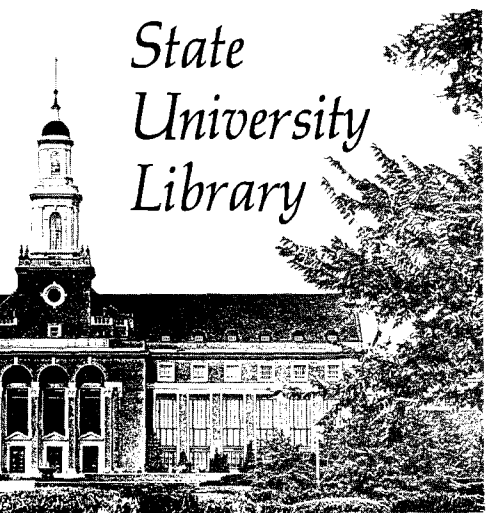


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A HISTORICAL STUDY OF TWO RESIDENCES
IN STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA
1890 - 1900

By

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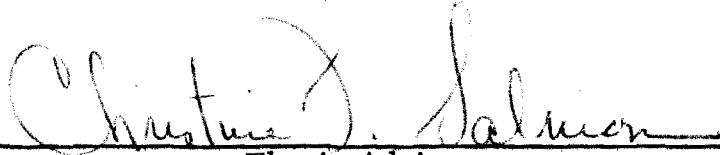
1952

Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate College
of the Oklahoma State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
May, 1970

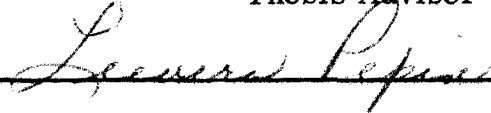
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Thesis Approved:



Thesis Adviser





Dean of the Graduate College

PREFACE

In this thesis an effort has been made to present a comprehensive and accurate view of two houses built during the early history of Stillwater, Indian Territory. One house built in 1893, the other house built in 1900, reflect the changes in the affluence of the economy, the availability of the materials and the permanency of the town.

This work involves an indebtedness to many persons. This writer is grateful to Mrs. Christine Salmon, Associate Professor in the Department of Housing and Interior Design at Oklahoma State University, whose suggestions and critiques were of great value and who gave so generously of her time.

This writer is appreciative of Miss Leevera Pepin, Associate Professor of Housing and Interior Design at Oklahoma State University whose devoted interest in heritage of housing and interiors created the interest in this subject of study.

My gratefulness is expressed to my husband, Raymond E. Chapel, whose personal interest, patience, and sense of humor supplied the writer with momentum to complete this paper.

Deep appreciation is expressed by this writer to Mrs. William (Marjory) Eyler and Mrs. Birdie Spurgin, the owners of the two houses in this study. This writer would also like to thank the following: Mr. Clarence Bullen, who gave generously of his knowledge of the lumberman's trade; Dr. B. B. Chapman, for the reproductions of the maps; Robert Cunningham, for pictures; to the Oklahoma State University librarians in helping to secure the microfilm of the early day newspapers in this area; Rose L. Jarvis of the Court Clerk's

Office; Helen Tansey of the County Assessor's Office and to Gertrude McKenzie of the County Clerk's Office.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Oklahoma - in the language of the Chickasaw Indian¹ signifies "beautiful land". In the language of an Oklahoma settler² it means "the homestead state". To a student of Housing and Interior Design it means a beginning.

As a student in the Department of Housing and Interior Design, the writer of this paper is interested in history of the land, the domestic architecture, and the interiors of houses.

Seventy-one years ago the town of Stillwater, Oklahoma, was celebrating its tenth anniversary. To study ten years growth in domestic architecture, the writer found it necessary to gather and evaluate data, and to collect plans, motifs, and pictures of these houses and furnishings. The main sources of data have been reference books, record deed and track books, cemetery records, photographs, newspapers, and personal interviews.

Research in the certified copy of Tract Book No. 60, Original Township, Stillwater, Oklahoma, which is in the County Clerk's Office of Payne County, Stillwater, Oklahoma and the 1943 files of the County Assessor's Office

¹J. B. Bishop, "The Story of Oklahoma," The Nation, April 4, 1889, p. 279.

²Charles Morgan Harger, "The Government's Gift of Homes," Outlook, p. 910.

of Payne County, Stillwater, Oklahoma, helped in the selection of the first house to be discussed in this thesis. The name, Orlando M. Eyler, 1109 South Main, appeared as the original owner of Lots 18, 19, and 20, Block 57. W. C. Eyler was listed as the owner in the 1943 files. In an interview with Mrs. William C. Eyler, daughter-in-law of Orlando, in October 1968, the author found this homestead had been listed on the files for seventy-nine years.

The house at 1116 South Chester, Lots 7 and 8, Block 9, Lowry Addition, was chosen because of the author's admiration of the simplicity and the uniqueness of the design of the facade. This architectural design of two doors on the facade was identical to the design that had been used in her grandparent's home in Tennessee which had been built in the 1890's. Of special interest to the author, the exterior and the interior of this structure remains unchanged.

It is hoped that this study in some way will help others who are interested in the architectural heritage and decor of houses in the 1890-1900 era of Stillwater, Oklahoma.

CHAPTER II

THE LAND

In the past four centuries the land area now known as the state of Oklahoma was claimed by Spain, England, and France.

Don Francisco Vasquez de Coronado,¹ a Spaniard, was probably the first European to set foot on Oklahoma soil. In the Black Mesa country in the Oklahoma Panhandle, Coronado's name and the date 1541 have been found carved in the rocks.

In the colonization of America, England² claimed this territory in 1663. The claimed land was located between Virginia and the Spanish settlement of Florida extending westward to the "South Sea" (Pacific Ocean).

The French³ trappers explored west of the Mississippi River, traveling by water, and entered Oklahoma by two rivers, the Arkansas and the Red River and its tributaries. In 1682, La Salle claimed this great track of land giving it the name of Louisiana.

¹Bill Burchardt, "The Cherokee Outlet," Oklahoma Today p. 13.

²David Saville Muzzey, An American History (Boston, 1925), p. 47.

³Muriel H. Wright, The Story of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1929-30), p. 33.

In a treaty, Peace of Paris,⁴ 1763, France relinquished to Spain its possessions east of the Mississippi except the Isle of Orleans. In 1800 the ownership was reversed when France and Spain signed a secret agreement, Treaty of San Ildefonso, by which Louisiana was transferred from Spain to France.⁵

Napoleon Bonaparte,⁶ because of his need for money, offered to sell Louisiana to the United States. In 1803, the United States purchased this land at a cost of \$15,000,000. The territory of Oklahoma was part of this purchase.

In 1830, twenty seven years later, President Jackson, by an act of Congress set aside an "Indian Territory" west of the Mississippi River lying between the Platte River on the north and the Red River on the south and extending as far west as supposed inhabitable country. This was part of the Louisiana purchase. It was to be divided among the various Indian tribes, "to be theirs forever".⁷

An 1889 Issue of The Nation stated:⁸

Oklahoma under this act of Congress became the property of the Creek tribe, and remained in their undisputed possession till 1856. In that year they made a treaty with the Seminoles, by which the two tribes held the country jointly till 1866, when the two consented to a sale of it to the United States for about fifteen cents an acre. A few months after this sale was completed, a

⁴Fremont P. Wirth, The Development of America (Boston, 1938), p. 122.

⁵Ibid., p. 232.

⁶Wright. p. 37.

⁷Bishop, p. 279.

⁸Ibid. . p. 279.

bill was rushed through Congress granting to the Atlantic and Pacific Railway a right of way through the territory thus purchased, together with a grant of alternate sections of land for forty miles on each side of the railway. It was then generally believed that the purchases of Oklahoma had been advocated and accomplished with a view to giving the railway company this valuable grant.

The Texas cattle trade began to become an industry and the ranchers organized to drive their cattle through Indian territory to Abilene, Kansas in 1867.⁹ With the high grass in this territory the cattle men would let the cattle "linger" to increase their weight before taking them to market.

The Missouri, Kansas, and Texas¹⁰ was the first railroad within the state. This railroad, completed in 1872, ran within twelve miles of Stillwater, Oklahoma. Between 1870 and 1879 many bills were introduced in Congress to organize the Indian Territory.¹¹

The railroads wanted to force the Indians to give up their title to the Unassigned Lands. The Nation magazine stated that the "Boomers" were first known as men who had been secretly hired by the railway company to come into Oklahoma to begin settlements.¹²

The richness of this land caused the citizens of the bordering states to want the Unassigned Lands of the Indian Territory opened so that they might make claims there. The Federal government, after making the Indian reservation assignments, still had land left. This Territory, called the Unassigned

⁹Wright, p. 202.

¹⁰Wright, p. 220.

¹¹Ibid., p. 238.

¹²Bishop, p. 279.

Land, was a roughly heart-shaped area of more than two million acres, bordered on the east by the Pawnee, Iowa, Kickapoo, Shawnee, and Potawatomi lands, on the south by the South Canadian River, on the west by the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservation, and on the north by the Strip.

The first attempt to organize settlers for the Unassigned Lands was made in the spring of 1879. The first leader of this movement was David Lewis Payne, who was born in Indiana in 1836. Later as a doorkeeper of the House of Representatives in Washington, Payne learned of the Oklahoma Unassigned Lands. Armed with this information he moved to Kansas.¹³

Payne claimed the right to settle the Unassigned Lands and began to organize the settlers. This organization was called the "Payne's Oklahoma Colony," and to belong one had to pay a fee of two dollars.¹⁴ Circulars were printed and distributed along the Kansas border. They stated "On to Oklahoma".¹⁵ Many people eagerly joined this organization.

In correspondence with the United States Attorney, Payne¹⁶ told of his organization and stated that he wanted to test the legality of settling in the Unassigned Lands.

The first group of settlers left Kansas for Oklahoma April 26, 1880. Many trips were made to the Unassigned Lands and each time the settlers were

¹³Bishop, p. 279.

¹⁴Carl Coke Rister, Land Hunger (Norman, Oklahoma, 1942).

¹⁵Wright, p. 240.

¹⁶Rister, p. 57.

escorted back by the United States troops to the Kansas lines. There the settlers were indicted by the courts and charged with conspiracy to enter the Oklahoma land.

In one incident, Chapman, a historian stated:¹⁷

Principal Chief D. W. Bushyhead of the Cherokees said that the railroad interest, and that Payne, a mere puppet in the affair, were forcing the issue. Payne was brought before Judge Isaac C. Parker for prosecution under the Intercourse Acts. In his decision on May 1881 Parker said that the Oklahoma Lands were Indian country and were not public lands subject to homestead entry. Payne was fined one thousand dollars for trespassing on the lands but he was immune to this penalty because of his low economic status.

In another incident, Chapman stated:¹⁸

On Thursday, November 20, 1884, the Oklahoma Warchief said that Judge Cassius G. Foster of the district court of Kansas "gave his decision publicity last Monday that the title to the Oklahoma lands vests exclusively in the United States; hence the settling thereon by citizens of the United States is not a criminal offense". This Judge Cassius G. Foster decided that the acts charged did not show a conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States within the meaning of the law and he dismissed the indictments.

On November 28, 1884, Payne, after addressing a large group of Boomers the night before, died suddenly the next morning in Wellington, Kansas.¹⁹ William L. Couch, who had led his third expedition into Oklahoma in early April, 1884, was elected the president of the "Oklahoma Colony".²⁰

¹⁷Berlin Basil Chapman, The Founding of Stillwater (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1948), p. 3.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 4.

¹⁹Rister, p. 185.

²⁰Ibid., p. 189.

In the book Land Hunger by Rister the author states that the Boomers crossed the Kansas line two more times after Payne's death. On December 8, 1884 three hundred Boomers with a wagon train, that made a picturesque spectacle, crossed the Kansas line to enter the Unassigned Lands. Four days later these invaders reached Boomer Creek near the present site of Stillwater, and immediately set to work to prepare winter quarters. A map of the region is shown in Figure 1.

The first houses were improvised dugouts. These dugouts were tents stretched over wooden frames which were fastened to wagon boxes that were placed on the ground and banked with dirt.

Rister states:

The Boomers who accompanied Couch were a sober lot. They had resolved to defend their rights by force, if need be, and had come heavily armed; they had studied at least the rudiments of military maneuver and before long had dug an entrenchment about their camp.

Cunningham, a Stillwater twentieth century historian and researcher stated:²¹

These people were the Boomers, the intruders, the law breakers, the honest settlers, all of which terms may be applied with reasonable accuracy.

During the following months the Boomers at Stillwater, Indian Territory received publicity in many of the newspapers and magazines throughout the United States.

²¹Robert E. Cunningham, "New Year's Watch Party Played Big Role in Stillwater History" Stillwater News-Press (Stillwater, Oklahoma, January 1, 1968) p. 5

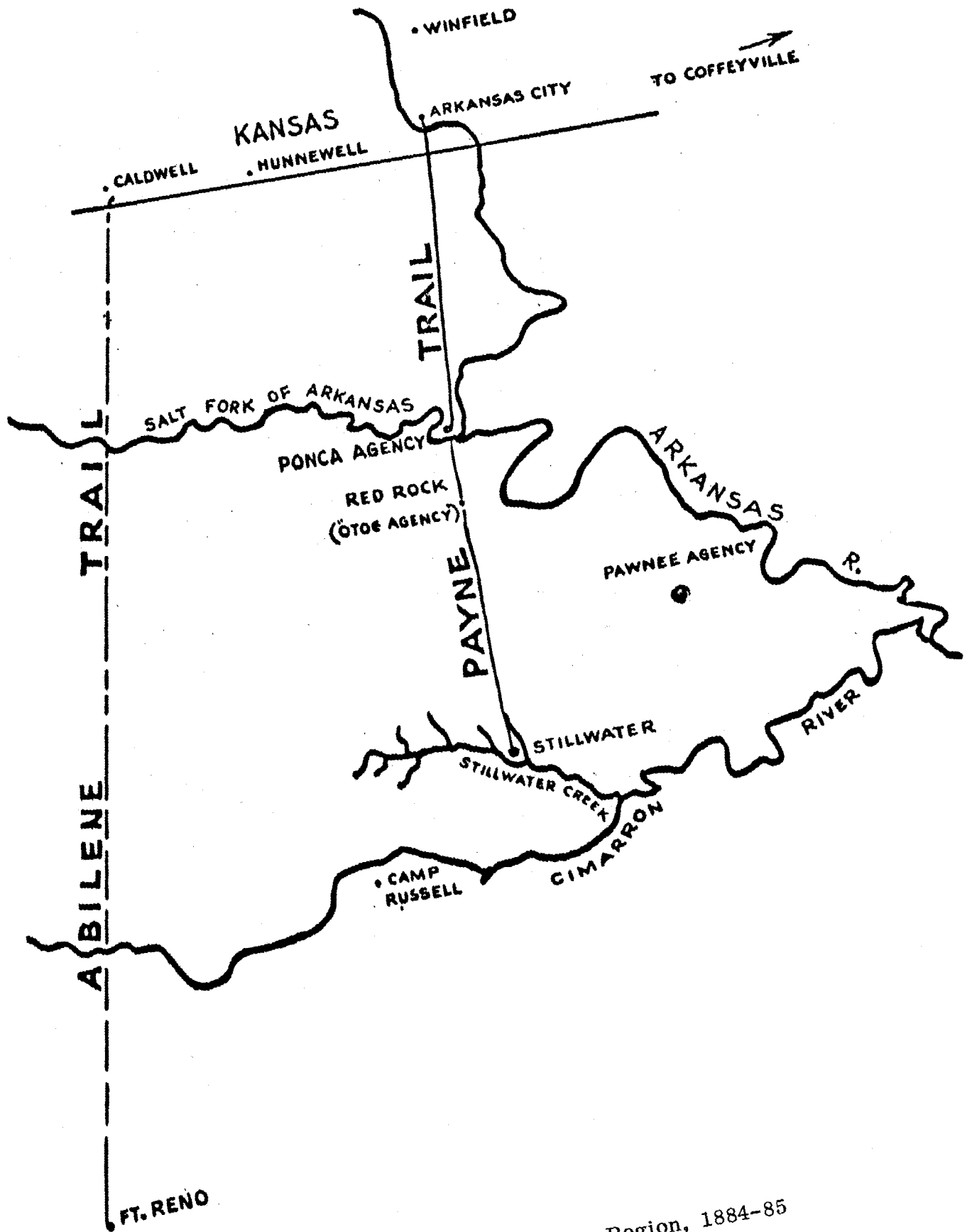


Figure 1. Stillwater Region, 1884-85

Cunningham stated:²²

The editors of the Kansas, Texas and Arkansas newspapers said that they had every right to be there. Newspapers in the surrounding Indian nations said they were criminals, and should be exterminated by whatever means necessary.

