc lamps, which would have been much brighter than conventional bulbs of the time.

GETTY MUSEUM



The 210'x70' interior of the Riding Hall. The interior walls seem to have been left relatively rough-hewn. The viewing areas are on each side. A staircase is visible on the far right. The space seems to have had gas lighting at this time. The building had no other rooms.

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railroad manufacturing building owned by the Wasson Manufacturing Company in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Architecturally, the Riding Hall seems to have followed the same Romanesque Revival style used for the Mess Hall. There are no Gothic arches on the building. The windows on the east and west ends could be considered Norman with double grouped, rounded arches within an overall rounded arch. The pediment on the south face is certainly neoclassical in design. The classification of utility buildings such as the Riding Hall is difficult, but there is nothing to suggest a return to a Gothic style for larger buildings at the Academy during this time.

In terms of modification to the Riding Hall after construction, there were several changes. First, the building was finished before the gas plant on post, but gas lights are visible in some later photos. Even later, lightbulbs, probably bright arc lamps, can be seen. Therefore, it seems

there was a transition from no lighting to gas to electricity. The source of the electricity is uncertain as the bulbs are visible before a dedicated power plant was finished (and that power plant was on the site of the Riding Hall). The early 20th century upgrade to Grant Hall, including electric generators, is one possibility.

Second, in the 1890s, a staircase was added to the west end of the building to access an additional viewing area. It is unclear if the east end was also modified. Third, Academy budgets periodically asked for upgrades to systems such as the water supply. This makes sense as a horse can use 5-20 gallons a day.

SUMMER ENCAMPMENT



FROM THAYER'S SUPERINTENDENCY until 1942, with the exception of a brief period during the early 1920s when MacArthur ordered that training be conducted at other posts, the summer encampment was on the eastern side of the Plain, where tennis courts and soccer fields are today. Cadets lived from June until the end of August in tents on wooden platforms. The Corps was divided into companies, with each having its own "street" in the camp. There were additional tents for administration.

Cadet life in camp before the Civil War was significantly more relaxed than during the academic year. While there were certainly drill and parades most days, even new plebes had time to nap. Dance lessons and hops were frequent summer activities. For hops, tent platforms were put together to form a dance floor, and candles provided a bit of light. Tents were also illuminated by candlelight.

Meals were still taken in the Mess Hall during the summer, but cadets also, at times, could buy oysters or sweets, such as pie or ice cream from Joe Simpson the barber. Crackers and cheese could be bought at the post store. In at least one cadet account, meals seem to have been optional.

There was a rudimentary latrine (sink) on the east side of the encampment close to where the soccer locker rooms are

today. These seem to have been pit toilets. Calls for a permanent latrine picked up in the late 1850s, but records indicate a more permanent privy was not completed until 1863. An 1879 article mentions that the encampment sink had a brick vault below it that was cleaned once per year and smelled terribly. It is unclear if this refers to the pre- or post-1860s version of the sink.

When the baths opened in the basement of the Central Barracks in the late 1840s, cadets could go there to clean up, but many also used their free time to bathe in streams on post.

The camp was surrounded by numerous sentinel boxes, and cadets walked guard shifts twenty-four hours a day all summer long. Interaction with guests staying at the West Point Hotel was the social focus of the summer, but was regulated and limited to visiting hours, dances, concerts, and the like. There were almost no trees in the area until some were planted in about 1855 around the perimeter.

The summer encampment in an 1830s painting by John Rubens Smith. The view is from Fort Clinton looking southwest. The largest building is North Barracks. Note the lack of trees. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Top: The summer encampment, shown outlined in green as it was in the 1870s, was on the eastern side of the Plain. Before the Civil War, most of the cadet tents were on the east (right) side of the green area. In the 1850s, Fort Clinton, shown in purple, was “restored” and cadets trained inside its ramparts.

An early 1857 photo of the encampment. Small trees, presumably the ones planted about 1855, can be seen along the front edge.

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SOLDIERS' CHAPEL, 1856



Top, left: In this undated, hand-colored photo, the Soldiers' Chapel is the 2nd building from the front. In front is a fire engine garage. In the rear are the Artillery and Cavalry Barracks. The Band Barracks is at the far left.

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Top, right: The building as a practice facility for the USMA Band in the 1930s before it was demolished. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Bottom: This illustration by William Erwin appears in the 1880 pamphlet Our Little Brown House.

THE SIMPLE CHURCH had an important role in the religious community at West Point in the 19th century. As the number of soldiers and civilian workers grew, the 1836 Cadet Chapel was simply not big enough to accommodate the community.

The Soldiers' Chapel is most commonly dated to 1856. It was built in part with wood kept from the dismantling of the 1830 Gun Shed in about 1840. It originally had a tin roof that was later replaced by shingles. Heating was by stove and later a furnace, the building seems to have been modified a few times. An 1880 account says that the building was enlarged and the roof raised by a "Captain B." Although speculation, this could be 1860s quartermaster Captain Boynton.

The overall dimensions in 1889 were 30'6" x 65'. 20th century records list slightly different dimensions. The building had a basement and a worship space. In 1889, the main chapel area was 28'2" x 63'8" with a 25' foot ceiling. There was a 28'2" x 20' balcony as well. The Chapel had a Catholic altar that could be hidden by folding doors. The exterior windows contained

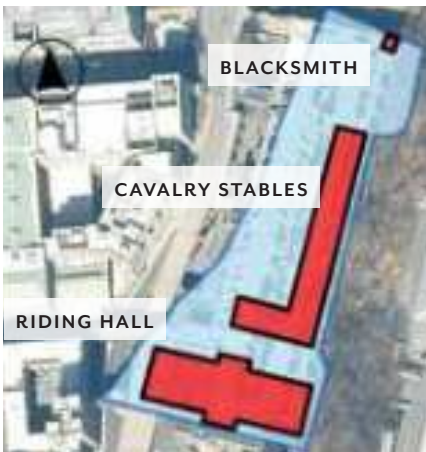
semi-circular Roman arches like several other buildings of this era.

In the 19th century, the Soldiers' Chapel was used for both Protestant and Catholic services. Catholic cadets and soldiers attended mass here. With a large percentage of soldiers being of Irish ancestry, the Catholic use of this Chapel increased and led to a (controversial) call for a dedicated Catholic Chapel.

The Soldiers' Chapel was the subject of a published poem in 1880 called *Our Little Brown House*. It begins:

*There's a little brown house just
under the hill;
It's not by the river, nor yet by a rill;
Its not on the green-sward where the
gay and proud meet,
But it stands on the corner of
Bandbarrack's street.*

A Catholic Chapel was finished in 1900 and the Cadet Chapel in 1910. The Soldiers' Chapel became a Band practice facility for the rest of its life. It was torn down in October 1935.



Above: The Stables were located where Thayer Hall is today. In 1891, new Cavalry Barracks were built at the north end of the above image near the location of the Blacksmith Shop, which was moved to the south end of the Stables.

Facing, top: The approved plans for the stables, dated 1854, seem to have been more or less followed. NARA

Facing, bottom: This early 1870s photo is one of the best surviving of the Cavalry Barracks. In the foreground is the shorter section of the building. Most of the stalls are in the section to the left. USMA LIBRARY ASC

AN INCREASE IN the number of horses and plans for a new riding hall made more stable space a necessity. Building plans lagged behind those of the Riding Hall, but both were approved at or about at the same time in 1854. While the Riding Hall adopted a French model, the Cavalry Stables were based on U.S. Army experiences with similar buildings.

As approved, the plan for the Stables had close to 100 stalls and a few sick boxes. It also shows a “boiling room,” a harness room, a saddle room, a store room, and a daily forage room. A loft above the stalls was designed for forage and could hold about eight months of food. Overall, the building was L-shaped and over 300’ long on its longest side. The original plan indicates 317.5’ but an 1889 report lists 301’. The width of both the long and short sections was 38’, also a bit narrower than the approved plans of 41’4” in 1854. The building was brick.

Boynnton (1863) and Williams (1889) both list the building as being built in 1854. This is incorrect. Plans were completed in 1852 and approved in 1854, but almost no funds were expended until early 1855, and it is noted as half-finished by October 1855. Congress balked twice on approving the funds to complete the structure, and thus it was not until the late summer of 1857 that spending on the building stopped, indicating its completion. It seems likely that the Academy began to use the building before completion because the Riding Hall next door was completed in 1855. In Academy

correspondence of the time, the building is referred to as “stables for dragoon and artillery horses.”