An editorial in the New York Times,²³ January 19, 1885 stated:

Punishment by imprisonment is said to be all that is needed for the suppression of the raiders. The truth seems to be that the proposed amendment of the law cannot be made because there are those who direct or control Indian legislation sympathize with the raiders and hope that as a result of the exertions of these outlaws the Territory will be opened to settlement.

In the article written for the Stillwater News-Press, Mr. Cunningham stated:²⁴

The President of the United States, his Secretary of War, and a variety of Senators agreed that these people were intruders on Indian land and had to be expelled. As is usual with Senators some took an opposite view.

People on the creek banks were both united and positive in their views. They were convinced they were on public domain, land owned by the government, therefore, subject to homestead entry. Their lawyers convinced them this land had been ceded to the government by the Creeks and Seminoles in 1886 which extinguished the Indian title.

Actually, the lawyers were wrong. The land had been ceded for relocation of nomadic tribes in surrounding states to get them off land coveted by whites fleeing the crowded east ravaged by the Civil War. When the relocation was completed an area of approximately 2,000,000 acres remained unused, and Stillwater Creek ran right through one corner of it.

²²Ibid., p. 5.

²³The New York Times, January 19, 1885, p. 4, c. 2.

²⁴Cunningham, p. 5.

If the settlers had no right here, then cattlemen should be excluded also, the Boomers argued. Their stand on the creek bank was inside a barbed wire enclosure of more than 100,000 acres a rancher used without paying a cent to anybody.

If the Indians had a claim to this land, the title was too clouded for them to draw lease money from the cattlemen, and the government collected no rentals.

Therefore, the cattlemen had free access to vast acreages, while the one-gallus farmer who only wanted a little piece of land to build a home, was branded a criminal.

These people on the creek bank expected trouble, for similar groups had been driven out by soldiers more than a dozen times.

This was the Boomers' way of calling attention of the United States government to their problem. It was a nineteenth century "wagon-in" which perhaps was a forerunner of the twentieth century "sit-in".

Of interest is the dissimilarity in the details of the event on December 24, 1884 as told by three men, one a prominent Boomer, E. S. Wilcox, the commanding officer, Lieutenant M. W. Day, and the president of the "Oklahoma Colony," William L. Couch.

Chapman²⁵ quoted an article in a newspaper, The Oklahoma Boomer, January 21, 1885, written by a prominent Boomer, E. S. Wilcox.

On the 24th of December 1884, Lieut. Day came to our camp with forty cavalrymen and two bags of handcuffs. He first ordered the colonists to lay down their arms and surrender; this they refused to do, Couch asking Day for his authority to which Day replied:

"I have only one authority, the carbine."

²⁵Chapman, p. 8.

"That is an authority we do not recognize," replied Couch.

Lieut. Day then ordered eight of his soldiers to tie Couch, who was about thirty feet in advance . . . Couch, who was armed with a Winchester told them that if they laid a hand on him he would consider it an assault and treat it as such.

The soldiers then were ordered back to the line, were commanded to load, and Lieut. Day gave the colonists five minutes to surrender. The colonists didn't surrender nor did the troops open fire . . .

In Appendix A, the Official Boomer Reports, 1884-1885 Chapman quotes a letter written by M. W. Day, Lieut. 9th Cavy, Com'dg. Troop "I".²⁶

I have the honor to report that I left Camp Russell on the 21st inst. and had to wait at the crossing until the 23rd, when I crossed on the ice after a great deal of labor. I arrived at Stillwater yesterday the 24th and upon attempting to arrest Mr. (William L.) Couch, was confronted by about 200 men, armed with double barrelled shot guns and Winchesters. They refused to submit to an arrest without a resort to arms; though I had about 30 men on a skirmish line, as they were densely massed I hesitated to give the command to fire as the slaughter would have been great. I have done all I can to make the arrest without resort to arms, and would therefore request to be informed if I am to treat this body of men as insurgents, and after calling on them to give up their arms and submit to arrest, to open fire on them. If I am compelled to arrest them without firing on them I would request reinforcement . . .

In the Appendix A, the Official Boomer Reports, 1884-1885 Chapman quotes an excerpt from a speech of William L. Couch made at the Oklahoma Convention in Topeka, (Kansas), on February 3, 1885.²⁷

We started from Arkansas City with 200 men, and moved slow, as we expected reinforcements to follow. We reached Stillwater, Dec. 12, (1884) and concluded to stand there, and again test the validity of our claims. We were on Oklahoma land, near reinforcements, supplies and the mails. A town com-

²⁶Chapman, p. 160.

²⁷Ibid. . p. 167.

pany of eighty men was organized; houses were built and claims located on Stillwater Creek, a tributary of the Cimarron.

On the 24th, we were approached by Lieut. Day, and a company of soldiers, and ordered to surrender at once, declaring he would open fire upon us if we refused. I asked by what authority he ordered us to surrender, to which he replied: "Military authority". I refused to surrender to anything but civil process. He said he didn't propose to discuss the matter but would form his line and give us five minutes to surrender or be shot down. We said we would return the fire. He then detailed five men to seize and tie me, but as the detail advanced we halted them, and after I made a little speech, he ordered his men back into line and ordered them to fire. Seeing we were determined to protect ourselves, he made the excuse that his men were freezing to death there, and that he would go to camp and allow us until morning to make up our minds.

Lieutenant Day withdrew his troops and set up camp near the colonists under a truce not to molest the colonists going or coming in any way. He could not bluff the colonists and he was too weak to fight them.²⁸

Ultimately, Lieutenant Day was removed from his command because of his friendliness toward the settlers.²⁹

An article in the New York Times, January 22, 1885, stated:³⁰

The Secretary of War has transmitted to the Interior Department the following telegrams from Gen. Augur concerning the operations of Gen. Hatch of the Ninth Cavalry who arrived at Caldwell, Kansas and at once placed Troop L for the expedition to Camp Russell, nine miles from the intruder's camp.

Fort Leavenworth, January 14, 1885. Gen. Hatch has orders to remove intruders from the Indian Territory, without violence, if possible . . . The intruders number about 250 men

²⁸Ibid., p. 8.

²⁹Ibid., p. 10

³⁰The Oklahoma Boomers, The New York Times, January 22, 1885, p. 3, c. 4.

and a few women. Couch, the leader, is reported as a fanatic who believes himself in the right and is willing to risk a collision as likely to invite public sympathy and compel favorable Congressional action . . . Hatch has been delayed near Caldwell by high water and subsequent storms.

R. C. Drum, Adjutant General, stated in a letter in the New York Times January 22, 1885 that Col. Hatch regiment would be increased by 800 additional men.³¹

On January 25, 1885, the New York Times stated:³²

Word has been received at Fort Leavenworth that Capt. Couch, who heads the Oklahoma Boomers, has advised Col. Hatch that he proposes to stay in the Territory until forcibly expelled by the military. The starving process is still going on, but friends of the Government think that Col. Hatch is making a mistake in allowing any of the Boomers to leave the Territory until they all go. It is thought that Couch is allowing the noncombatants to leave so that the provisions will last longer for the fighters who will remain.

The Boomer's fighting force is said to be 400 well armed and determined men. Capt. Couch is reported to have cleared his little army of desperadoes and dissolute fellows who could not be controlled or would be likely to violate orders and fire on their assailants without provocation.

On the front page of the January 28, 1885 issue of The New York Times the headlines of an article read "Oklahoma Boomers Surrender".³³

The following dispatch announcing the failure of the Oklahoma "boom" has been received from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas addressed to the Adjutant General.

The following has just been received from General Hatch

³¹Ibid., p. 3, c. 4.

³²Boomers Preparing To Fight, The New York Times, January 25, 1885, p. 2, c. 1.

³³Oklahoma Boomers Surrender, The New York Times, January 28, 1885, p. 1, c. 7.

at Stillwater. I have stopped the troops en route for Caldwell until I receive further orders.

Stillwater Creek, Indian Territory, January 27: The boomer colony has come to terms. They will leave the country for the nearest point on the Kansas line. The troops will be sent with them. The reinforcements from Coffeyville turned back to the Kansas line when within sight of this place of the approach of the troops and are hurrying out of the country. Will send a troop to look for the men coming from Wichita by way of Hunnewell. We have troops sufficient.

Hatch, Colonel
Augur-Brigadier-General
Commanding

The Boomer movement had reached its lowest ebb. Payne, the organizer of the "Oklahoma Colony" was dead, Couch, the new leader was under charges of treason, the remainder of the group was forced out of the Unassigned Lands by the U. S. military but the cattlemen were still in Oklahoma.

Rister, the author of Land Hunger stated:³⁴

In the midsummer of 1885 the Boomers met at Caldwell, Kansas and adopted a resolution asking the government to drop all charges against their leaders on condition that they would disband.

Their attorney, J. Wade McDonald, was instructed to make such a proposal to Secretary of the Interior L. Q. C. Lamar. On August 11 of the same year, Lamar transmitted their request to the Attorney General with his endorsement, and a short time later the treason cases were dismissed.

Military officers patrolling Oklahoma began to round up and expel the cattlemen and to destroy their fences and other improvements. The Cheyenne-Arapaho leases were also voided.

Disgruntled cattlemen, not parties to the leases of 1883, had joined hands with equally disgruntled Cheyennes and Arap-

³⁴Rister, p. 201, 203, 204.

ahoes . . . to provoke a near-war. On July 15, 1885, President Cleveland dispatched Sheridan to Fort Reno to inquire into the disturbance . . .

In December, 1885, President Cleveland recommended to the Forty-ninth Congress the appointment of a commission to study the Indian Territory land problem with a view of condensing the reservations still further and negotiating for the surplus lands when the allotment program was completed. Congress needed little encouragement. Within the next three years various and sundry bills for Indian allotments, for revamping the Indian Territory's judicial system, for the disposal of its surplus lands to homesteaders, and for the creation of the Territory of Oklahoma were dumped into the House and Senate legislative hoppers.

On February 8, President Cleveland approved the Dawes Act providing for the allotment of lands in severalty to the Indians. The bill was so drawn, however, that it included neither the lands of the Osage, Peoria, Miami, and Sac and Fox Indians nor those of the Five Civilized Tribes.

On February 8, 1888 Boomer delegates from all the states bordering on the Indian Territory met at Kansas City in a convention . . . Couch was present and was selected as one of the eighteen representatives to go to Washington to present the memorial and other resolutions to Congress . . .

The Creek and the Seminoles resolved to make the best possible settlement with the government. They offered to relinquish the tribe's claims on Oklahoma for consideration. Secretary William F. Vilas proposed an agreement with them whereby for the sum of \$2,280,000 the Creeks would withdraw, and on January 31, 1889 the Creeks legislature accepted the proposal . . .

On March 23, 1889, the new president, Benjamin Harrison, issued a proclamation throwing open the entire Oklahoma district to settlement "at and after the hour of twelve o'clock, noon, on the twenty-second day of April". This opened the way to the founding of Stillwater, Indian Territory.

CHAPTER III

THE FOUNDING OF STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

B. B. Chapman stated that the General Land Office on January 1, 1889 issued the procedure to be used in acquiring homesteads in the Run of April 22, 1889. This circular which is recorded in the General Land Office is as follows:¹

The settler acquired an "inceptive right" by selecting and personally examining the land he desired and being "satisfied of its character and true description". He should also file an application with the district land office and pay the legal fee. "He must, within six months after making his entry, establish actual residence, in a house, upon the land, and must reside upon and cultivate the land continuously, in accordance with the law, for the term of five years." The "home of himself and family" must be on the land. At the expiration of five years, or within two years thereafter, he might make final proof for the land.

In the homestead papers of Robert Arnold Lowry, Chapman quoted a sworn statement Lowry made January 26, 1891 saying in part:²

"I (Lowry) fed and ate dinner near what is known as Plummers Camp in Cherokee Outlet at 15 minutes before 12 o'clock noon and started east towards Brushy, went in that direction about two miles and then back a part of the way when we turned south into the Territory crossing the line at 12:05 p.m. exactly. We left our wagons at the head of Cow Creek and rode horseback after that."

¹Chapman, p. 35, 36.

²Ibid., p. 36, 37.

Lowry claimed the northwest quarter of Section 33. Under oath Lowry said that he first saw the land about 15 minutes before one o'clock April 22, 1889.

Homesteaders as shown in Figure 2 surrounding the to be Stillwater area were Wittum (David Husband),³ Robert Lowry, John H. Barnes, Robert Copper, Sanford Duncan, George W. Lewis and Frank E. Duck.

A disputed claim of eighty acres filed by Garnett Burks was located in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 23. It was surrounded by Frank E. Duck on the north, George W. Lewis on the west and Sanford Duncan and the to be selected townsite on the east.

Chapman reports that:⁴

The Secretary of Interior, by an act of March 2, 1889, could permit entry of lands for townsites provided no entry embraced more than one-half section of land. Laws already in effect stated that the entry should consist of public lands "which have been or may be settled upon and occupied as a town site". The corporate authorities could enter same at the proper land office at the minimum price for the several use and benefit of the occupants of the land. The entry should "include only such land as is actually occupied by the town, and the title to which is in the United States".

There were two townsite companies organized in Kansas. One, the Stillwater Town Company was incorporated under the laws of Kansas in May, 1889. The membership of the second company included Robert A. Lowry, John H. Barnes and a few other settlers in the present vicinity of Stillwater.

³Husband homesteaded and filed for this land. Orin U. Wittum filed an affidavit of contest against Husband's homestead entry and Willum won the judgment. Ibid., p. 136, 137, 138.

⁴Ibid., p. 36.