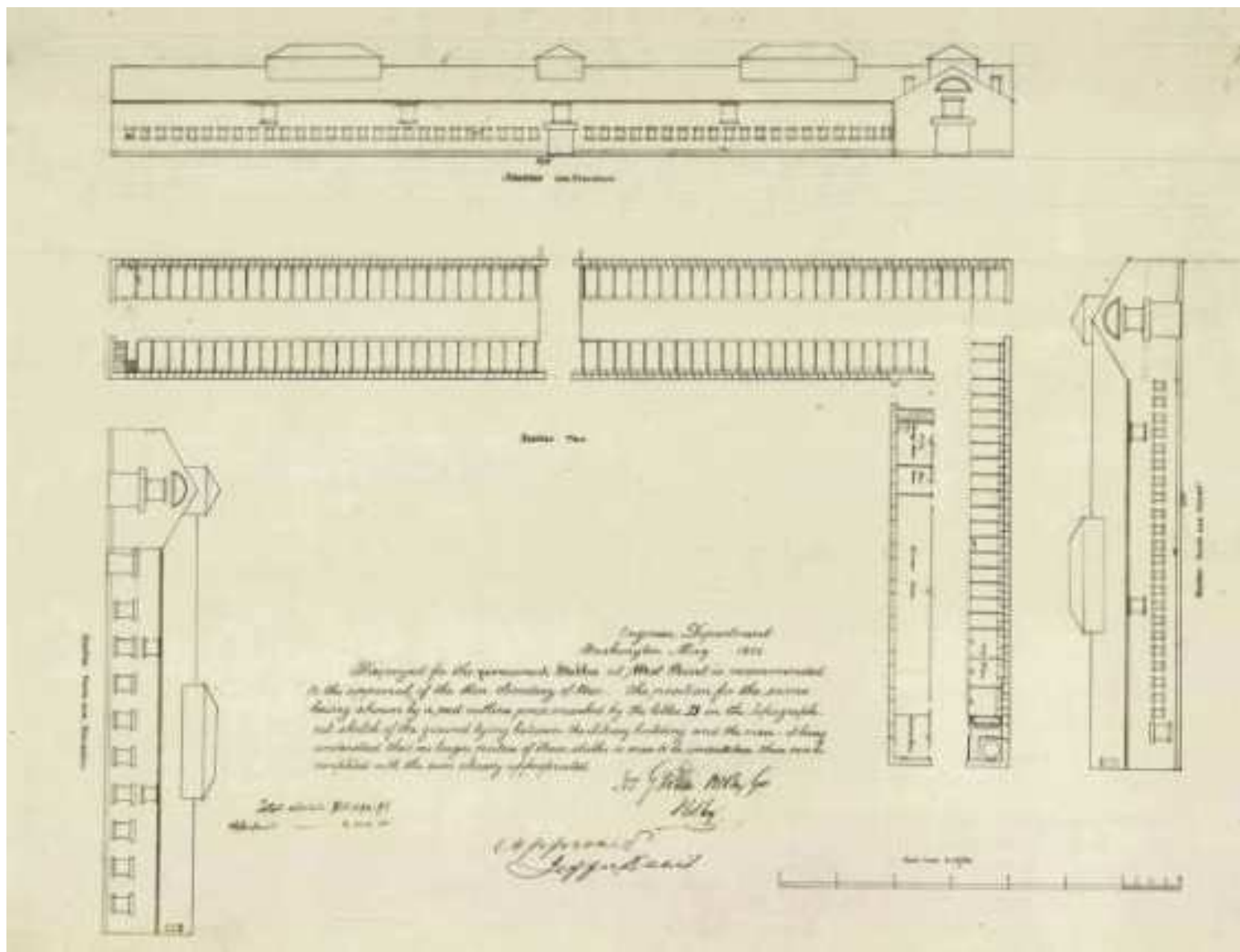
The building was located directly under the modern footprint of Thayer Hall. The long side of the stables overlooked the Hudson and featured prominently to steamboat passengers and riders on the Hudson River Railroad.

Although utilitarian, it was an expensive building to operate. In 1857, \$8,640 was appropriated for forage, well over \$250,000 in 2023 dollars. In addition, horses had to be replaced regularly. Records of purchases after the Civil War show the Academy spent about \$4,000 in current dollars per horse. Vermont, Kentucky, and Indiana were common purchase locations.

There were some modifications to the interior use of space over time. In 1889, the rooms included a veterinarian’s room, a non-commissioned officers’ room, a guard room, two storerooms, a saddler shop, and five box stalls.

The courtyard on the west side of the building was used for riding lessons, but also for grooming and saddling the government-owned animals. There was a long line of hitching posts on the far western side of the courtyard.

In 1891, barracks were built near the north end of the building for the cavalry detachment. The barracks were damp and cold because they hugged the wet side of the cliff. They were occupied for less than 20 years.





Top: The Cavalry Stables, the length of a football field, overlooked the River where Thayer Hall sits today. To the left is the Riding Hall and, at the far right, the blacksmith shop, a one-story, 27'x21' brick building built in 1856. GETTY MUSEUM

The 1850s Riding Hall and Cavalry Stables were torn down to build a new riding hall, now Thayer Hall, at the end of the first decade of the 20th century. The photo at the right is from 1910 and gives one of the only known looks inside the Cavalry Stables. Rounded arches and quoins show that an attempt was made to harmonize the utilitarian building with the 1855 Riding Hall next door. From this point on, the majority of the Academy's horses were stabled at what is now known as Buffalo Soldiers Field. USMA LIBRARY ASC



QUARTERS 27 & 29, 1857
DEAN'S QUARTERS



TO ANYONE FAMILIAR with the USMA campus, it is difficult to believe that the beautiful Dean's Quarters, a near textbook example of Gothic Revival architecture, started its life as quarters for junior married officers.

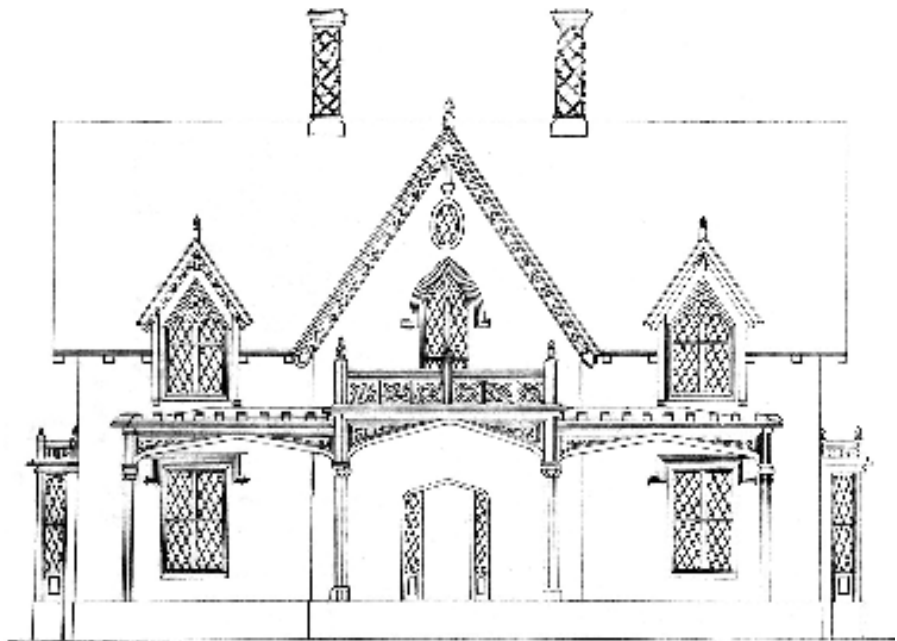
Plans for a small Gothic Revival cottage were approved in August 1856, but these were replaced by another design that had been approved by the Secretary of War in March of the same year. The designer was Lieutenant Quincy A. Gilmore, Class of 1849. In the mid-1850s, he was working as the USMA Quartermaster and Treasurer.

As built, Quarters 27 & 29 have all the key components of a Gothic Revival house as promoted in popular pattern books of the time by Downing, Davis, and others, but it does not appear to be

a copy. Built of brick, it has a steeply pitched, cross-gabled roof with decorative vergeboard. Most of the windows have pointed Gothic arches with dripstones. The house's original floor plan is not well understood.

Over the decades, the size of the house grew. A 2005 Corps of Engineers report on the building reveals that there is a lot unknown about the house. For example, it was designed for one family, but early on, it had a second set of quarters in a small addition, making one large and one small apartment. It is unclear if the first addition was built during the original construction. An additional wing on the northwest side was added by 1871, but precisely when is also unclear. Several other mystery alterations, including additions and demolitions, occurred by the early 20th century.

In this photo from about 1870, Quarters 27 & 29 building is unpainted and has both dark and light trim. USMA LIBRARY ASC



A comparison between the 1856 plans and the finished building, shown here in the early 1980s before the porch was screened in.