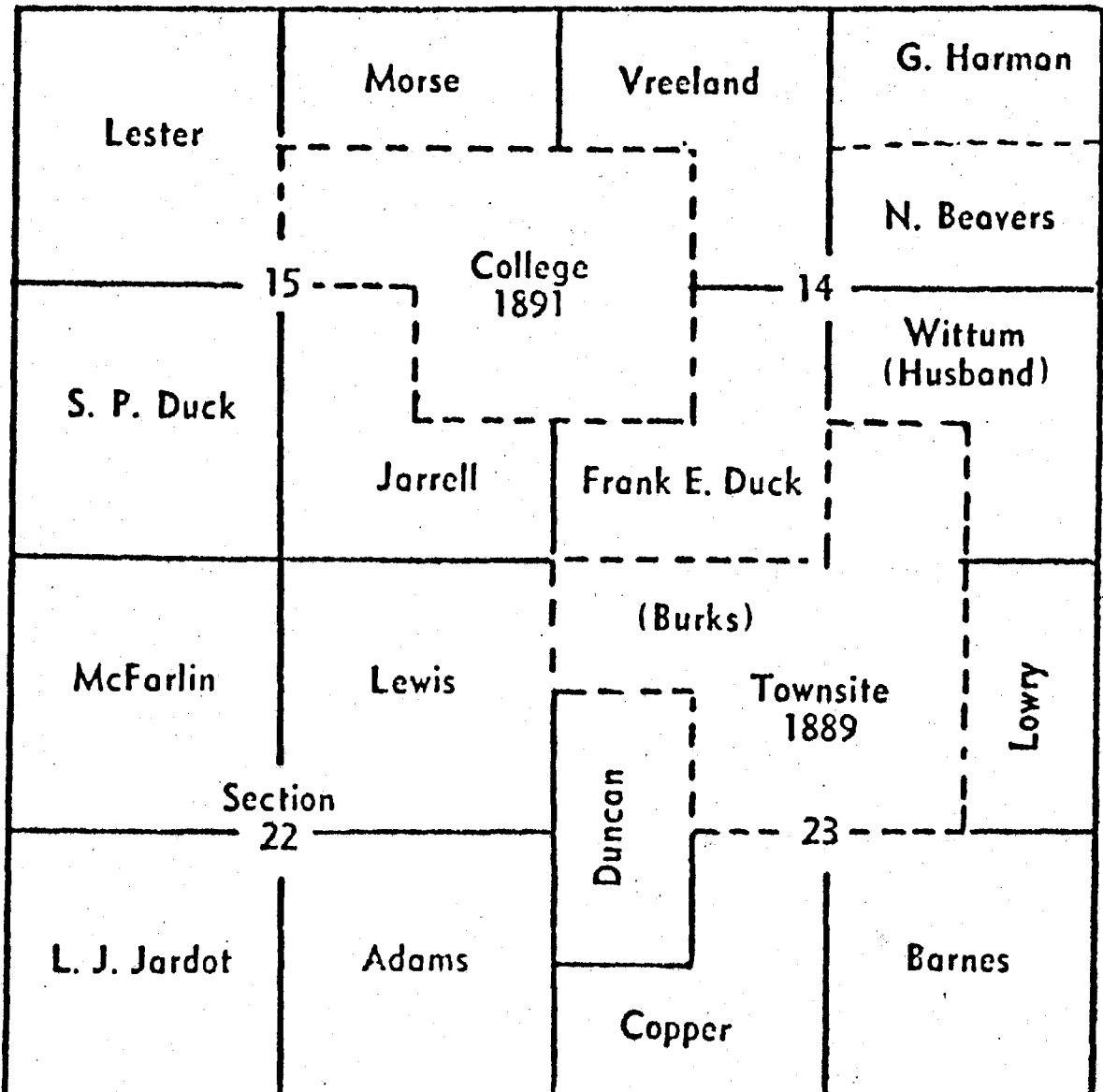


Figure 2. The Stillwater Townsite of 1889

There is no evidence of a charter. Ultimately Lowry, the leader of the second company became a stockholder in the Stillwater Town Company and took a leading role in mapping out the town of Stillwater. Orlando M. Eyler, whose home is discussed in Chapter IV was an original stockholder in the Stillwater Town Company.

On May eighteenth the Stillwater Town Company met in Winfield, Kansas and chose the locating committee for the township of Stillwater, Oklahoma by ballot. The seven stockholders with the most votes from the sixty members present were elected to the locating committee. Chapman stated:⁵

According to Hodges, members of the committee besides him, who made the trip (to locate the town of Stillwater) were Burks, Myton, Uhl, George Z. Applegate, and Lewis M. Cooper who "came in another man's place". Otto A. Weile was the surveyor.

The general area that the Stillwater Town Company considered for the creation of a townsite was in the vicinity of the Stillwater Creek. Several different sites were under consideration.

The newspaper, Oklahoma Capital, made a statement that Chapman quoted in his book which follows:⁶

"The town is to be started on land homesteaded by Capt. J. S. Hunt, and Mr. W. J. Hodges . . . "

Chapman also quoted from a testimony of (George Z.) Applegate:⁷

. . . on the morning of May 22, L. M. Cooper, vice president of the company, said that the committee was "to

⁵Ibid., p. 42.

⁶Ibid., p. 43.

⁷Ibid., p. 44.

look over Hodges claim that day" . . . Applegate did not then know the object in looking over Hodges' claim but said "after that Mr. Cooper's nephew told me that the town was to be located on his claim and on the other three claims that cornered with his on the northeast. Mr. Gardenhire I think was one, and Mr. Cooper's nephew I think owned one too."

Chapman quoted from a testimony of J. S. Hunt:⁸

The committee went east, "crossed what is called Cow Creek and went to Cap Nipp's trail and looked that country over".

Chapman quoted from a testimony of (Garnett) Burks:⁹

(The committee) "rode around over the country in the forenoon, " took dinner on Boomer Creek on section 23 and went to Robert Copper's claim.

Chapman quoted from a testimony of (Robert) Copper:¹⁰

It appears that "old man Cooper" suggested that Copper go with them to the store located near the northeast corner of John H. Barnes' claim . . .

The preceding paragraphs gave an insight to the homestead land that was investigated for the Stillwater townsite by the Stillwater Town Company. This information was given by witnesses to the Register and Receiver of the Guthrie Land Office in a hearing in the case of Town of Stillwater v. Garnett Burks, June 16 to the 25, 1890.¹¹ This disputed claim of eighty acres filed by Garnett Burks for a homestead was located in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 23.

⁸Ibid., p. 44.

⁹Ibid., p. 44.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 44.

¹¹Ibid., footnote, p. 41.

In the chapter entitled "Stillwater Town Company" in Chapman's book, he quoted the following information about the disputed claim:¹²

Robert Copper knew about the vacant 80 acres in the northwest quarter of section 23. In the vicinity no one but Copper appears to have known of it . . . Copper divulged the information to one or more persons on May 22, and about 3:00 or 3:30 p. m. Burks, in the presence of some of the committee, drove two stakes on the tract . . .

In the testimony of Copper, Chapman quoted:¹³

"I told old man Bullen and Cooper that there was a vacant eighty when they was down to my place and they suggested my coming up and showing it to them . . . I said . . . If they had a man he could go and file on it as a townsite, if it hadn't been filed on within a few days it was vacant. They said they had a man here with them that was going to file on it."

Chapman said L. M. Cooper, who was on the Stillwater Town Company committee, was the first man to learn of the vacant 80 acres. Chapman quoted the following discussion:¹⁴

He (Cooper) said the committee wanted Burks to "use his name there as a blind until we could get a town plat filed"; that "arrangements" for that purpose were made at Copper's camp about two p. m. He said that Burks "wasn't to file" on the land but that when Burks drove the stake he did not say it was for a blind. Cooper said: "After we returned to camp there was something said about Mr. Burks sticking a stake there and Mr. Burks remarked that he was going to donate a part of it to a college, part of it to the White Elephant here in Guthrie."

In Burks testimony, Chapman quoted these statements:¹⁵

¹² Ibid., p. 43.

¹³ Ibid., p. 44.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 44, 45.

¹⁵ Ibid, p. 45.

Burks said he got Copper "to get on his horse and go with me to show me the land. Mr. Copper and myself rode horseback up to the land . . . I drove down a stake, I told them (members of the committee present) I was going to take the piece of land as a homestead . . .

Chapman stated that:¹⁶

Burks contended that there was no understanding that he should cover the land for purposes of a townsite, but that the committee talked of examining other lands. Nor did Burks find anything in his contract as a committeeman to preclude him from entering land for his own use and benefit.

James S. Hunt in 1890 told his story and Chapman quoted his statements:¹⁷

We went to the place where the town of Stillwater is now located and while there I heard Mr. Robert Copper tell the committee that there was a vacant eighty there that they could get for the purpose of a townsite. The committee said that they would go and look at the land, which they did. Robert Copper went along to show them the land, which we understood was for the committee for townsite purposes. And I know that the location of that vacant eighty determined the location of that townsite where it is now . . .

On May 24, 1889, the committee had selected three sites and they voted on the townsite south of Stillwater, the site north and on the present site where the town is now located.

Chapman quoted Hodges' statements about the selection of the present townsite:¹⁸

"In the first place it is a nice location for a town; secondly there was another town company, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Lowrey (Lowry), and some others had talked of locating a town there and

¹⁶Ibid., p. 45.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 45.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 49.

this committee thought best if we could join with them and harmoniously it would be better for us. Hodges said that the vacant 80-acre tract was also an important consideration in the selection of the townsite. He (Hodges) hired Samuel Cooper and Homer Cooper "to go and plow on that eighty acres and also hired them to make and put on 1500 stakes 15 inches long, lot stakes, and also told them to take our tent and put on it. He said Weile, Burks, and Uhl were sent to "get the corners," but he knew of no other "improvements" made by the committee to hold the land.

In the testimony of Robert Lowry, Chapman stated:¹⁹

"I (Lowry) secured W. H. H. Adams, a surveyor, and on June 2nd a survey of the townsite was commenced. The northwest corner of the tract in controversy (Burks' claim) was first located and the same day the northeast corner was located. On June 3rd I employed a man by the name of Perris who immediately commenced the sinking of a well . . . in the northeast corner of the tract in controversy. It being our intention at that time to procure relinquishments from Husband and (Frank) Duck of eighty acres upon the north of the tract in controversy and make the northeast corner of said tract the center of the town . . . At that time the diggers had got into hard rock and it being impossible to obtain dynamite or blasting powder the well was abandoned for the time.

. . . Because Duck did not relinquish land for the townsite, the center of the business portion of the town on June 10 was "changed from the northeast corner of the tract in controversy to near the southeast corner".

In a testimonial of Hodges, Chapman quoted the following:²⁰

. . . "how many people were actually living in the town of Stillwater on June 11, (1889)" Hodges said: "I should judge there were about 300". There were about fifty tents on the townsite.

J. R. Clark stated in a testimony and Chapman recorded:²¹

¹⁹Ibid., p. 51, 52.

²⁰Ibid., p. 52.

²¹Ibid., p. 53.

"on the morning of the 11th day of June the settlers of the town of Stillwater organized and elected a complete set of city officers including Mayor, a council of five, police judge and city clerk and city attorney."

Chapman listed the elected officials and described the townplat in his book The Founding of Stillwater.²²

The following plat of Stillwater, Oklahoma is in NA, Stillwater Townsite papers, Box 130, Chapman stated:

"The plat of the Town of Stillwater, Oklahoma, I. T.," bears the sworn statement of Otto A. Weile that the "tracing is a true and correct plat" as surveyed and platted by him on June 11, 1889. This is the original plat of Stillwater. It embraces 240 acres "according to government survey." It includes the west half of Lowry's claim, the southwest quarter of Husband's claim, the northeast quarter of Duncan's claim and the vacant 80 acres claimed by Burks. On the plat the avenues are numbered southward from three to eleven. From the east the streets named Lowry, Lewis, Main, Husband, Duncan, Duck and West. The three streets, last named, extend only from avenues Six to Twelve. On the plat there are 65 blocks or parts of blocks which are numbered, the plan including about 24 lots to the block. (The size of the lots are 25' x 140' unless otherwise figured on the plat.) The tract of 80 acres claimed by Burks is subdivided into blocks but only the eastern half is laid off into lots . . .

The tract was 70 feet west of Husband Street, and ran north from the middle of Ninth Avenue to 70 feet north of Sixth Avenue. The western limit of the tract is now marked by Washington Street. On the plat three streets are shown crossing the west half of the tract, but they are not named. The west half of the tract contains nine blocks lettered, not numbered.

A copy of the original plat is shown in the Standard Atlas.²³ The streets and avenues, the sixty-five blocks which are numbered and divided into

²²Ibid., p. 53.

²³Standard Atlas of Payne County, Oklahoma 1907 (Chicago, 1907) pp.

lots and the nine blocks lettered, not numbered are shown on this map.

Quoting the testimony of W. J. Hodges, Chapman said:²⁴

. . . the drawing of lots occurred in the afternoon of June 11, 1889, and was finished late in the evening . . . Lot numbers were written on gun wads, circular in shape and three-fourths of an inch in diameter, and placed in one or two containers. When names were called one or two boys drew the numbers. Frank T. Berkey acted as clerk for the purpose of the drawing. His only function was "to record the lots as they were drawn" . . .

In a testimony given by Robert A. Lowry, Chapman quoted:²⁵

. . . "Each member of the town company received a certificate for which he paid \$6 and which entitled him to a business lot and two resident lots and a preference in the locating of same. This was the only advantage that members of the town company had over other persons desiring to file or locate upon lots. Parties not members of the town company were required to pay but \$5 as filing fees upon their three lots . . . It was agreed by common consent among those present that the division of lots should be made by drawing, that the original members of the town company should have a preference in the location of their lots and the outsiders formed a second series, paying their filing fees in advance and taking second choice in lots. There were 118 or 119 in the first series and between 75 and 100 in the second series and outside of these were probably from 40 to 50 persons who waited until both series had been drawn and then chose and located lots from what was left."

The council employed five men who were acquainted with the location and the plat to locate parties filing upon their lots. These men and most of the council were busy from three o'clock until dark locating those who had filed upon lots. . . Parties when locating upon lots stuck a stake into it with a shingle upon which their names were written. Each man filed upon a business lot and two resident lots, each 25 by 140 feet, the business lots being considered the most valuable."

According to the testimony of Hodges, Chapman stated that those who

²⁴Chapman, p. 54.

²⁵*Ibid* p. 54 55

received lots June 11 did nothing as far as Hodges knew except:²⁶

"stick a stake with their names on them that evening".

Chapman stated:²⁷

The next day lot claimants were getting numbers of their lots, staking lots, plowing and making other improvements.

There was no lumber in the new town except a few bundles of shingles and a load or two of boxing. There were no saw mills in the vicinity. Guthrie was the nearest place where lumber could be purchased. The price was \$30 per thousand for "common boards and dimensions". Some succeeded in obtaining pine lumber while others "went to the timber and hewed out sills and joists".

On February 19, 1891, W. A. Swiler testified the following and

Chapman quoted:²⁸

"first building in town" was the store building "we had erected down on the east part of Barnes' claim."

Chapman stated that during the afternoon of June 11, 1889 that Barnes moved the building to block 42, lot 5, on Main Street.

On June 12, 1889, according to Swiler's testimony, Chapman quoted:²⁹

"business was established" in the building.

In his chapter, Conclusion, Chapman wrote:³⁰

The "Village of Stillwater" was incorporated under laws of Nebraska which were made applicable to Oklahoma Territory by an act of Congress on May 2, 1890. Titles to lots recognized by

²⁶Ibid., p. 55.

²⁷Ibid., p. 55, 56.

²⁸Ibid., p. 55.

²⁹Ibid., p. 55.

³⁰Ibid., p. 158, 159.

the provisional government were subsequently confirmed or canceled by government established under direction of the United States. For this purpose three trustees, known as Townsite Board No. 1, were assigned to Stillwater. On October 8 the trustees purchased the 160-acre tract in trust for the village on payment of \$200. A patent was issued on November 1 under direction of President Harrison.

The trustees assessed upon lots and blocks of the townsite, according to their value, such rate and sum as was necessary to pay for the lands embraced in the townsite, costs of survey, conveyance of lots, and other necessary expenses, including compensation of trustees. Records kept by the trustees, including Stillwater Tract Book, are preserved in Washington, D. C.

On March 14, 1891 the trial of the Stillwater Town Company vs.

Granett Burks was settled in favor of the town of Stillwater. Chapman quoted Secretary Noble in the following paragraph:³¹

"After a careful consideration of the evidence, I am satisfied that Burks did not make his entry in good faith, but on the contrary, that he made it for speculative purposes only, hence it conferred no right under the homestead law, and the entry must be canceled."

This concluded one of many trials in this area, but it was the history obtained and recorded in the testimonies of the residents which gave the local color to the founding of Stillwater.