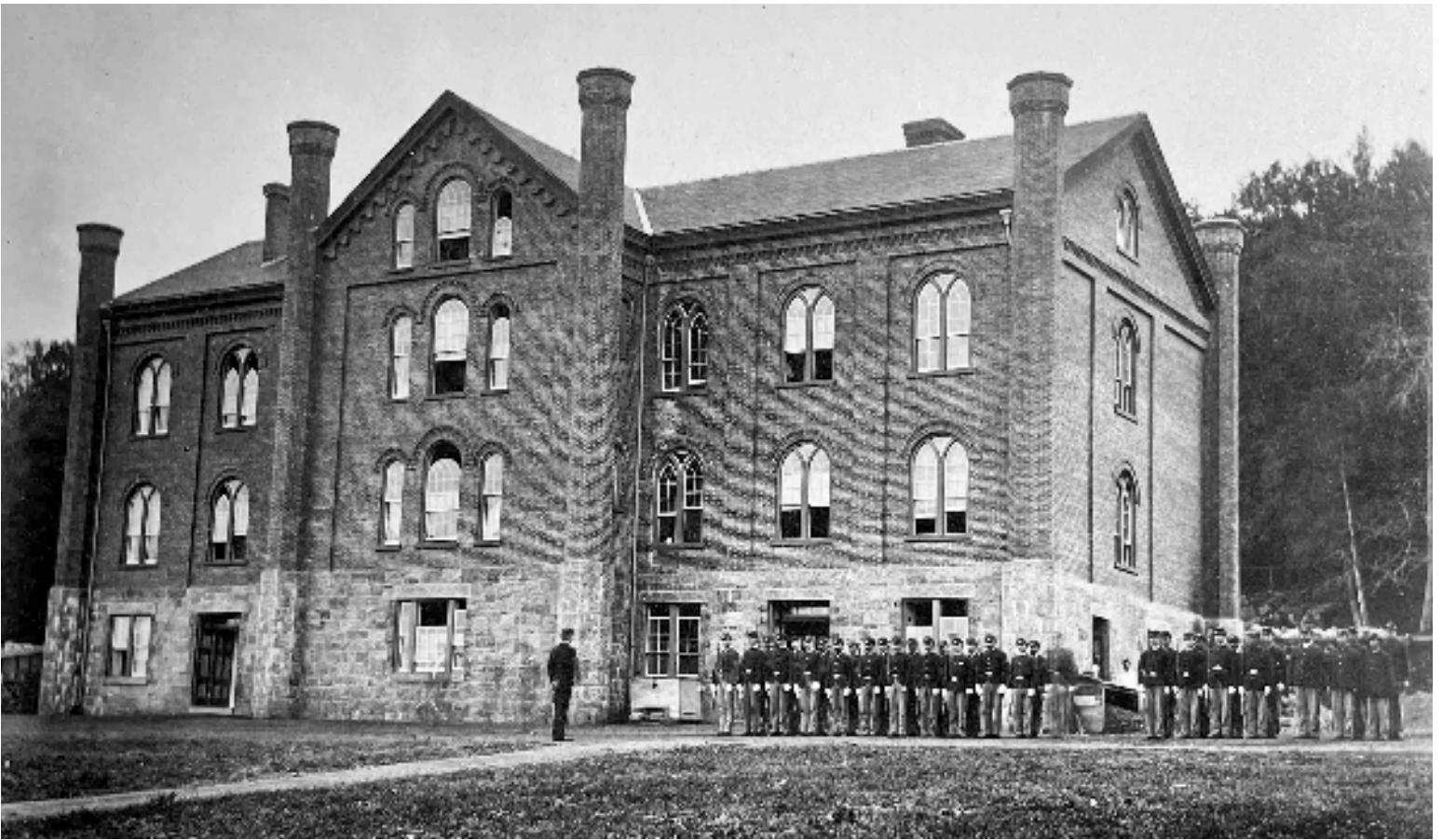
NARA & LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The building was numbered to Quarters 102 in August 1937.

Until the 1930s, the house was quarters for two officer families. It was often associated with the medical services at the Academy, such as a doctor or assistant surgeon. In 1937, the residence was converted to use by a single family. The first Dean to occupy the building was BG Harris Jones in 1947, the position being created in 1946. Since the 1940s, several non-Deans have also lived in Quarters 102.

The original house is believed to have been unpainted brick with details painted in brown “graining” over orange yellow paint, which would have looked like real wood. The sashes may have been white at times and black at others. In the 20th century, paint analysis indicated that the house may have been gray or white-yellow. The building is currently a pale yellow with maroon trim.

ENGINEER BARRACKS, 1858

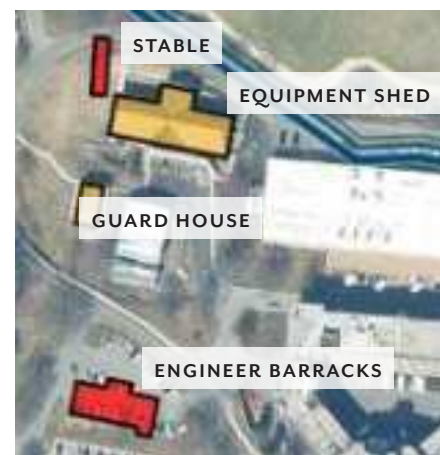


THE ENGINEER BARRACKS sat on the hill at the west end of the service area below the Plain. Below it were the Guard House and Engineer Equipment Shed from the early 1850s. Estimates for an Engineer Barracks first appear in the record in 1849. \$10,000 was appropriated as early as 1852, but the funds remained unused for five years before construction got underway. There are several sets of plans in the National Archives that do not represent the final built barracks. Based on accounting and other records, construction wrapped up in 1858. The building was brick with a stone basement.

For the first few decades of its life, officers lived in the east end of the building and enlisted soldiers in the west. By the late 1880s, it was all enlisted quarters

and could hold 75 men. The Barracks had over two dozen rooms, including a basement kitchen and dining area. The latrines were outside the building. It was heated by stoves but had some gas lighting. It was not connected to the post power plant for heating until 1935 but may have had furnaces.

In the 1930s, this building became one of the barracks for the band. It is listed as the Engineer Barracks on a map representing 1935 but as Band Barracks three years later. It was torn down in the late 1960s.



Top: The north side of the Engineer Barracks as it looked in the 1870s. USMA LIBRARY ASC

The Engineer Barracks was located close to the current Department of Public Works building and up the hill from the Equipment Shed and Guard House, which still exist.





Above: Quarters 11 & 13 were located in a building south of the Superintendent's quarters. Today, the location would be in North Area.

Top, right: Quarters 11 & 13 in about 1867. This is likely as it was built. Note that there is no porch. A small rose window can be seen on the left side.

JOHN PITMAN/USMA LIBRARY ASC

Facing, top: The south and east sides of the Engineer Barracks in the 1920s or 1930s. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Facing, bottom: This photo of Quarters 11 & 13 shows the addition of a patio along the entire front length of the house. The image is from a few years after the image at the top right of this page.

JOHN PITMAN/USMA LIBRARY ASC



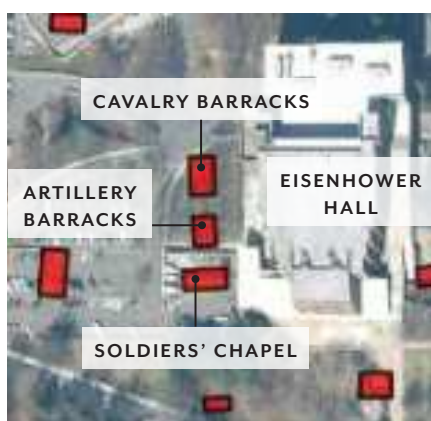
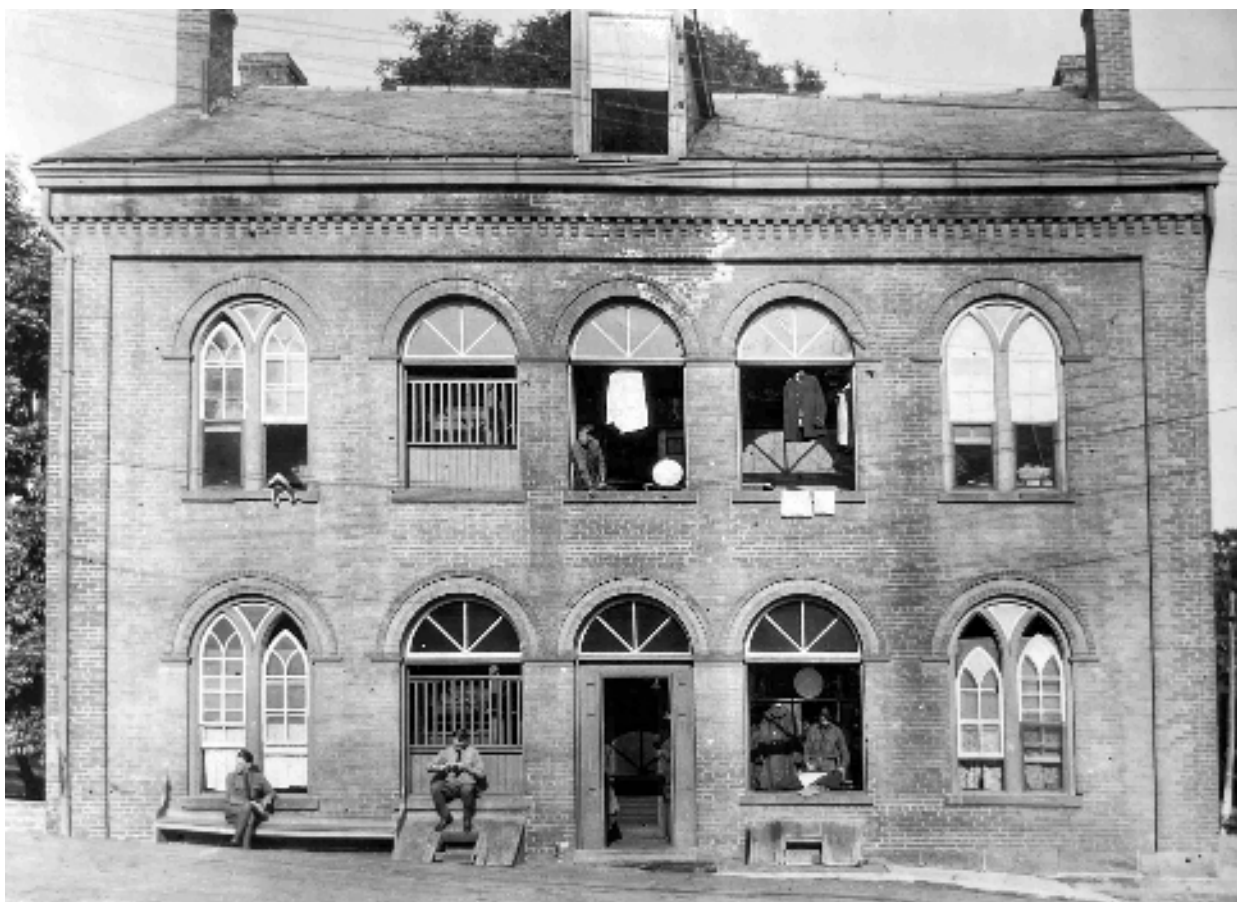
WHILE IT IS not the intent of this book to cover every set of quarters built before 1860, the building housing Quarters 11 and 13 is important because of its style. Its rounded arches suggest a consideration of Romanesque Revival design elements. In fact, the Gothic biforas set inside Roman arches are very similar to those found on the Smithsonian Castle and other Romanesque buildings. Both styles of window on the second floor of this house appear in similar forms on the same page of the 1849 *Hints on Public Architecture* in the section on Norman (Romanesque) windows.

Located on the same line of quarters as the Superintendent's House, the building was a duplex for two junior married officers. Each had a basement kitchen with a furnace room and servants' water closet. The ground floor

had a dining room, parlor, and butler's pantry in each unit. On the second floor, each had two bedrooms, a bathroom, and three bedrooms.

The house was demolished to build the North Barracks in the first decade of the 20th century.

CAVALRY BARRACKS, 1858 ARTILLERY BARRACKS, 1859



IN ADDITION TO the Engineer Barracks, the late 1850s saw the construction of housing for the Cavalry and Artillery Detachments. The two barracks discussed here sat next to each other on a north-south line next to where Eisenhower Hall is located today. This was close to the Soldiers' Chapel and the Band Barracks.

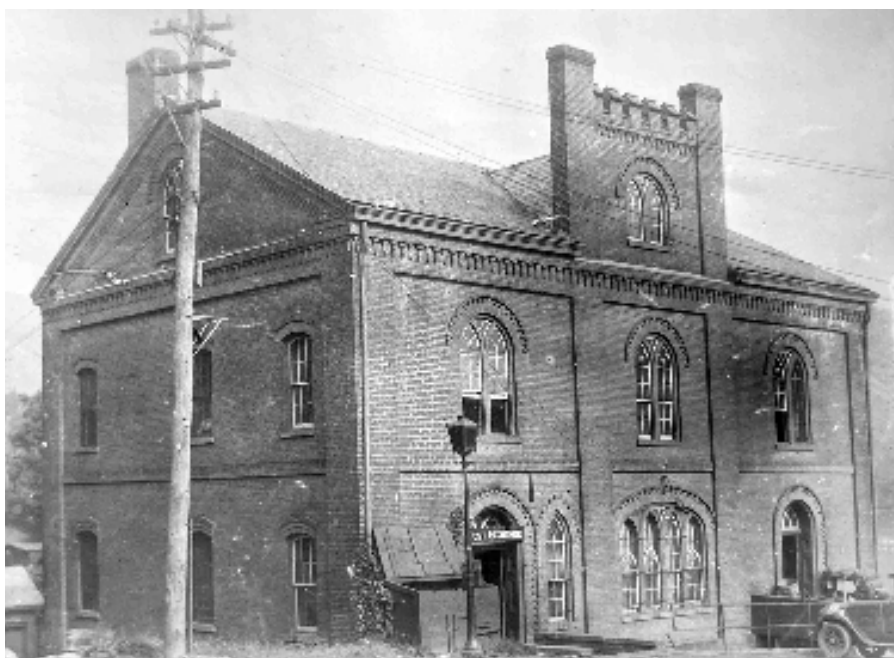
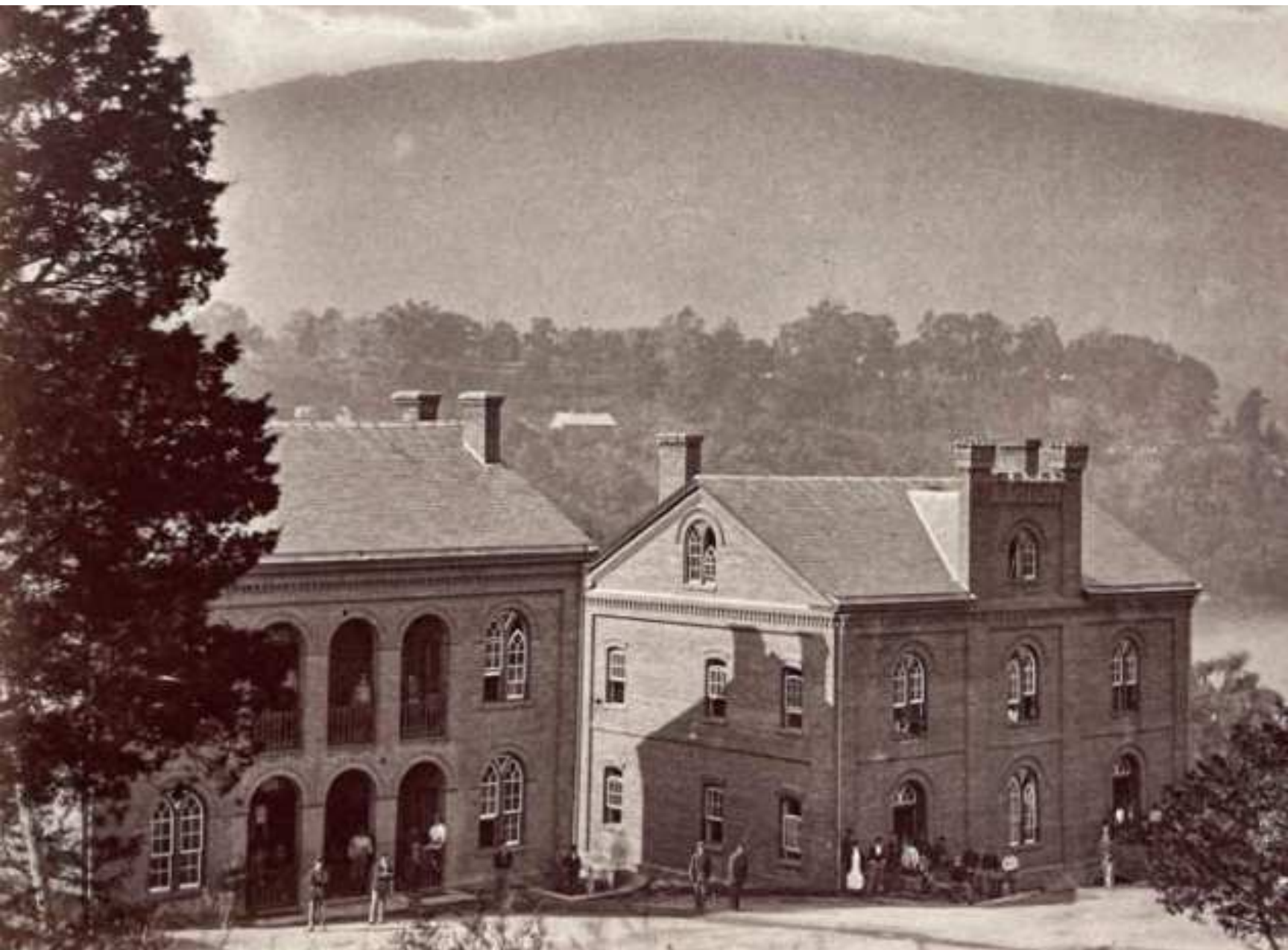
According to financial rolls, the Cavalry Barracks was completed in the late summer or fall of 1858. Spending on the Artillery Barracks wrapped up in 1859. These dates vary a bit from the 1889 Williams facility report, but the preference here is for when buildings were completed.

Both barracks, of brick construction, were two stories plus attics, primarily used for storage, and stone basements that had kitchens, dining areas, and lavatories. The

Cavalry Barracks had a dozen rooms and housed 40 soldiers while the Artillery Barracks slept 30. Behind the Artillery Barracks was a privy divided into two sides, one for each group of soldiers.

The Cavalry Barracks became the Post Exchange after a new set of quarters was constructed near the Riding Hall in the 1890s. When the area known now as Buffalo Soldiers Field was developed in the early 20th century, the Artillery Barracks was used for Field Musicians. By the mid-20th century, the Cavalry Barracks was a mason's shop and the Artillery Barracks housed a thrift shop, the PX shoe repair, and a civilian training area. Both buildings were torn down to build Eisenhower Hall.

Top: The Artillery Barracks in the 20th century when it was used by the Field Musicians. USMA LIBRARY ASC

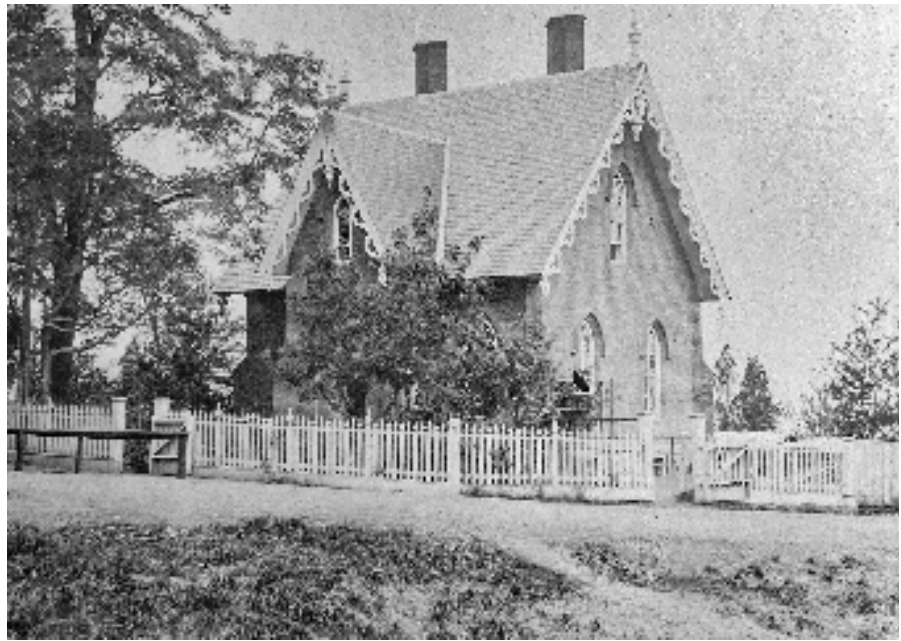


Top: The Artillery Barracks (l) and the Cavalry Barracks (r) stood side by side on the hill where Eisenhower Hall stands today.