On April 18, 1891 the townsite board annexed the 80-acre "Burks" tract. Soon afterwards, in accordance with Territorial Law, the village of Stillwater, name designated in 1884 in all probability from the Stillwater Creek, was incorporated as the town of Stillwater.

³¹Ibid., p. 76.

CHAPTER IV

THE ORLANDO M. EYLER HOUSE

The Land and Its Owners 1889-1969

One of the older houses in Stillwater occupied the lot known today as 1109 South Main Street. This was build by one of the stockholds in the Stillwater Township Company, Orlando M. (Murphy) Eyler.¹

An issue of a Stillwater newspaper, 'Oklahoma Standard', September 28, 1889, stated:²

O. M. Eyler, of Dighton, Kansas, has come to Stillwater to stay. He bought Mr. Duncan's lot on Main, is putting up a large building and when completed will put in a stock of groceries, provisions, flour and feed. Mr. Eyler is business from the word go.

In an article October 12, 1889, the "Oklahoma Standard" stated:³

O. M. Eyler returned yesterday with his family. The Standard welcomes them.

Mr. Eyler was a pioneer merchant and a leading citizen in helping to establish and develop this city.

¹Mr. Eyler continuously signed his name Orlando M. Eyler. It was in an interview with Mr. W. F. Bernhardt, Bernhardt's Strode Funeral Home on November 13, 1968 that provided the information that "M." stood for Murphy.

²Oklahoma Standard, Stillwater, Indian Territory, September 28, 1889.

³Ibid., October 12, 1889.

Born April 20, 1852 in Rushville, Illinois, Mr. Eyler was the son of George and Cynthia Eyler. His father was a native of HesseCassel, Germany. His grandfather, Luther Eyler, was a potter by trade and from him George learned the business in Germany. George, as a young man, came to the United States. After living at Ripley, Illinois, he bought a farm in Schuyler County, Illinois and built a pottery factory. He married Cynthia, daughter of David Study a native of Pennsylvania who was of German descent.

Orlando, the youngest son, lived at home helping with the agricultural duties until he was twenty-three years old. In 1875 he married Phena L. Miltenberger, who was born in Ohio, the daughter of Jacob Miltenberger, a native of Germany. Later the family moved to a home near Rushville, Illinois.

At the age of thirty-three Mr. Eyler moved westward, settling in Dighton, Lane County, Kansas. He assisted in the organization of this new county and helped to lay out the town. For two years he was the proprietor of a meat market. He then located a claim and for eighteen months he returned to the profession of farming. Later he resumed the butcher's trade in the county seat of Lane County.⁴

Mr. Eyler was a stockholder in the Stillwater Town Company. This company, described in Chapter III, was organized in Winfield, Kansas, in May 1889.

Mr. Chapman, in his book, wrote:⁵

⁴Portrait and Biographical Record of Oklahoma, (Chicago, 1901), pp. 914, 915.

That the purposes for which this corporation is formed is the purchase, location and laying out of town sites and the sale and conveyance of the same in lots and subdivisions, or otherwise, in the State of Kansas and in the Territory of Oklahoma in the Indian Territory.

In the Certified Copy of Tract Book No. 60,⁶ Stillwater, Oklahoma, it lists Orlando M. Eyler as the owner of Lot 19, Block 57, Lot 14, Block 43, and Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, Block 8.

The land value of Lot 19, Block 57, his home lot, was fifty dollars. The value of improvements, combined with Lot 20 which was owned by Rhene Eyler, was twenty-five dollars. The annual tax rate was one dollar for each of these lots.

The land value of Lot 14, Block 43, his business lot, was one hundred and fifty dollars with the value of the improvements one hundred and twenty-five dollars. The tax rate on the improvements was three dollars.

The land value of Lot 1, Block 8, was twenty-five dollars. The land value for Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, Block 8 was twenty dollars. The land improvements were one dollar per lot. The tax rate for Lot 1, a corner lot, was fifty cents and for Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 was forty cents.

Gaston Litton, a former achivist of the University of Oklahoma stated in his book:⁷

As lumber yards were opened up and building materials became available, these communities underwent a quick transformation. Tents gave way to shanties and cottages. Sub-

⁶Legal document in the County Clerk's Office of Payne County in Stillwater, Oklahoma; Certified Copy of Tract Book No. 60.

⁷Gaston Litton, History of Oklahoma at The Golden Anniversary of Statehood, Vol. 1 (New York, 1957), p. 424.

stantial frame buildings appeared in the business street, stabilized now by surveys and marked. Stocks of groceries, dry goods, hardware, and other lines of merchandise were quickly brought in and became available.

Two illustrations of how the town was developing are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4. A reproduction of a photograph made of downtown Stillwater, Oklahoma,⁸ April 22, 1890 is shown in Figure 3. The home of Harry B. Bullen,⁹ the owner of Bullen Lumber Company is shown in Figure 4. A more comprehensive picture of early day life in the Stillwater area can be obtained by reviewing early day newspapers. A list of these newspapers is shown in Appendix A.

On Lot 14, Block 43, in September 1889, Mr. Eyler built a small store, fourteen feet by twenty-eight feet, constructed of cottonwood lumber.

On October 19, 1889, the "Oklahoma Standard" stated:¹⁰

The advertisement of O. M. Eyler appears in this issue, on the first page. He carries a stock of flour, groceries, fresh and salt meats, and requests the patronage of the people.

In this issue the advertisement stated the name of the store as "City Meat Market", O. M. Eyler, Proprietor. A week later, October 26, 1889 the advertisement had been changed to "Star Meat Market", O. M. Eyler, Proprietor. February 8, 1890 the advertisement was changed to "Star Grocery and Meat Market", Eyler and Cochran. On June 30, 1893 in the "Stillwater

⁸Interview with Mr. Robert Cunningham, Stillwater Photo Engraving Service, December 2, 1968.

⁹Ibid., December 2, 1968.

¹⁰Oklahoma Standard, October 19, 1889.

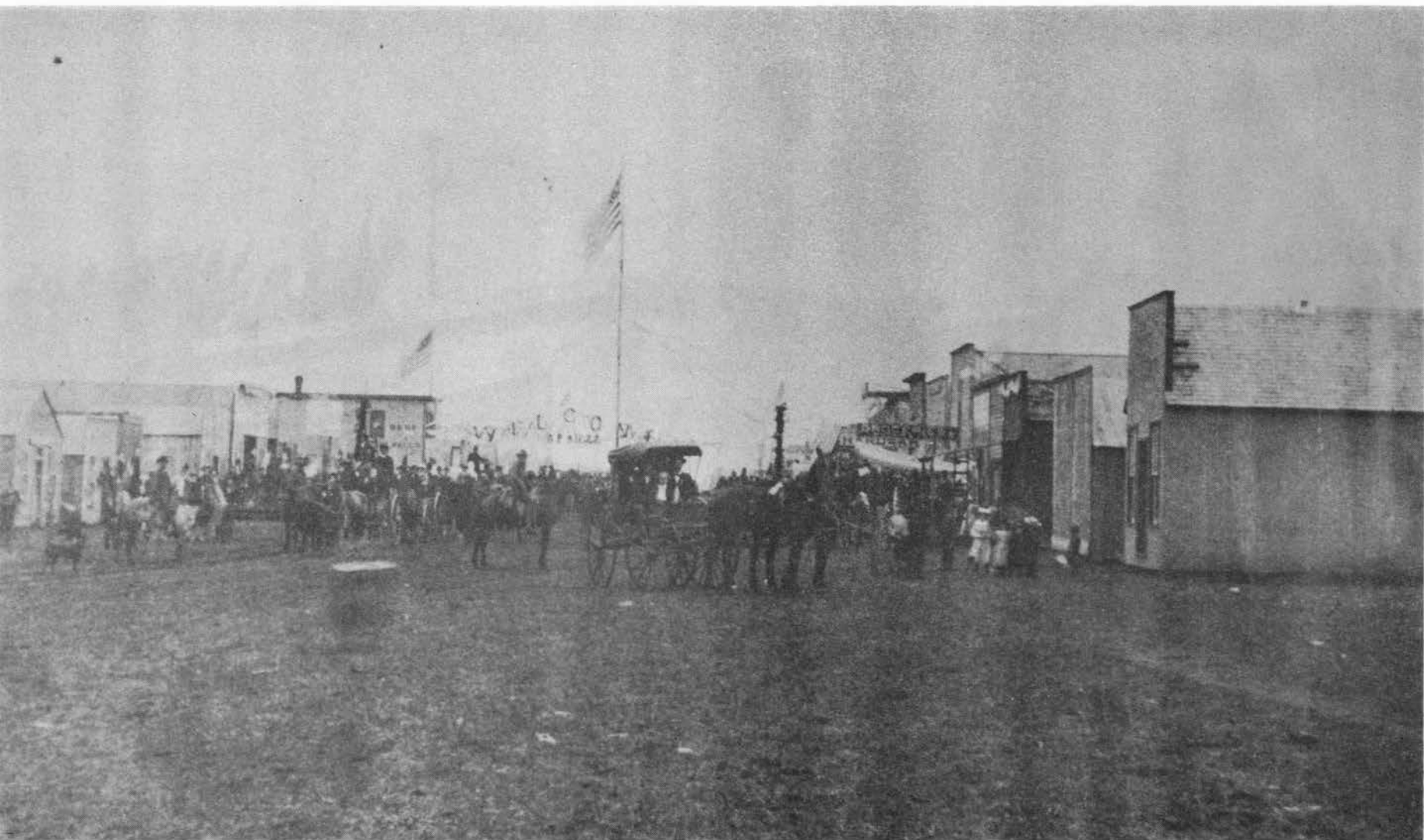


Figure 3

THE TEN HUNDRED BLOCK LOOKING NORTH ON MAIN STREET
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA
APRIL 22, 1890

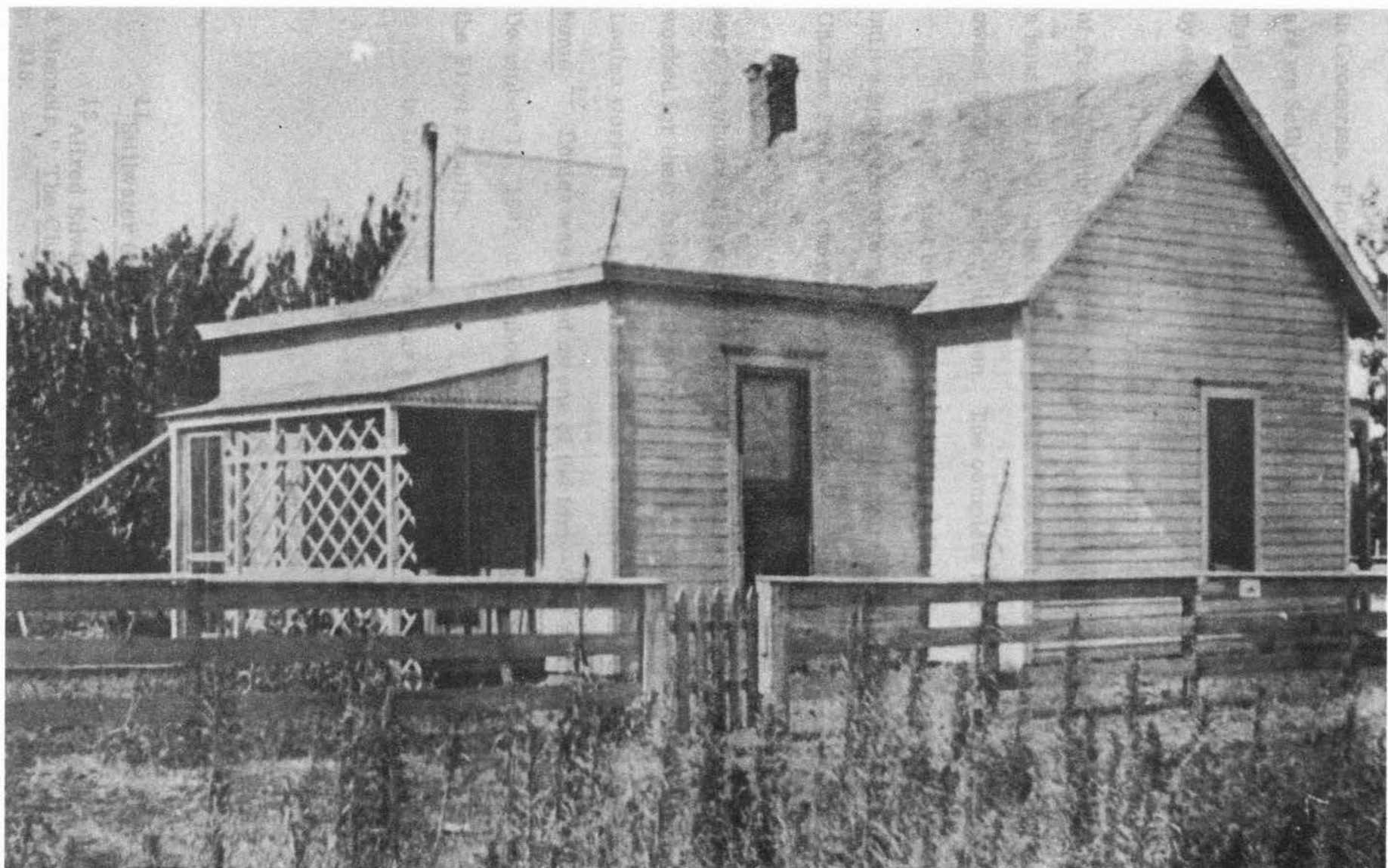


Figure 4 THE HOME OF HARRY B. BULLEN, THE OWNER OF BULLEN LUMBER COMPANY
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

Gazette" the advertisement on the back page read, "Eyler and Millhouse, Dealers in Groceries, Flour and Feed. We are not Selling Out Regardless of Cost, nor are we Selling - at Cost, but Good Goods, at Living Prices."¹¹ In 1894, Mr. Eyler and a Mr. Millhouse built a brick structure on this site twenty-five feet by eighty feet.

The records of the original township in the County Assessor's Office of Payne County, Stillwater, Oklahoma, showed Mr. Orlando M. Eyler built a house in 1893. The records of 1943 listed Lots 18, 19, 20, Block 57 as owned by W. C. Eyler, his son. The complete list is shown in Appendix B.

In 1900, just before the railroad was built through Glencoe, Mr. Eyler built a store there for groceries and hardware and he placed his eldest son, Charles Fred, in charge of the business.

A photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Eyler, their three sons and two daughters, is shown in Figure 5. The sons, Charles Fred, George, and William worked for their father, Clara worked as a milliner in Stillwater, and Dora Louisa worked as a clerk in her father's store. In the Chronicles of Oklahoma,¹² Louisa was listed as one of the forty-four students enrolled on December 14, 1891 at Oklahoma A. & M. College according to the Minutes of the First Faculty.

In 1890 Mr. Eyler was elected to the school board, and he served as

¹¹Stillwater Gazette, June 23, 1893.

¹²Alfred Edwin Jarrell, "The Founding of Oklahoma A. & M. College: A Memoir," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1956), p. 316.



Figure 5 MR. AND MRS. ORLANDO M. EYLER AND THEIR FIVE CHILDREN

treasurer for seven years. During these years the first school building of the town was built. For four years of this period, Mr. Eyler also acted as justice of the peace of this township. After he left that office he became a member of the board of city aldermen, for two terms acting as its president. Later, he was elected as the councilman from the fourth ward. He served as the president of the council and chairman of the ordinance committee. For two years he was the chairman of the Democratic county central committee, and in 1898 he was a candidate for probate judge. Mr. Eyler belonged to the "Woodmen of the World" and to the Fraternal Aid Association. He was a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, served on the building committee, and taught a Sunday School class from 1904 to 1909.