USMA LIBRARY ASC

Left: the Cavalry Barracks before WWII when it was the Post Exchange (PX).

USMA LIBRARY ASC



DESPITE HIS STARRING role in the 1955 film *The Long Gray Line*, Marty Maher never lived in this house. But its history is interesting nonetheless. The funds to construct the building came from the Post Fund with the express purpose to earn rent payments as a confectionery, a role it served for more than a decade.

The tiny brick residence, which still stands and is located between what is now the First Class Club and Eisenhower Hall, shares many of the classic features of 19th century Gothic Revival houses. A steeply pitched, cross-gabled roof with decorative vergeboard are its most prominent feature. This is what gives it the vernacular label, “The Gingerbread House.” It originally had finials on the roof as well. The house’s windows are set in Gothic arches and have hood moulding (drip stones) over them.

Evidence suggests that the Confectionery went up in 1858-59 and cost \$5,013.76. It has two floors and a basement. The internal floor plan of the building has been modified over the years. In its early days as a confectionery,

it must have had seating and sales space, an adequate kitchen, and living space for the confectioner’s family.

Numerous myths persist about this building. One is the suggestion that it was never a confectionery because it was confused with a later confectionery next door. This is not true. This building was the confectionery and was known as the “Dutch Woman’s” because the family was German (“Deutsch”). The proprietors, who paid rent to the government, were German-born Charles and Rosa Renner, although spellings vary. Charles is listed as a confectioner in the 1870 census. When they started is uncertain, but in 1870 the Renners lived and worked in the cottage with six children, a 15-year-old female servant, and a 15-year-old male laborer. They later moved to Philadelphia. The building next to this house was also a confectionery for many years starting in the 1870s.

A second myth is that this was always non-commissioned officers’ quarters. The 1980s Historic American Buildings Survey lists it this way. It was clearly

The Confectionery in the 1870s.

USMA LIBRARY ASC

officer quarters both in the 19th century, as well as more recently. In 1885 and 1889, a lieutenant was living there and it was known as Quarters 59. At that time, it had a parlor, study, and dining room on the first floor, three bedrooms and a bath on the second, and a kitchen, laundry, cellar, and storeroom in the basement. In the early 20th century, the Superintendent of the Gas Works resided here. Consequently, it is likely it has been, at times, officer quarters, enlisted quarters, and civilian quarters.

A third, and persistent, myth, is that Master Sergeant Marty Maher, long-time West Point soldier, swimming instructor, and civilian employee, lived in the house. As mentioned previously, he did not. In fact, Marty was surprised by Director John Ford's choice to use the home in the movie *The Long Gray Line* because he never lived in the home. To Marty, the Confectionery was the house of Dr. Lloyd Appleton, longtime Army wrestling coach and Department of Physical Education instructor." According to a 2002 *Assembly* article, Maher said he had never lived in a place so "grand."

In 1938, the first floor study was converted to a kitchen, and numerous other interior changes have been made in the past century to the layout, including updates to the layout and plumbing. Today, the interior would be largely unrecognizable to the Renner family. On the exterior, a notable change is that the rectangular window on the second floor over the main door was once a Gothic arched opening.



Top: This pre-1877 image is labeled as the "Laboratory & Dutch Woman's," indicating the importance on the local landscape.

USMA LIBRARY ASC

Bottom: The cottage in 1903-04 when it was listed as the residence of the Superintendent of the Gas Works. There is, perhaps, an outhouse on the far left. USMA LIBRARY ASC

SOUTH GATE, 1859



AS THE MOST visible boundary between cadet life and the outside world, the South Gate had a special meaning to the Corps. An 1871 poem captures this in the following:

*The forbidden "South Gate,"
where cadets are denied
The privilege of exit,
when on the inside;
In flaming black characters,
always are seen,
The words "Shut the gate!"
but none to "come in."
On the other, in ghostly white
letters appear
The four horrid syllables—
"No smoking here!"*

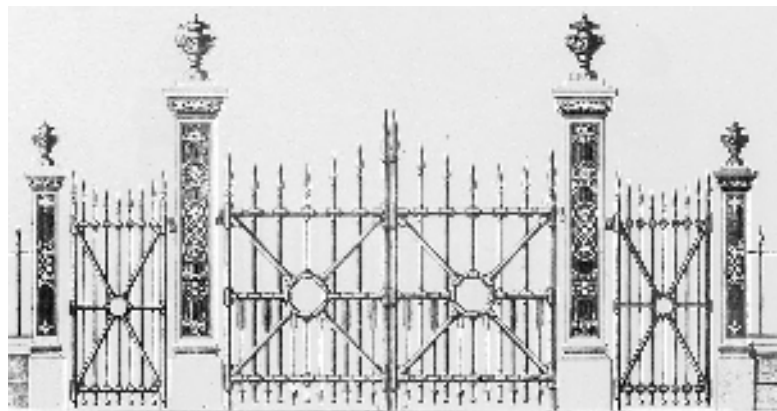
*Oh! answer, ye classes!
What may ye await?
What pleasure approaches thro' the
"South Gate?"*

Records indicate that the Gate was constructed in 1859. It had some simple Gothic elements such as vergeboard, dormer windows giving a cross-gabled appearance, and finials. In 1889, the building had one room measuring 23.5'x17.5' with a 12' ceiling. It was heated by a stove and had chairs, a table, and a bunk for a guard.

The actual gate was from Robert Wood & Company (later Wood & Perot) in Philadelphia. Much of it was a stock gate straight out of the company's catalog. The tops of the post seem to have

been changed from catalog versions, and crossed cannon were added as a design element. The gate is now displayed at the West Point Cemetery near the corner of Washington Road and Buckner Loop.

The Gate was located in at least two locations before being placed in the Cemetery. It was originally located close to the southern end of the new Cyber & Engineering Academic Center (see northern position marked on map on facing page). It was just north of where the small paved path heads up the hill. It is located here on an 1863 map, but maps in the 1870s show it farther south near where there is a historic path (see southern position marked on map on facing page). This was likely the result of the Academy continuing to build houses on the south end of the property. The gate was replaced in the 1890s by one designed by Richard Morris Hunt close to the location of the current entrance near the Hotel Thayer.



Facing, top and top, right: The South Gate in its first location, approximately 1859–1870s. In the smaller photo, note the path up the hill, which still exists. USMA LIBRARY ASC

Facing, bottom: The South Gate was located in at least two locations. An 1863 map shows it originally located close to the southern end of the new Cyber & Engineering Academic Center. Maps in the 1870s show it farther south near where there is a historic path.

Middle: The stock gate that was modified for use at West Point, as seen in a period Wood & Perot catalog. INTERNET ARCHIVE