Mr. Eyler died September 25, 1928 at the age of seventy-six.

The Original House

The one-story structure, twenty-four feet by sixteen feet, at 1109 South Main, Stillwater, Oklahoma was built in 1893 of yellow pine. Initially, this investigator was told that the structure was built to serve as an ice house. The present owner, Mrs. William (Marjory) Eyler,¹³ wife of William Eyler who is deceased, had a telephone conversation in December, 1968 with Mrs. Louisa (Eyler) Davis, the oldest daughter, ninety years of age, of Sacramento, California, who discredited this fact. She stated that one of her relatives worked at the ice house which was a block west of this location.

¹³Interview with Mrs. William (Marjory) Eyler on October 20, 1968, who was a daughter-in-law to Orlando M. Eyler.

A statement made by Mr. Clarence Bullen,¹⁴ son of Harry Bullen, the owner of Bullen Lumber Company, Stillwater, Oklahoma, verified the fact that this structure was built on Lot 19, Block 57 in 1893.

The facade of this house which originally faced the west had a doorway in the center with a window on each side. The original door is illustrated in Figure 6 and is seventy-eight inches by twenty-nine and one-half inches. It had four wooden inset panels. The upper panels measured thirty-eight and one-half inches by nine and one-fourth inches. The lower panels measured twenty and three-fourth inches by nine and one-fourth inches. Inset are smaller panels with a one and one-eighth inch border. The top wooden panels have been replaced with a glass pane to obtain more light in the living area. The length-wise partition in the middle of the door was three and one-half inches wide and the cross partition was seven and one-fourth inches wide.

The door hardware includes an exterior white china door knob, measuring two and one-fourth inches in diameter. The brass escutcheon of intricate design is shown in Figure 7. The escutcheon is two inches long and one and one-eighth inches wide. Shown, also, in Figure 7 is the inside cast metal facing. It measures five and one-fourth inches by three and one-fourth inches and is one-half inch thick. There is a small white china door knob on the interior side of the door. Intricate designs are placed in the lower left hand corner, above and below the slide lock on the lock facing. The manufacture of lock had a brand design which could be described as a shield with three points

¹⁴Interview with Mr. Clarence Bullen, December 17, 1968.

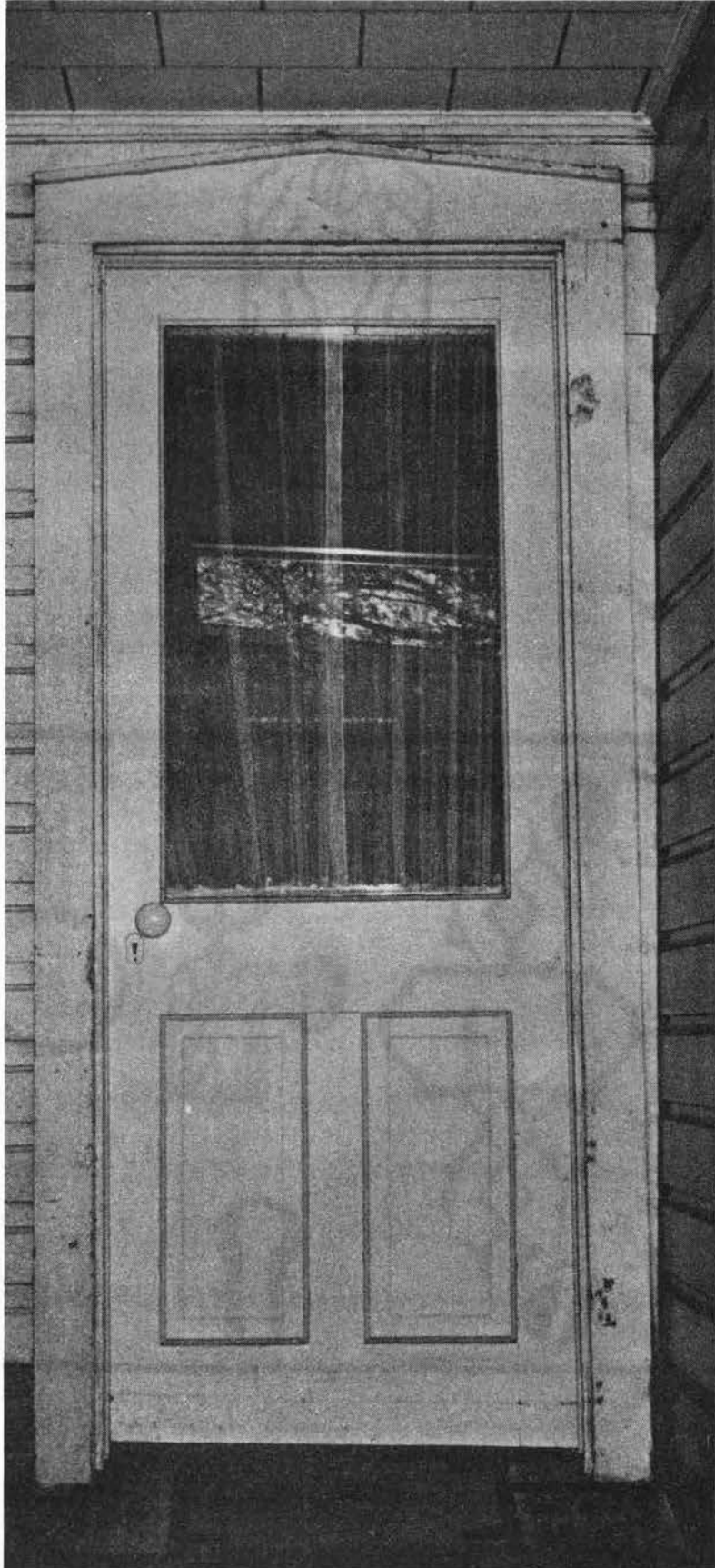


Figure 6 THE ORIGINAL DOOR



THE ESCUTCHEON

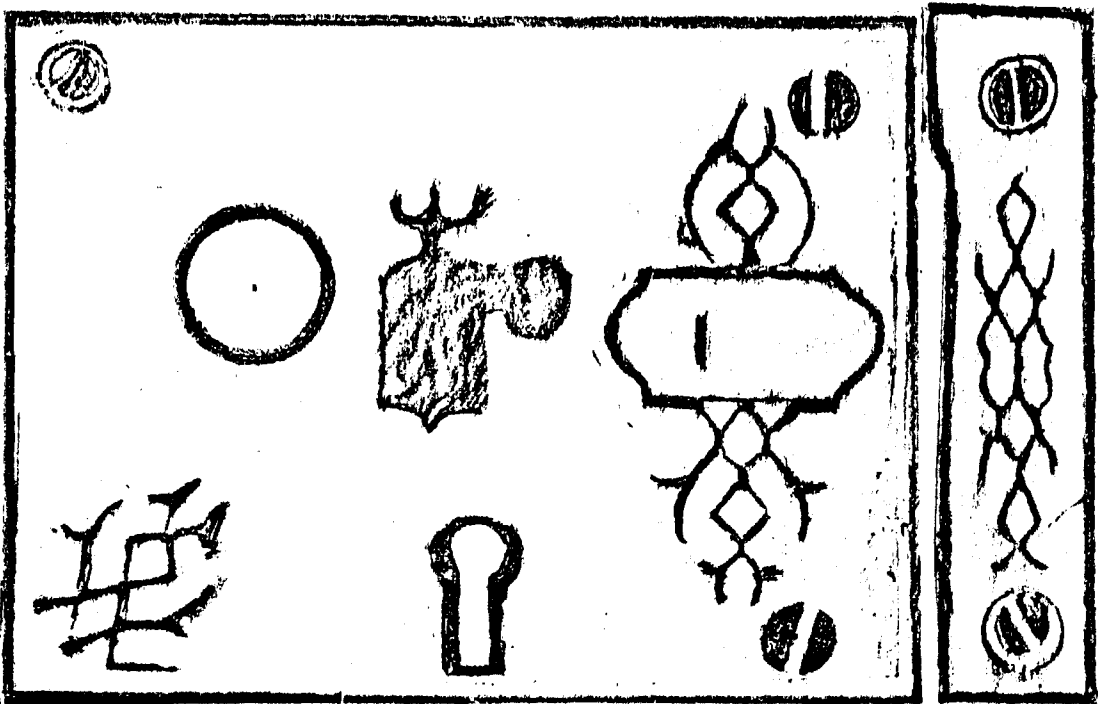


Figure 7 THE EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR LOCK
(Rubbing Study)

resembling antlers on top and to the right a form resembling the hand of a buffalo. Five screws hold the lock in place.

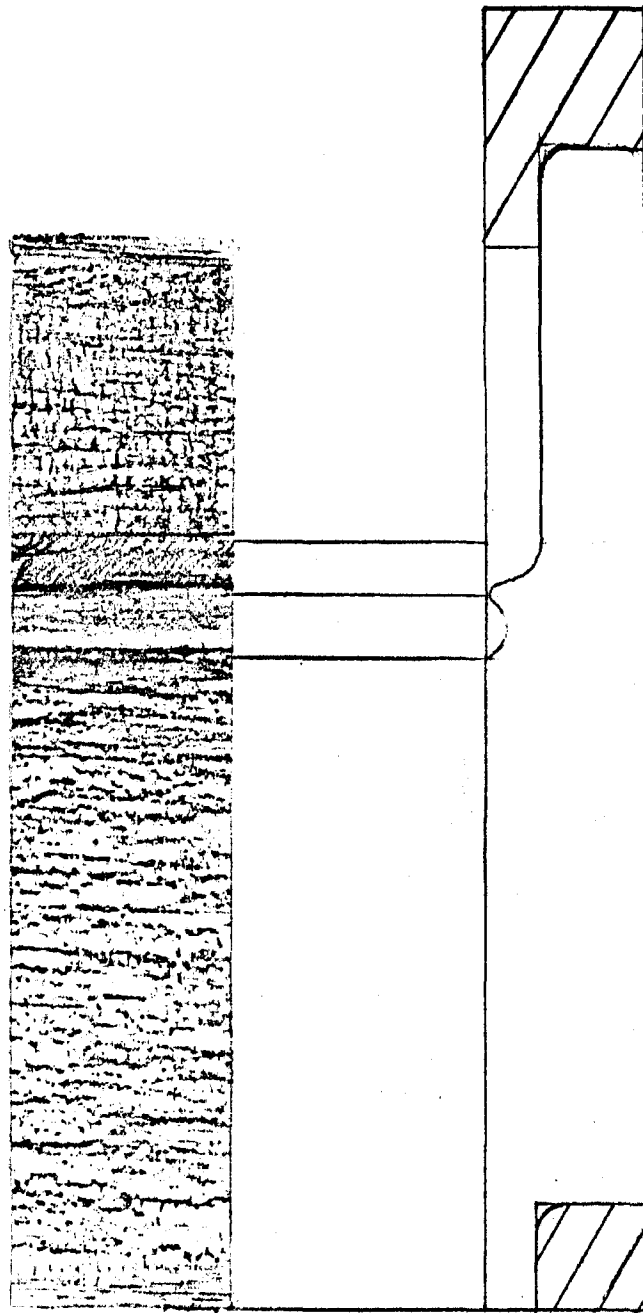
Framing this door the pilasters are plain three and three-fourths inch boards. These pilasters support a small pediment. The width of the pediment at the center of the door is six and three-fourths and narrows at each side to match the width of the pilasters. A one inch molding of plain design borders the top of the pediment.

The window, fifty-eight inches in length by twenty-four inches in width, is divided into four glass panes. The upper panes are twenty-six inches by ten inches. The lower panes are twenty-four inches by ten inches. Above the window there is a pediment with the molding identical in height and design to the door treatment.

As shown in Figure 8, the exterior siding, painted white, is unlike any of the present day tongue and groove siding. The siding has five and one-eighth inches exposed and the thickness is three-fourths of an inch. The tongue extends upward one-half inch into the groove of the adjacent board. Two parallel semicircular grooves are cut into the wood for ornamental purposes.

The original roof, gabled on the north and south ends, had wooden shingles. The foundation, laid on top of the ground, was made from Oklahoma sandstone.

The floor plan of the original house is shown in Figure 9. The front door opens directly into the almost square living area. The room is thirteen feet by twelve feet and six inches. There are two windows, one on the south and one on the north. There is another exterior door on the north. This door is of panel construction with glass panes in the upper part and wood panels in the lower part. The lock, the size described previously, is plain in design except for the one-fourth inch line border as shown in Figure 10.



a. Elevation
(Rubbing Study)

b. Section

Figure 8 TONGUE AND GROOVE SIDING
CIRCA 1893

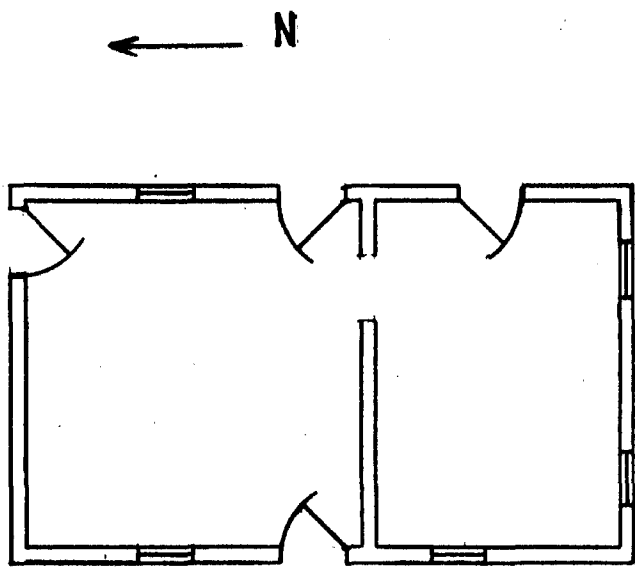


Figure 9 FLOOR PLAN OF THE ORIGINAL HOUSE

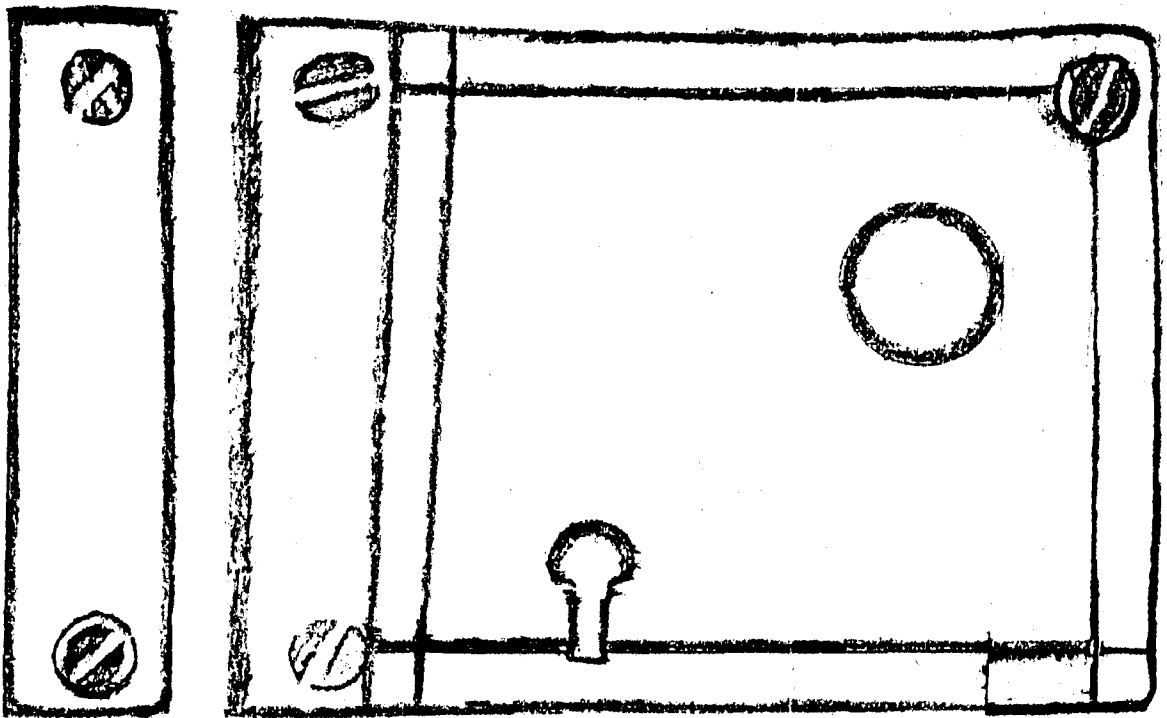


Figure 10 LOCK FACING ON THE NORTH EXTERIOR DOOR IN
THE LIVING AREA
(The Rubbing Study)

The ceiling height is nine feet and six inches. The walls and ceilings are of plaster construction. Wallpaper has been applied for the finish effect. The plain pine strip flooring of irregular lengths is stained with a dark finish. The floor boards are four inches wide.

An opening leads to the kitchen area which is on the east side of the house. The kitchen has a dado of wood paneling. The design, shown in Figure 11, is called tongue and groove ceiling. This paneling is thirty-six inches high, five-eighths inch thick with a three and one-fourth inch cap molding along the top edge. Above the dado, wallpaper has been applied to the walls and ceiling. On the east side of the kitchen there are two windows. One window is on the south side. On the north side of the kitchen there is an outside door. This door is similiar in design to the front door, previously described, except it has four wooden panels. The lock on this door, as shown in Figure 12, is plain in design except for the identifying letters, S. L. W. apparently the trade mark of the manufacturer.

In the back yard the cistern still remains which was used to furnish running water in this early day kitchen.

The Remodeled House

In 1900 the Eyler house, which had been the family home since 1893, was moved to the back of the lot. When the house was moved it was rotated ninety degrees. The original front entrance now faced south instead of west.¹⁵

¹⁵ An interview with Mr. Kenneth Ricker, January 2, 1968, who is a grandson of Orlando M. Eyler.

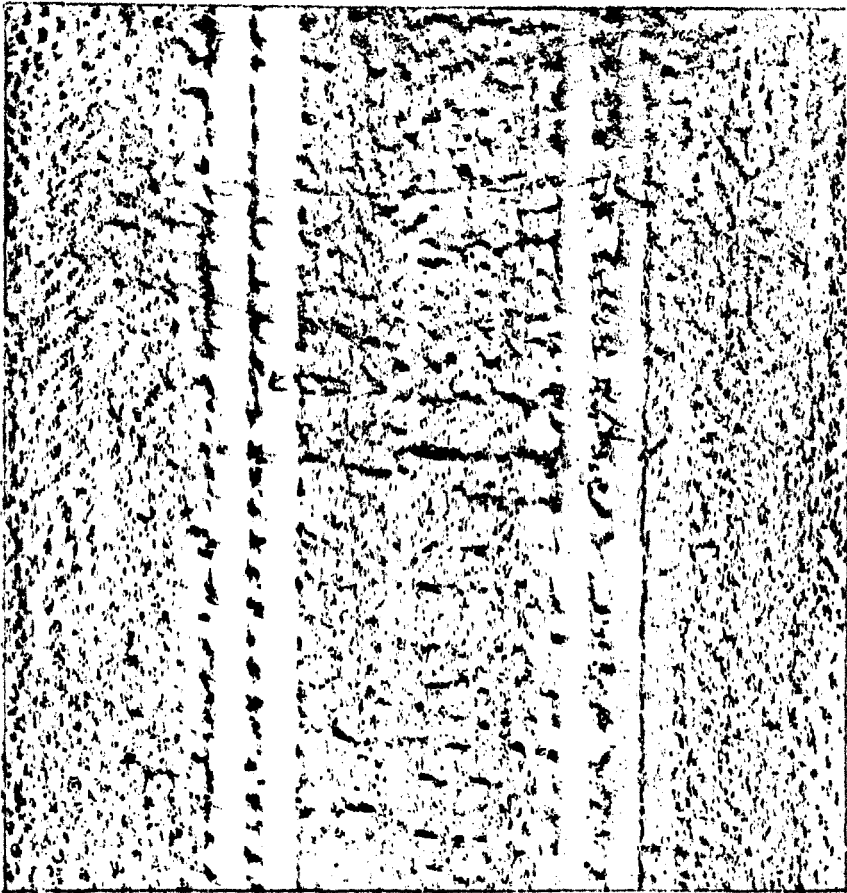


Figure 11 DADO OF WOOD PANELING IN THE
KITCHEN AREA
(Rubbing Study)

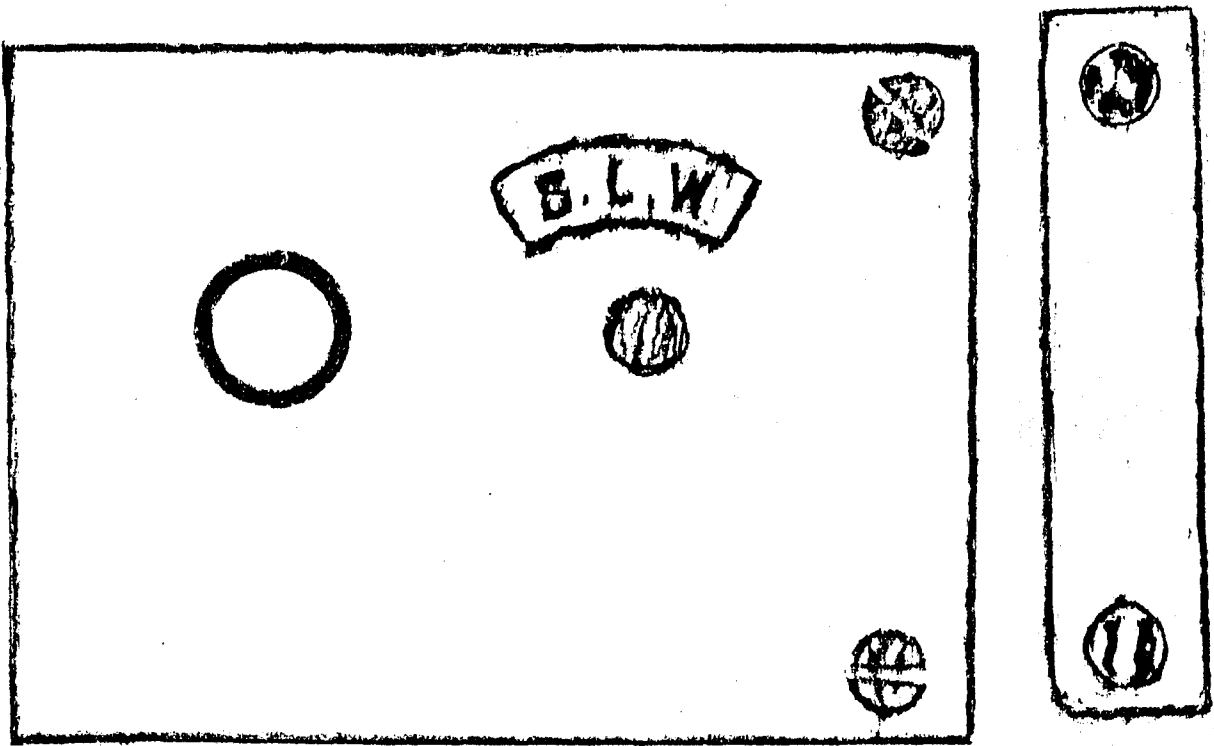


Figure 12 THE LOCK FACING ON THE EXTERIOR DOOR IN THE KITCHEN AREA
(Rubbing Study)

A one and a half story addition was made, twenty-six feet across the front by twenty-six feet in depth; it was designed for a parlor, two bedrooms, and a sitting room with stairs to the two upstairs bedrooms. The hipped shingle roof above the new addition had three gabled windows, one on the west, one on the south, and one on the north. Around this addition there is a roof overhang with a wooden cornice and a cove. The original siding which Mr. Bullen¹⁶ stated was "drop siding" was later covered with asphalt shingles in a light gray-green color. The wooden trim is painted white.

The facade of the house as shown in Figure 13 has the front door in the center with a window on either side and a smaller window which is placed above the door in the front gable. The roof overhang is cut the window width to allow this window to extend down into the cornice. This smaller window is divided into four equal size glass panes.

A small hipped roof, above the twenty-four by five foot porch, has a roof overhang, a cornice and a cove. The four white painted circular wooden columns, have square bases, and are tapered toward the top which is a simple capital of the concentric rings. Two concrete steps are placed below the plank porch floor.

The original front door¹⁷ was divided into two parts. The upper part had a frosted etched glass pane. It was stated that the lumbermen of this era obtained the etched glass panes from the glass factories in Ohio and West

¹⁶Interview with Mr. Clarence Bullen, December 17, 1968.

¹⁷Interview with Mr. Kenneth Ricker, January 2, 1969.



Figure 13 THE FACADE OF THE REMODELED HOUSE

Virginia.¹⁸ The lower part of the door was divided into three horizontal sections, two panels in the upper and lower sections and one panel in the center section. This door has been replaced by a door with a large glass panel framed by smaller glass panels.

The floor plans are shown in Figure 14 and Figure 15. The front door in the southwest corner of the room opens directly into the parlor. The room measures thirteen feet by thirteen feet. There are two windows, one on the west, one on the north, and two doors, one a glass double door that opens into the bedroom and a wooden paneled door that opens into the sitting room. The walls and ceiling of plaster construction are covered with wallpaper.

'The Wedding Picture of Louisa and Ed Davis in the Parlor of the Eyler Home,' Figure 16, shows the original wallpaper as a lozenge or diamond motif with flowers at each point. The repeat pattern formed a vertical effect. Horizontally, every other diamond pattern was a repeat with the two middle points of a diamond meeting the top point of the center diamond. A pattern of flowers above a formation of lines resembling mountains was used in a wide border below the ceiling line. The wallpaper on the ceiling had a square diamond design with flowers accenting the four points.

This picture, Figure 16, shows the window treatment of glass curtains with an overlay valance. The furniture shown in the room, the table, the rocking chair and the organ were pieces typical of the early nineteenth century. The rug shown was a large scale diamond pattern with branches of leaves as

¹⁸Interview with Mr. Clarence Bullen, December 17, 1968.

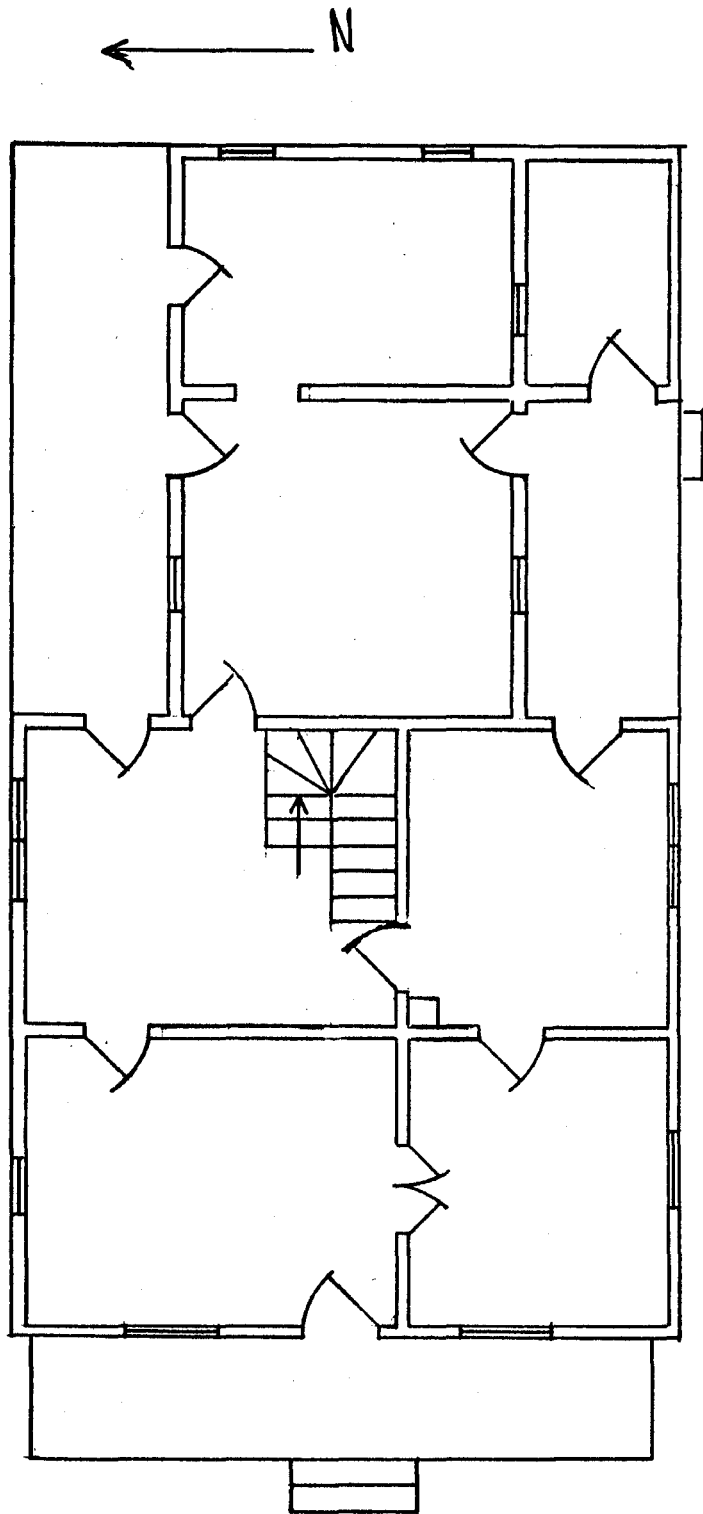


Figure 14 PLAN OF THE FIRST FLOOR AFTER REMODELING

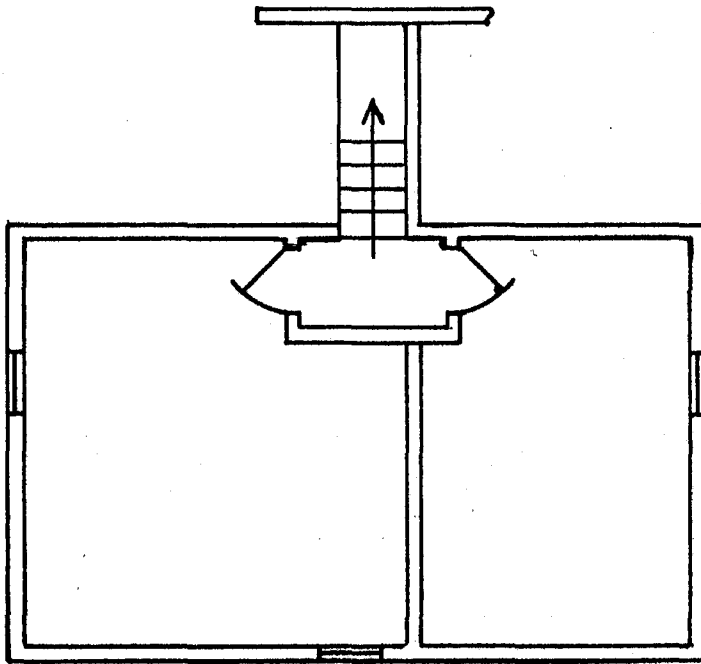


Figure 15 PLAN OF THE SECOND FLOOR AFTER REMODELING



Figure 16

THE WEDDING PICTURE OF LOUISA AND ED DAVIS
IN THE PARLOR OF THE EYLER HOME

the central motif. The table shown is in the family home today. This picture was made on the wedding day of Louisa Eyler to Ed Davis in 1901.