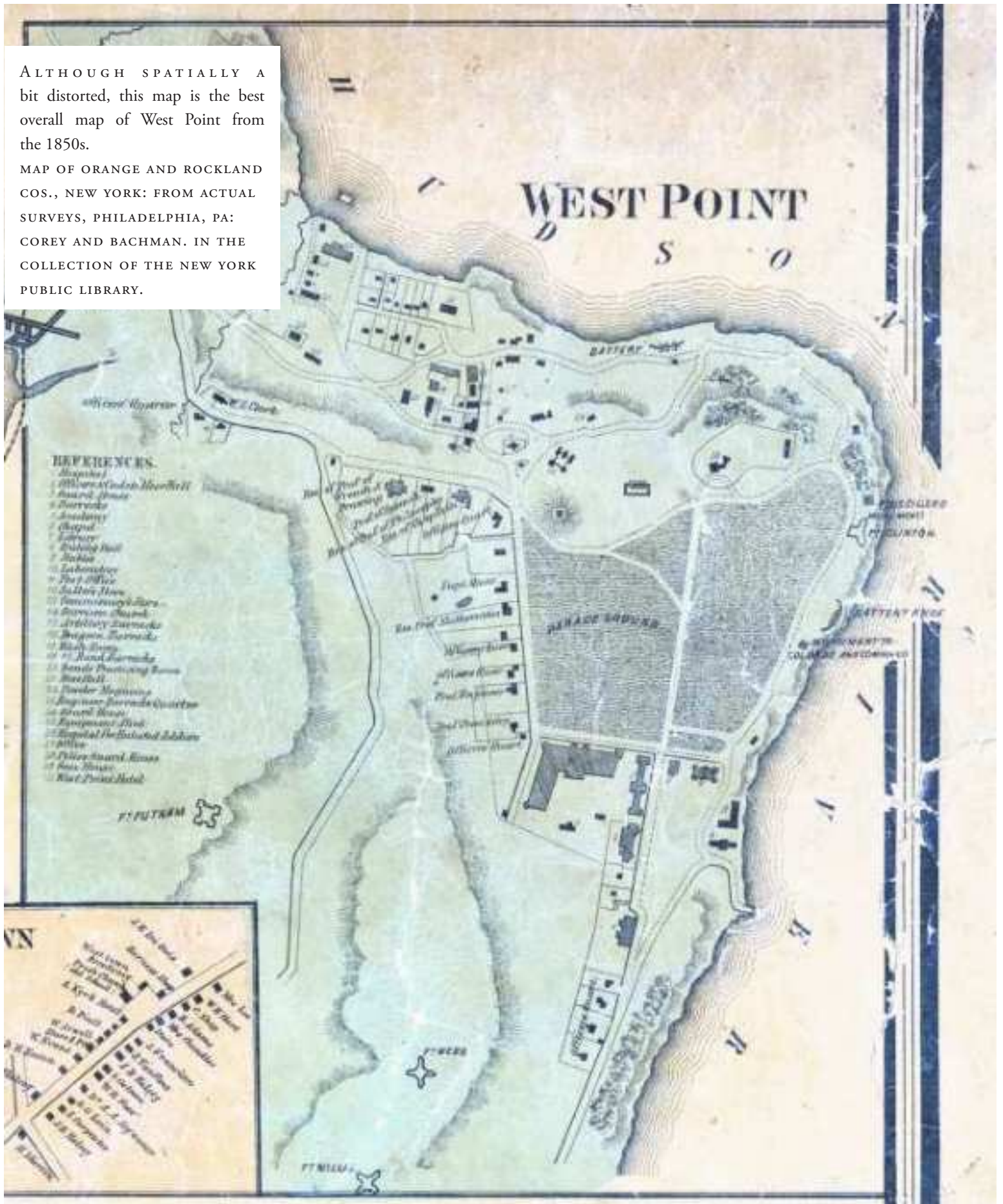
Bottom: The Gate in its later location along the road to Highland Falls.

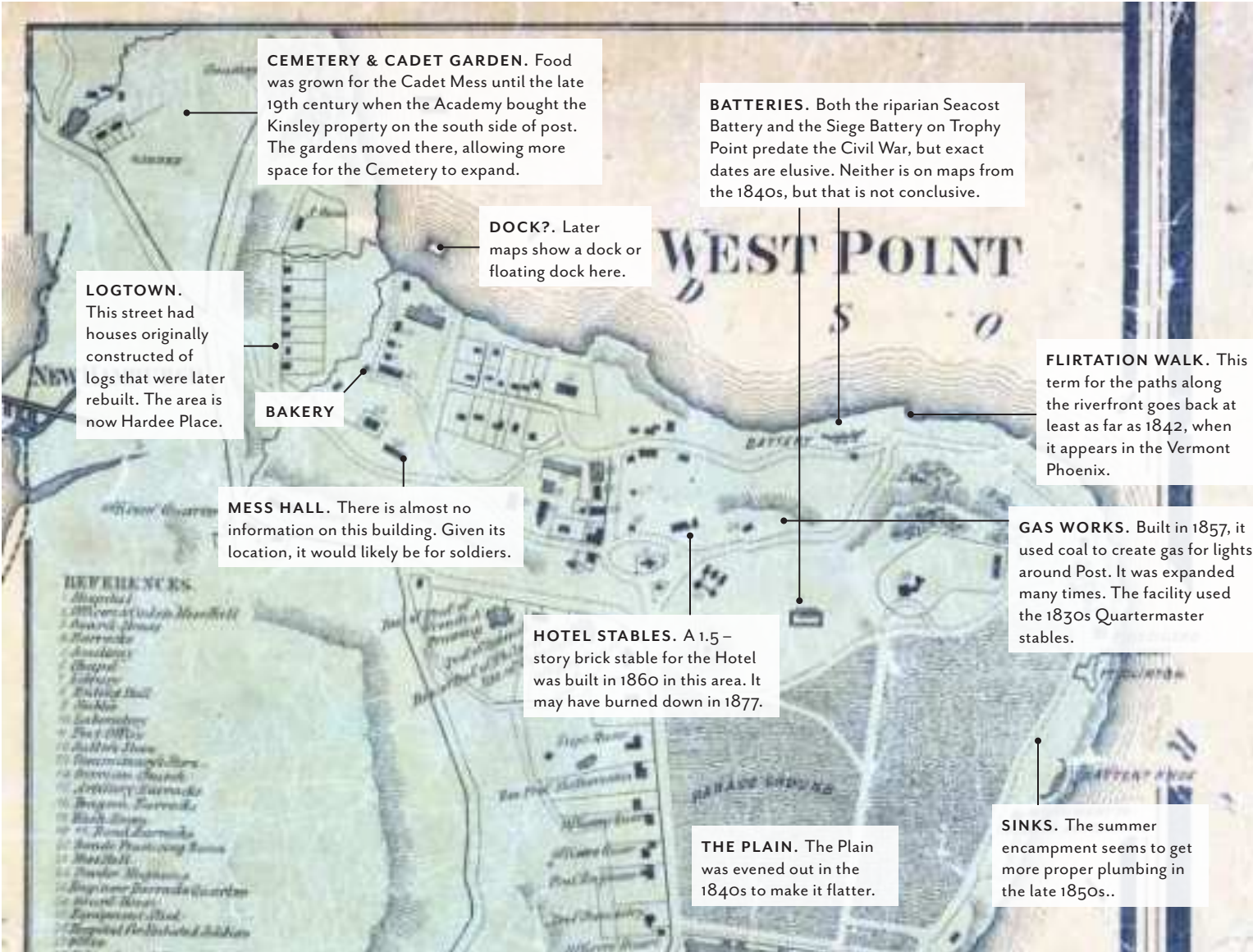
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WEST POINT, 1859

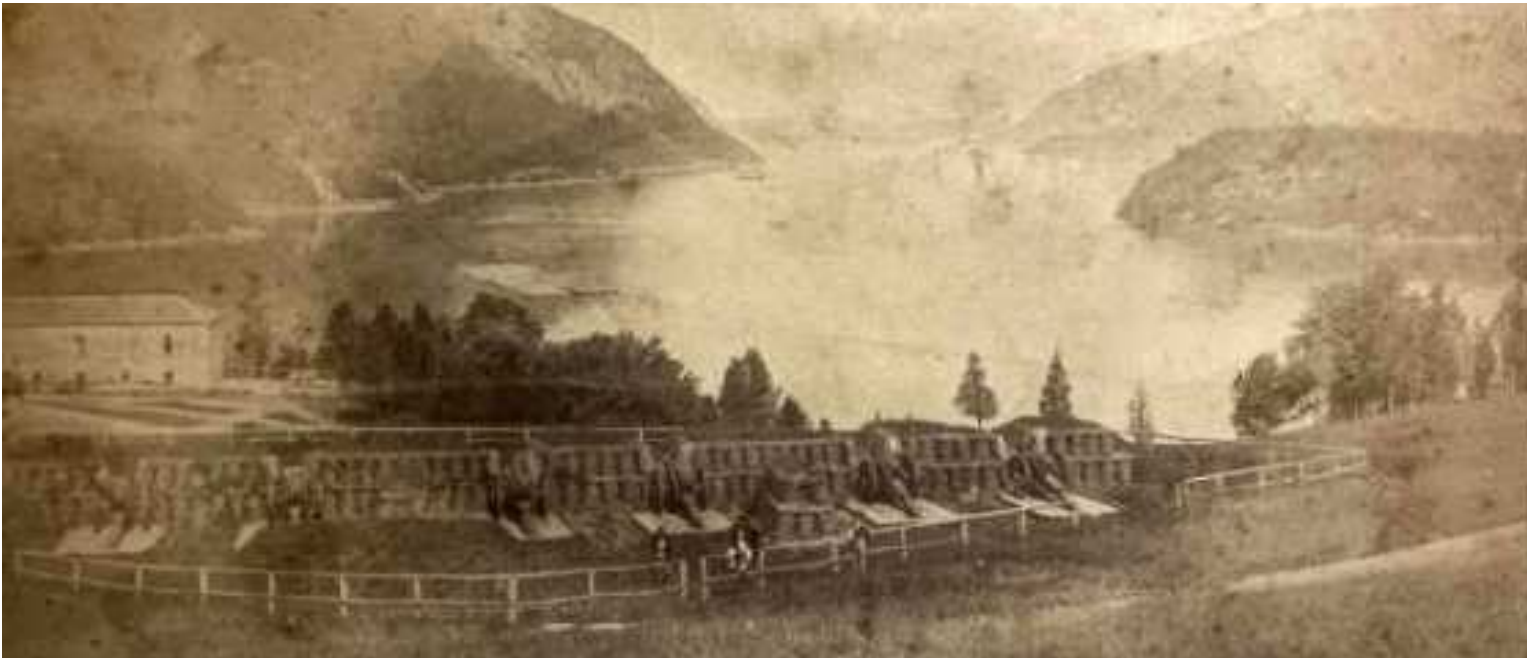
ALTHOUGH SPATIALLY A bit distorted, this map is the best overall map of West Point from the 1850s.