The woodwork of the new addition was yellow pine. The more expensive woods were not available. For the interior finish, the natural yellow color of pine was altered by the use of dark stains and effects were obtained similar to dark oak.

In each of the two top corners of all the doors and windows pilasters, elaborate incised hand carving as shown in Figure 17, decorated this house. The top corner block, called the head block,¹⁹ has a crown of four points with half points on each side. Below, there are two parallel concave lines, the upper measuring one-half inch, the lower five-eighths inch. A flower formation is carved on the block of wood five and one-half inches in length by five and one-fourth inches in width. The flower stem which radiates from a half inch circle has two leaves on either side and a half inch circle at the top with seven petals. Two leaf branches which are connected to the stem extend outward in opposite directions with five leaves on the outside with one leaf at the top. This form of carving was known as hand gouging.²⁰

At the lower edge, bordering this design is a concave curve of one-half inch. A diagonal cut inward and downward of one and three-eighths inches is followed by two small concave curves and a convex curve to a one-half inch plain surface. This completes the design of the head block which is cut from one block of wood measuring ten inches by five and one-fourth inches.

¹⁹Interview with Mr. Bullen, December 17, 1968.

²⁰Ibid., December 17, 1968.

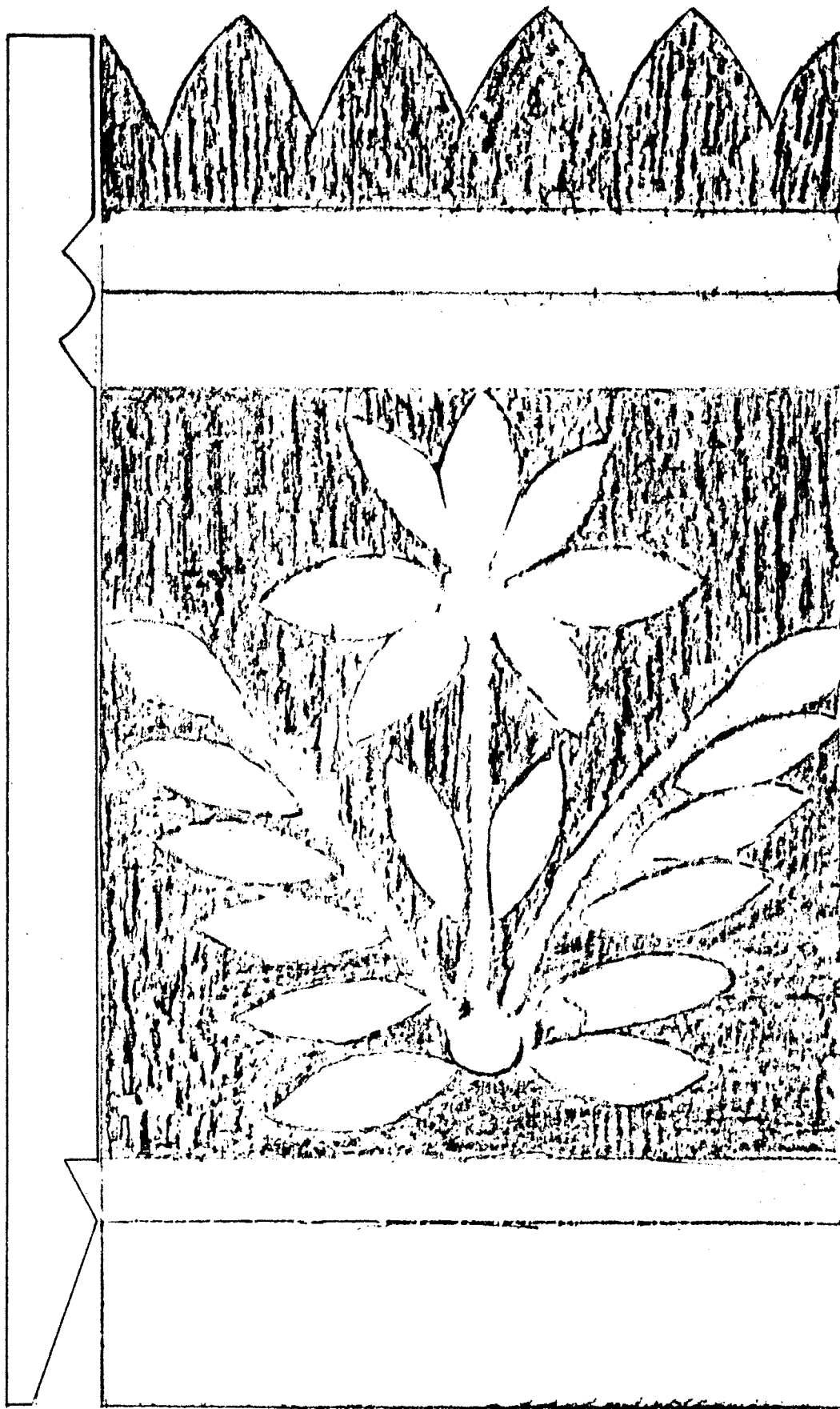


Figure 17 THE DESIGN OF THE HEAD BLOCK

The design of the block, called the base block²¹ or the plinth²² at the lower edge of the pilaster of the door, is a stem with two leaves on either side. The base block is shown in Figure 18. This center stem has three one-half inch circles placed in a triangular effect at the top. The two branches on either side of the stem each have five leaves, two on the upper side and two on the lower side and one at the top.

The surface contour of the top portion of the base block is shown in Figure 19. An indentation of one-fourth inch places the base block more nearly flush with the pilaster. This base block, made from one piece of wood, measures twelve and one-fourth inches by five and one-fourth inches.

The pilasters and the friezes for the windows and the doors are identical in design and in width; five and one-eighth inches. Figure 20 shows this design. The carved vertical two and three-eighths inch design is placed in the middle of the board with a border of flush wood of one inch. A beading, a concave three-sixteenth inch curve, borders the outside edges of the pilasters and friezes.

A picture frame molding, a unique design compared to the framing of today's windows was placed under the windows of the new addition. The pilasters and friezes previously described were extended under the window sill with mitering at the corners to form the picture frame effect. This design is shown in Figure 21.

²¹Ibid.

²²Sherrill Whiton, Elements of Interior and Decoration (Chicago, 1951), pp. 694-695.

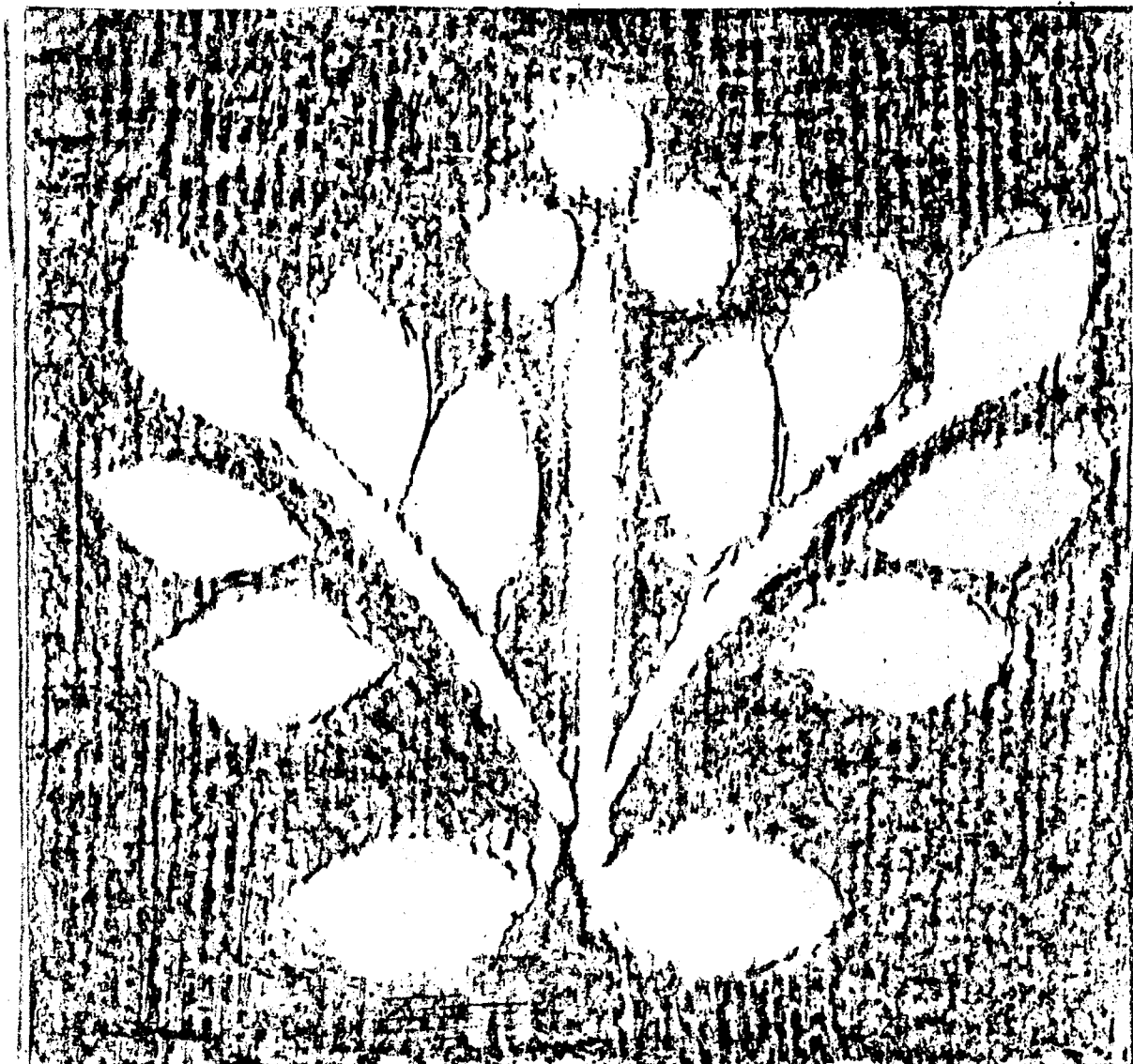


Figure 18 THE DESIGN OF THE LOWER PORTION OF THE
BASE BLOCK
(Rubbing Study)

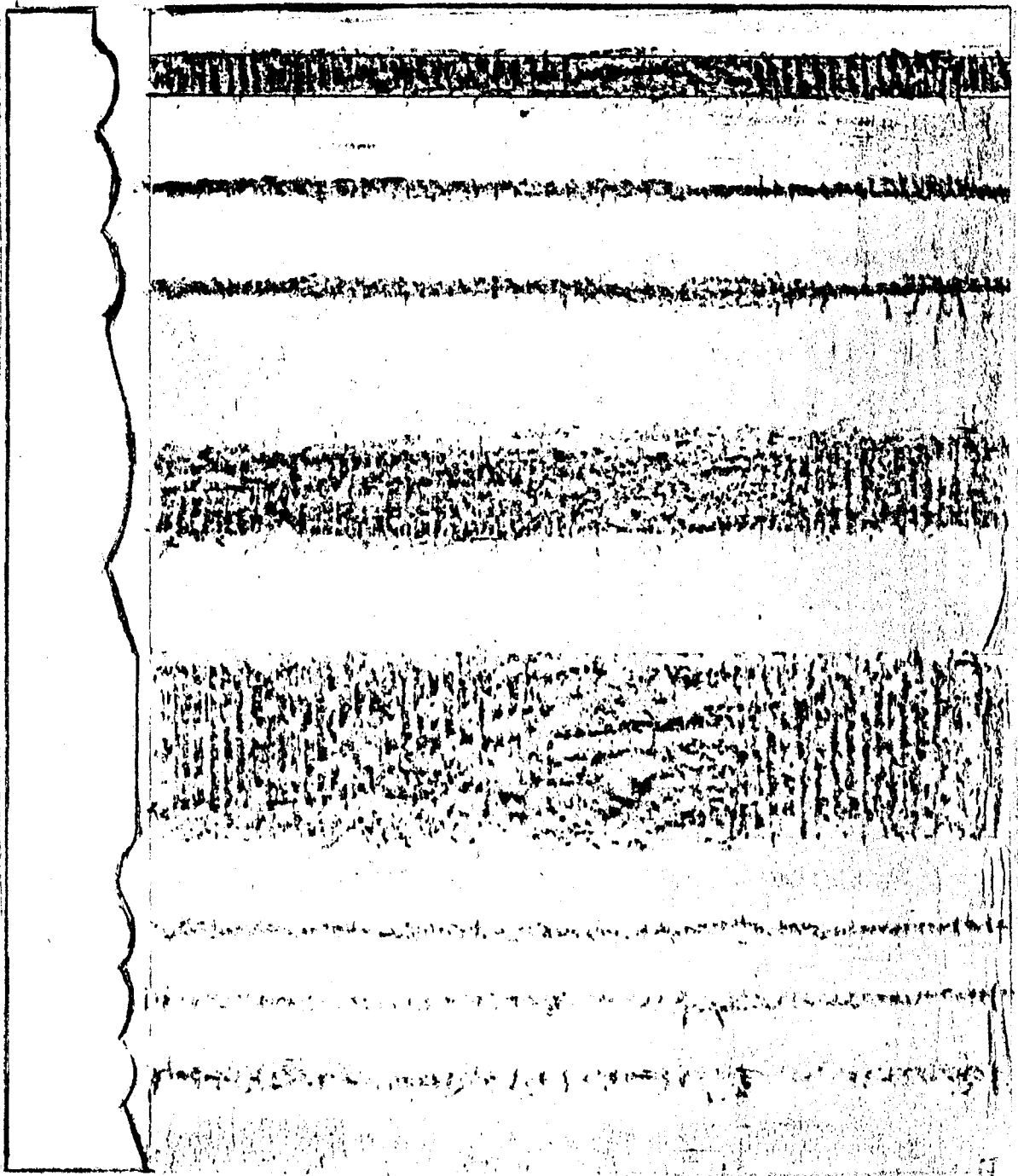


Figure 19 THE TOP PORTION OF THE BASE BLOCK
(Rubbing Study)

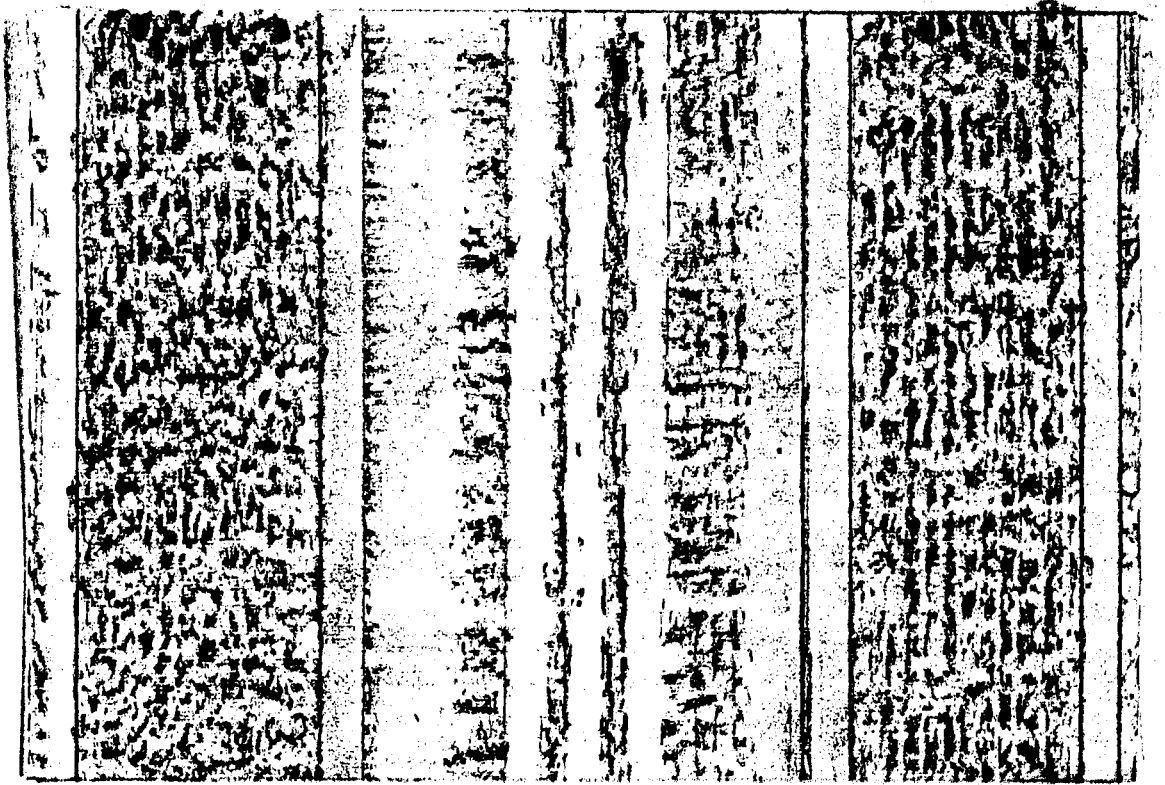


Figure 20 PILASTERS AND FRIEZES
(Rubbing Study)