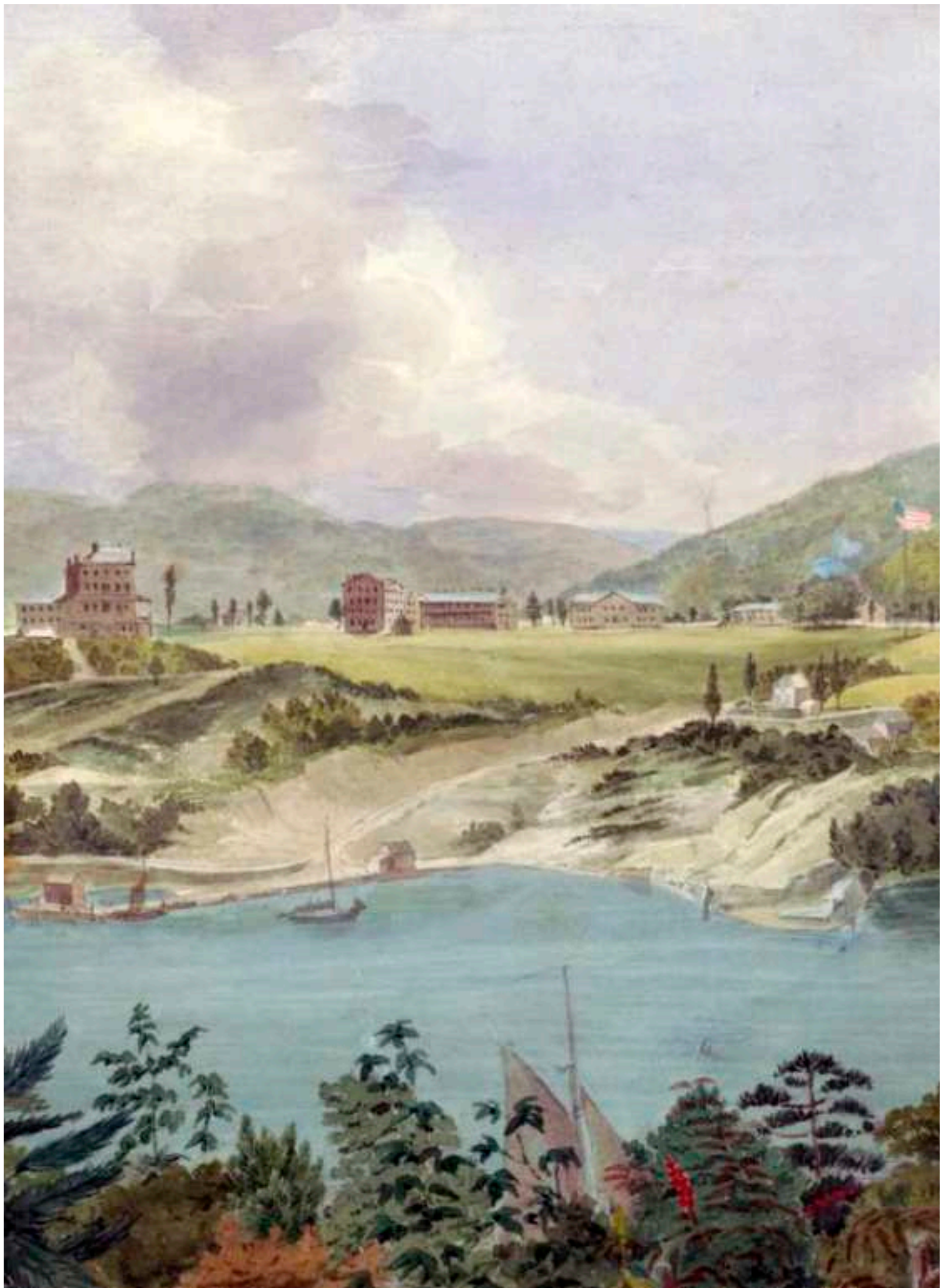
MAP OF ORANGE AND ROCKLAND COS., NEW YORK: FROM ACTUAL SURVEYS, PHILADELPHIA, PA: COREY AND BACHMAN. IN THE COLLECTION OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.





The Siege Battery on Trophy Point from an 1859 class album. At back left is the Quartermaster Stable turned Gas Works. USMA LIBRARY ASC







Above: West Point in 1802 with modern buildings in red. Blue lines represent areas where land has been reclaimed (e.g., Shea Stadium) or converted (e.g., Lusk Reservoir). MAP BY AUTHOR

REMARKABLY, WEST POINT today exhibits some similar land use patterns as in 1802. Buildings are still concentrated on the west and south sides of the Plain. Service functions continue to dominate the northern slope to the River, and the Plain remains relatively free of structures.

Obviously, though, there are many differences. The physical footprint of the central area of the post has expanded by reclaiming land on both the north and east shores of the Hudson River. The reclaimed land's purpose represents another land use change, athletics. The Academy now dedicates considerable space to sports and physical training. Finally, the size and number of buildings on the installation have continued to expand.

This growth and continual change brings a final point to this book. There is hardly a single decade in USMA's history without the addition of a major new building or the expansion or remodeling of existing structures. Therefore, nearly all graduates returning to their Rockbound Highland Home a reunion may feel that their West Point is gone. For that reason, geographers, historians, and other scholars of the landscape should be careful to document and preserve the day-to-day environment where the nation's and world's future leaders learn, train, and develop.

WEST POINT BEFORE 1802

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THE BASEMAP: WEST POINT IN 1802

Bailey, W.W. 1891. *My Boyhood at West Point*. Providence, RI: The Society.

"The Cadets Beaten by Yale." 1893. *The New York Times*, October 29, 1893.

Lamoe, J.P. & R.W. Mills. 1988. *Field Guide to the Geology of West Point*. USMA Department of Geography & Computer Science. West Point, NY.

Pappas, G.S. 1993. *To the Point: The United States Military Academy, 1802-1902*. Westport, CT.: Praeger.

Richards, S. 1909. *Diary of Samuel Richards, Captain of Connecticut Line: War of Revolution, 1775-1781*. Philadelphia: Press of The Leeds & Biddle Co.

Swift, J.G. 1890. *The Memoirs of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift, LL.D., U.S.A. [microform]: First Graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point: Chief Engineer U.S.A. from 1812 to 1818: 1800-1865: To Which is Added a Genealogy of the Family of Thomas Swift of Dorchester, Mass., 1634*. Worcester, MA.: F.S. Blanchard.

1802 map by author.

"Execution Hollow" is the most common term for the depression on the Plain that lasted until the late nineteenth century, but "Gallows Hollow" is also used. For example, Bailey refers to Gallows Hollow in his memoir (1891), and an 1893 *New York Times* article about Army football notes that "carriages and other vehicles lined the road from the corner of the new academic building [now Pershing Hall] to Gallows Hollow."

THE WESTERN PLAIN

Berard, A.B. 1886. *Reminiscences of West Point in the Olden Time: Derived from Various Sources, and Register of Graduates of the United States Military Academy*. Evening News Printing and Binding House.

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Church, A.E. 1879. *Personal Reminiscences of the Military Academy from 1824 to 1831: A Paper Read*

to the U.S. Military Service Institute, West Point, March 28, 1878. West Point, NY: USMA Press.

Crackel, T.J. 2002. *West Point: A Bicentennial History*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas.

Egleston, T. 1898. *The Life of John Patterson: Major General in the Revolutionary Army*. G.P. Putnam & Sons.

Gilman, C. 1869. "Major John Lille." *The Historical Magazine and Notes and Queries Concerning the Antiquities, History and Biography of America*, 2nd ser. 5, no. 2 (February 1869): 123-126.

Hamilton, Alexander, ed. 1977. *The Papers of Alexander Hamilton, Volume 25*. Edited by Harold Coffin Syrett. New York: Columbia University Press. [The 1798 order restricting access to North's Tavern by West Point personnel can be found on page 12. It begins, "Every NComd Officer and Private are strictly prohibited from entering or being [in] and about the House of Thomas North, without a written Pass signed by an Officer."]

Heath, William, and George Washington. 1905. *The Heath Papers*. Vol. 3. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society.

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Peale, Charles Willson. *View of West Point from the Side of the Mountain, 1801*. 1801, watercolor. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society. Used with permission.

Swift 1890.

Tidball, John C. 1895. *Getting Through West Point*. USMA Library ASC.

United States Military Academy. 1904. *The Centennial of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. 1802-1902*. 2 vols. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.

US, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900. #M804. National Archives and Records Administration.

"West Point Spooks Play with Fire." 1894. *The New York Times*, August 31, 1894.

Zoeller, C.E. 1808. *A Plan of West Point*. USMA Library ASC.

The reference to the Long Barracks as the "Blue Barracks" is on the reverse of an inkwash believed to be by Archibald Robinson and can be seen on page 10. It is in the collection of the West Point Museum.

THE EASTERN PLAIN**THE WATERFRONT
KOSCIUSZKO'S GARDEN**

Knapp, S.L. 1834. *Tales of the Garden of Kosciuszko*. New York: West & Trow.

Lossing, B.J. 1861. "The Hudson, from the Wilderness to the Sea." *The Art Journal* 7(1).

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Thacher, J. 1827. *A Military Journal During the American Revolutionary War: From 1775 to 1783*. Boston: Cottons & Barnard.

United States Military Academy. 1904. *The Centennial of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. 1802-1902*. 2 vols. Washington: Government Printing Office.

THE LONG BARRACKS

Heintzelman, S.P. 1825-1832. *Samuel Peter Heintzelman Diaries*. USMA Library ASC.

Mackay, A. 1826. "Letter to Quartermaster General Thomas Jessup." USMA Library ASC.

Milbert, J.G. 1828. *General View of Military School West Point*. New York: New York Public Library.

Ramsay, G.D. 1891. "Recollections of Cadet Life of George D. Ramsay." In *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.: From Its Establishment, in 1802, to 1890*, edited by G.W. Cullum. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Co.

Swift 1890.

The inkwash of the Long Barracks presumed to be by Archibald Robinson is in the collection of the West Point Museum. It says "Blue Barracks" on the reverse.

Newspaper accounts about the Long Barracks fire trickled out in the weeks after the fire. For example, see the *National Gazette* of Philadelphia. March 1, 1826.

**WP FROM THE SIDE OF THE
MOUNTAIN
GETTING TO WEST POINT**

Peale 1801.

Kotar, S.L., & J.E. Gessler. 2009. *The Steamboat Era: A History of Fulton's Folly on American Rivers, 1807-1860*. McFarland, Incorporated, Publishers.

"Steam Boat." 1808. *The Evening Post (New York)*, June 20, 1808.

PROPOSED WALL, 1805

The Barron map is from 1805-1807 and is from the collection of the USMA Library ASC.

A PLAN OF WEST POINT

Zoeller 1808.

"Died." *The Arkansas Gazette*, November 12, 1822. [Zoeller's obituary, which lists his place of birth as Germany. Some sources call him Swiss].

Swift 1890.

The sources for the shape of the Headquarters come from Zoeller (1808), an 1815 map by Cadet John A. Webber in the collection of the New York Historical Society, a circa 1817-1818 map by Cadet George Washington Whistler, and an 1826 map by USMA graduate and drawing instructor Theophilus B. Brown (T.B. Brown). The latter two are in the holdings of USMA Library ASC.

A map attributed to J. G. Bruffs, a cadet from 1820-1822, that shows the West Point landscape from about 1815 or 1816, indicates a workshop next to the pond.

SOUTHERN BOUNDARY

Photo by author. The grave location is the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site, New Windsor, NY.

Church (1879) discusses skating in Execution Hollow.

SUMMER CAMP, 1814

Illustration by author. Data from:

Graham, J.D. 1814. *Camp of the Cadets Attached to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in the State of New York*. July, 1814, ink and color wash on paper. New York: New York Historical Society.

POWDER MAGAZINE, ~1814

Plans and Sections of the Magazine, Artillery Barrack &c West Point NY. 1844. Plan. National Archives & Records Administration. RG77: Drawer 32, Sheet 32.

WEST POINT, 1815

Map & illustration by the author.

Specifications about 1815 buildings come largely from:

Halsey, J. 1815. *Work and Material to the New Buildings Belonging to the U.S. at West Point as Furnished by W. Jacob Halsey and Surveyed August and September 1815 by John. C. West and Christopher Halstead*. USMA Library Archives, United States Military Academy.

Woodruff, T.T. 1815. *Measurements of Mason Work Done at West Point... 1815*. USMA Library Archives, United States Military Academy.

Other sources:

Ambrose, S.E. 1999. *Duty, Honor, Country: A History of West Point*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Berard 1886.

Boynton 1864.

United States Military Academy 1904.

Webber, J.A. 1815. *West Point New York: Latitude 41° 23' 21" Longitude 73° 24' 04" West of Greenwich*. New York: New York Historical Society.

WEST POINT IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Bruffs, J.G. 1821. *West Point in the State of New York*. West Point, NY: USMA Library ASC. [Note: The map does not show West Point in 1821. The landscape depicted is ca. 1815].

SOUTH BARRACKS

Plan of the South Building. n.d. Plan. National Archives & Records Administration. RG77: Drawer 32, Sheet 7c.

Halsey 1815.

Totten, J.G. 1850. *J.G. Totten to H. Brewerton*. Letter. April 3, 1850. National Archives, Record Group 94(206).

Woodruff 1815.

Zoeller, C.E. 1818. *Map of West Point*. West Point, NY: West Point Museum.

The plan of the first floor, and other details, are based on Halsey (1815) & Woodruff (1815).

THE REFECTORY, 1815

The Sully artwork is in the Frick Collection.

Plan and Elevation of the Mess Hall at West Point. 1840. Plan. National Archives & Records Administration. RG77: Drawer 32, Sheet 16.

Church (1879) mentions the drawing academy being on the second floor of the mess hall.

Berard (1886) mentions church services being held in the mess hall.

Fleming, T. 1969. *West Point; The Men and Times of the United States Military Academy*. New York: William Morrow & Co., Inc.

THE ACADEMY, 1815

"Fire at West Point." 1838. *Cahaba Democrat*, March 10, 1838.

Halsey 1815.

Perspective of the North Front of the "Academy" at West Point. 1840. Plan. National Archives & Records Administration. RG77: Drawer 32, Sheet 20.

Plan of the Old Academy—Destroyed on the 19th Feby 1838. 1838 Plan. National Archives & Records Administration. RG77: Drawer 32, Sheet 10.

Woodruff 1815.

NORTH BARRACKS, 1817

Church 1879.

Gilmer, J.F. 1840. *Plan of North Barracks*. USMA Library ASC.

Latrobe, John H.B. 1887. *Reminiscences of West Point from September, 1818, to March, 1882*. East Saginaw, MI.: Evening News, Printers.

Wood, O.E. 1871. *The West Point Scrap Book: A Collection of Stories, Songs, and Legends of the United States Military Academy*. New York: D. Van Nostrand.

OCTAGON BUILDING, ~1818

Berard (1886) references "Castle Harris."

Brown, T.B. 1829. *West Point*. Map. New York Public Library.

Church 1879.

Colton, J.H. 1844. *A Guide Book to West Point and Vicinity*. New York: J.H. Colton.

Sibley, H.H. 1881. "Recollections of Cadet Life Forty Years Ago." *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly* VII, no. 1 (July): 12-16. [Author uses "H. H. S."]

Smith, J.R. ~1830. *Encampment at West Point. New York*. Washington, DC: Library of Congress. [Note: The Library of Congress indicates that this is from about 1820, but that dating is incorrect].

Zoeller 1818.

HOUSING BOOM ON THE PLAIN, 1816-1829

Most of the photos on these pages are from USMA Library ASC and are from the Pitman Collection made from about 1870-1872. The underlying map is by T.B. Brown, Class of 1826, and is dated 1829.

A PLAN OF WEST POINT

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Construction can be followed in various rolls of:

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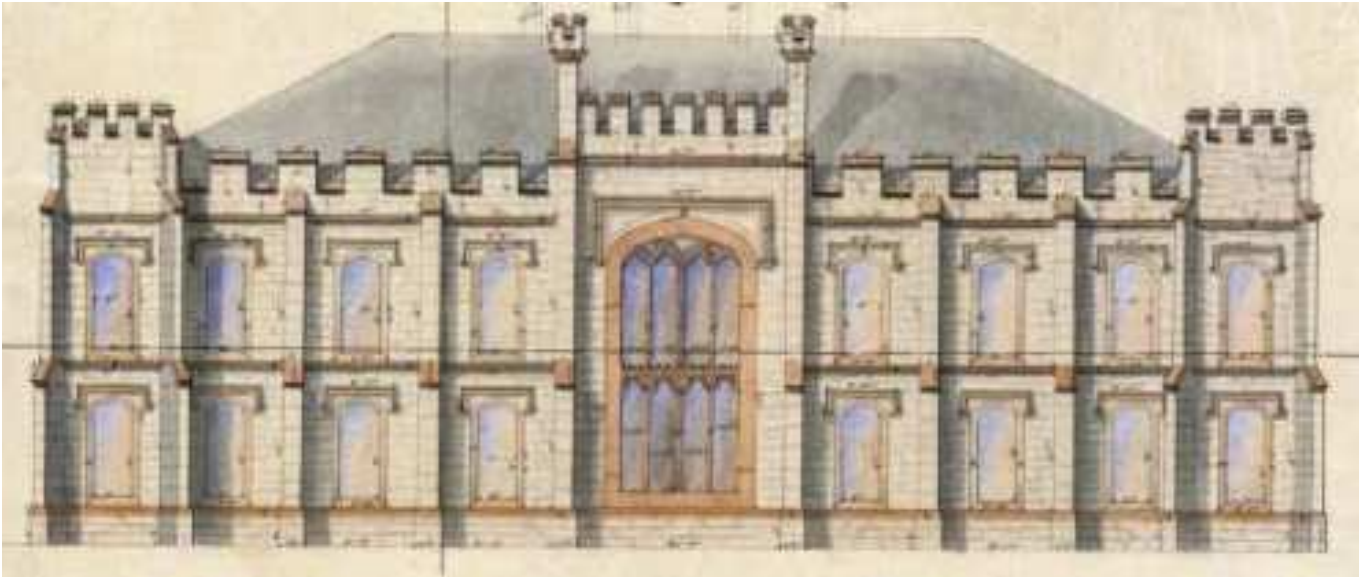
Wood 1871.

WEST POINT, 1859

MISCELLANEA

Map of Orange and Rockland Cos., New York: From Actual Surveys. 1859. Philadelphia, PA: Corey and Bachman. New York Public Library.

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A plan for south elevation of the Library drawn by CDT Simon S. Fahnestock, December 1840.

NARA

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Photo by Noah Murray

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EXECUTION HOLLOW

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