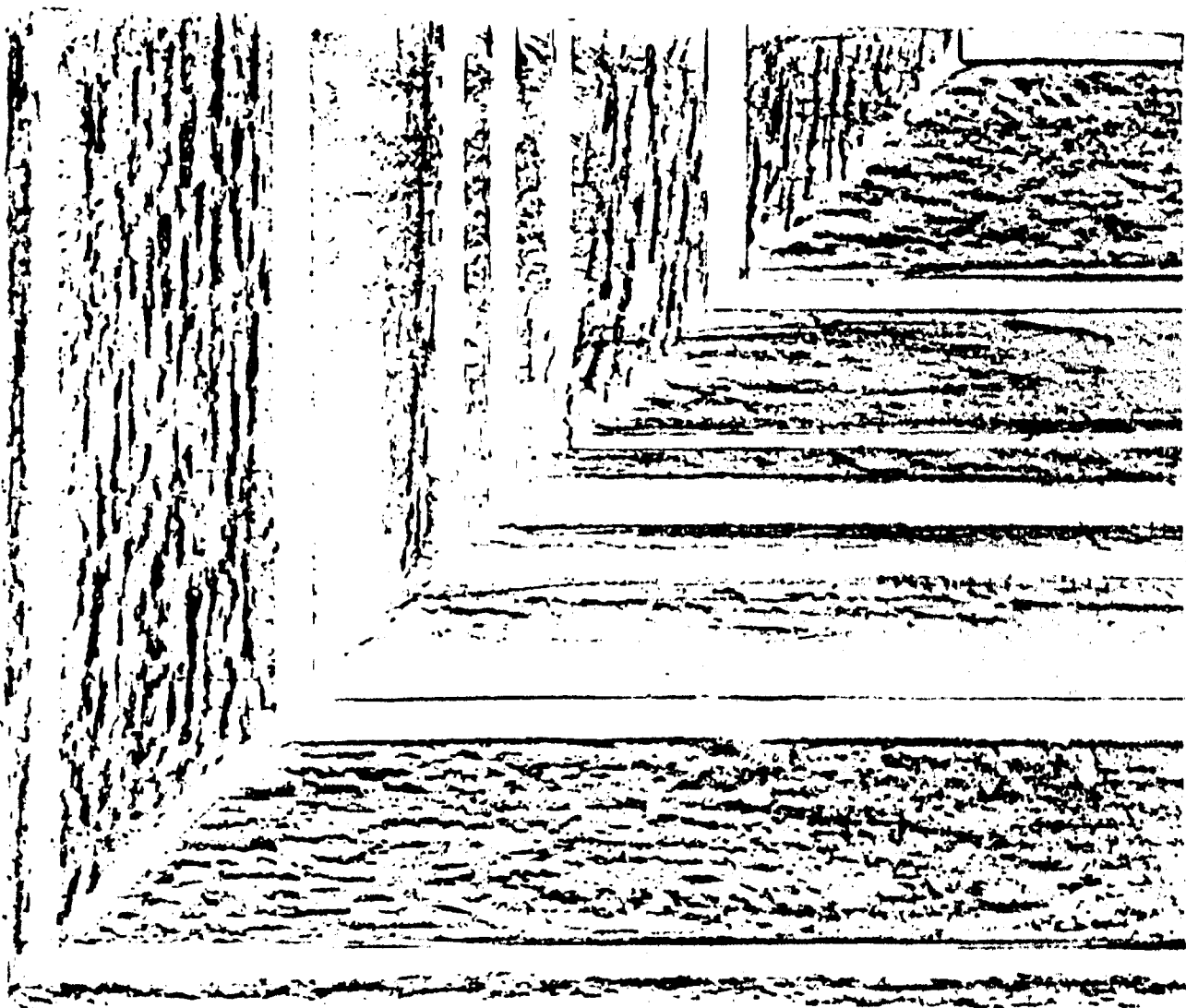


Figure 21 MOLDING UNDER WINDOWS
(Rubbing Study)

The baseboard, shown in Figure 22, is nine and one-half inches wide with parallel carving. This design was created at a lumber mill by the use of a planer. A concave carving decreases the thickness of the baseboard to one-fourth inch to join the wall surface.

In each corner of the room at the baseboard level is a corner block with a finial as shown in Figure 23. This finial at the base projects in a block design of one-half inch in width and height above the baseboard. A concave curve of five-eighths of an inch forms a convex curve, followed by a concave line of one inch. The finial knob, above a beading, measures two and one-half inches in height. This finial, made at a lumber mill, is cut from one-fourth of a circle. This block, placed in each corner, protruded out one-half inch from the baseboard. It gave the corner a more elaborate finish in design.

From the parlor, a door opens into the sitting room. The interior doors, alike in design, have four inset wooden panels. The upper panels measure thirty-seven and seven-eighths inches by eight and one-fourth inches and the lower panels measure eighteen inches by eight and one-fourth inches. The cross members of the door are four and one-fourth inches wide. The door is seventy-nine inches by twenty-nine and five-eighths inches. The door knob is made of white china.

There are three other doorways in this sitting room, one leading to a south bedroom, one to the dining room and one to the outside. The door to the dining room has an escutcheon of simple design. The key lock box, with the white china door knob, has a circular ring around the key hole. The box plate, shown in Figure 24, is plain.

The outside door, divided into two sections has glass panes and wooden panels. The exterior brass escutcheon has a design, a reverse "S" motif, in harmony with the design of the plate. The interior rectangular

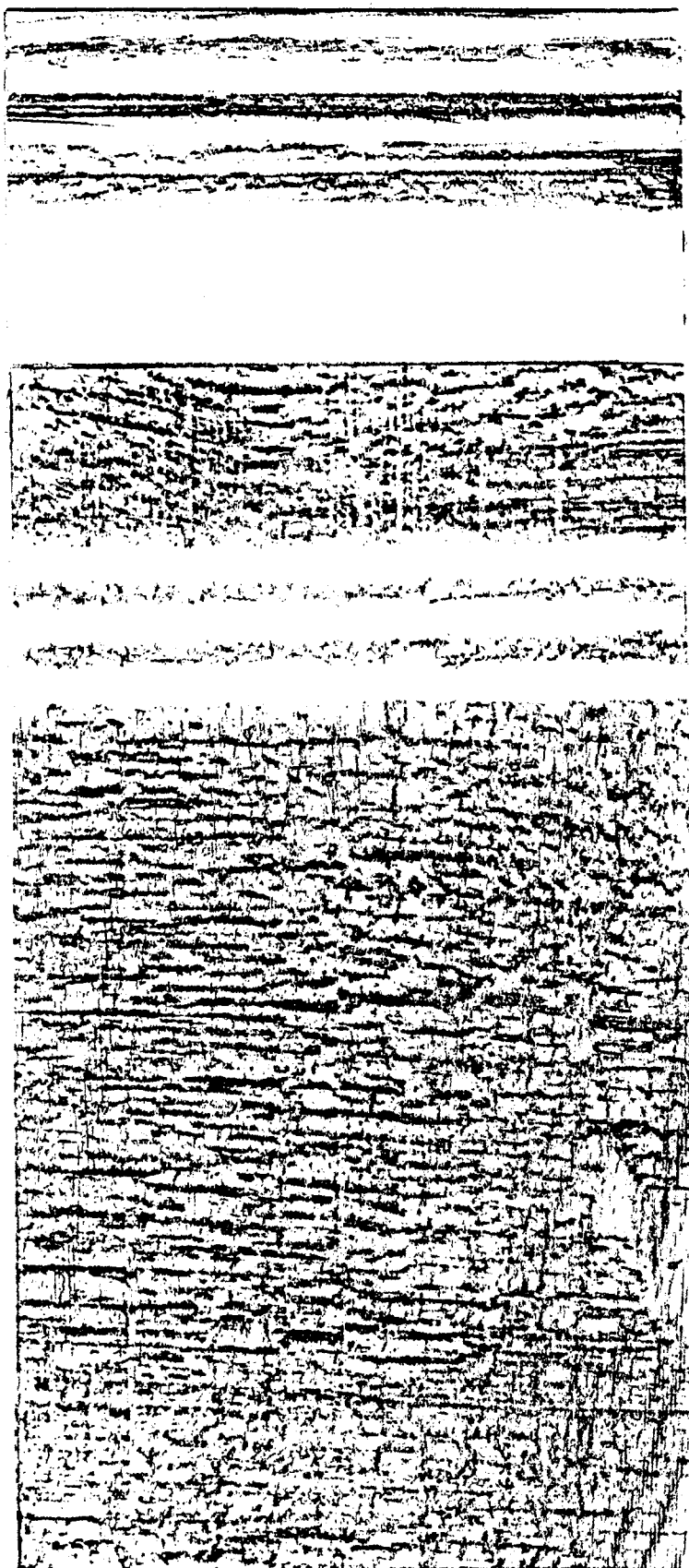


Figure 22 THE BASEBOARD

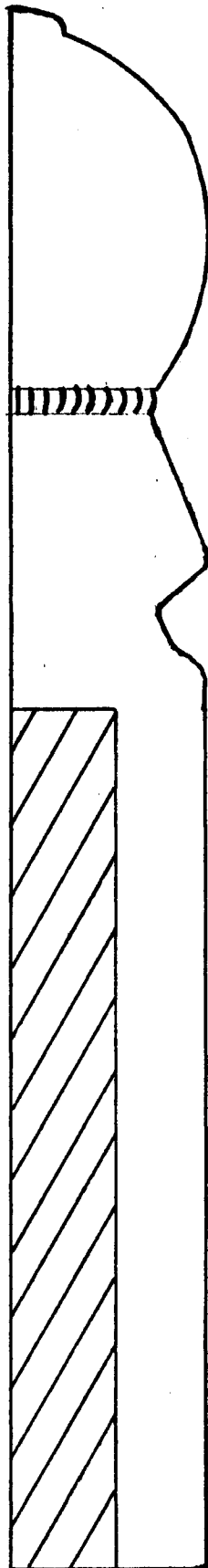
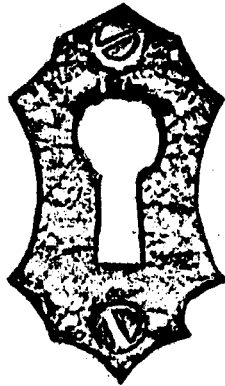


Figure 23 THE CORNER BLOCK



THE ESCUTCHEON

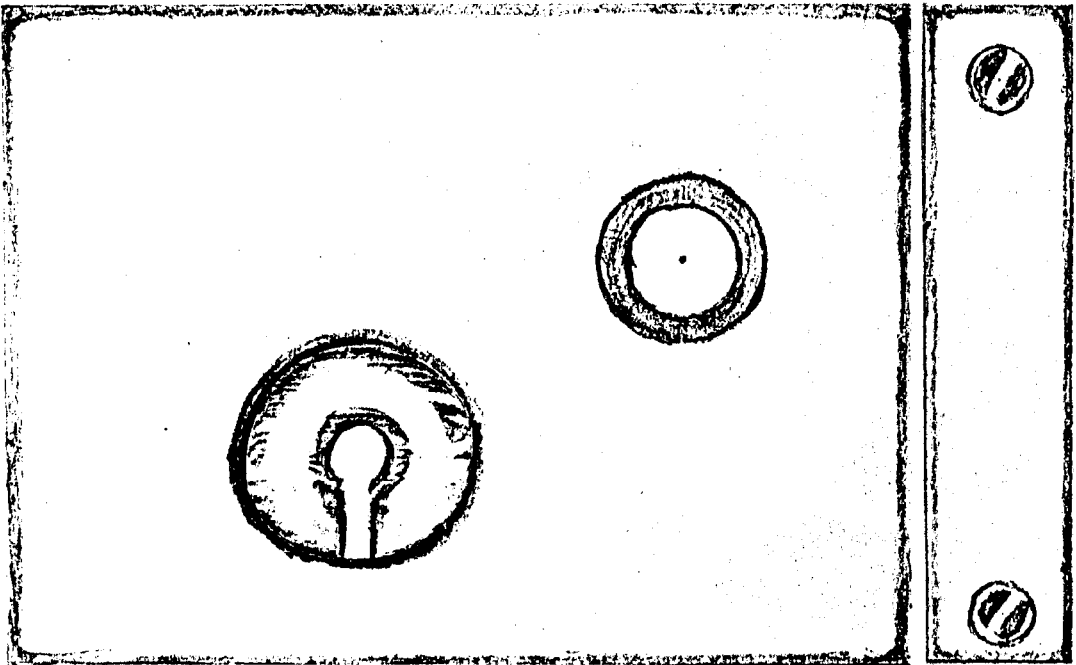


Figure 24 LOCK FACING ON THE DOOR LEADING TO THE DINING ROOM

key box has a more complicated version of this design. A white china door knob, a key hole, the letter "C" with a star, which signifies the manufacturer, and the heads of five screws complete the design of this lock facing. The designs of these facings are shown in Figure 25. In the book, The Styles of Ornament by Speltz,²³ a design shown in the section of Empire ornament in Germany, is similar to the reverse "S" that is used as the central motif for this lock facing.

Double hung windows, fifty-eight inches in width, have the large panes of glass. These windows are on the north side of the sitting room.

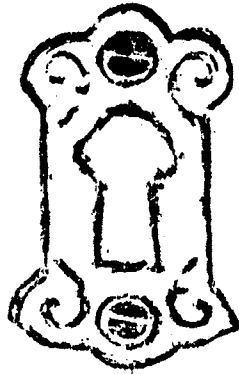
A dark stained wooden staircase, as shown in Figure 26 and Figure 27, placed in the south east corner of the room leads to the two bedrooms. The construction of the staircase is called open string.²⁴ The ends of the treads are showing. This type of staircase had its beginning in the eighteenth century.

Two steps, seven and one-half inches in height, thirty-two and one-half inches in width are placed before the beginning of the turning step with the newel. The wooden newel, square at the base, turned in the center section, square at the termination of the handrail ending with a circular finial, is thirty-one inches high.

The ends of these steps are treated with a block paneling. The balusters, two to a step, are of unequal length. The turned section in the center of the baluster is of equal length with the variation of length occurring in the

²³Alexander Speltz, The Styles of Ornament, (New York, 1959), p. 615, Figure 6.

²⁴Fiske Kimball, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, (New York, 1966), p. 128.



THE ESCUTCHEON

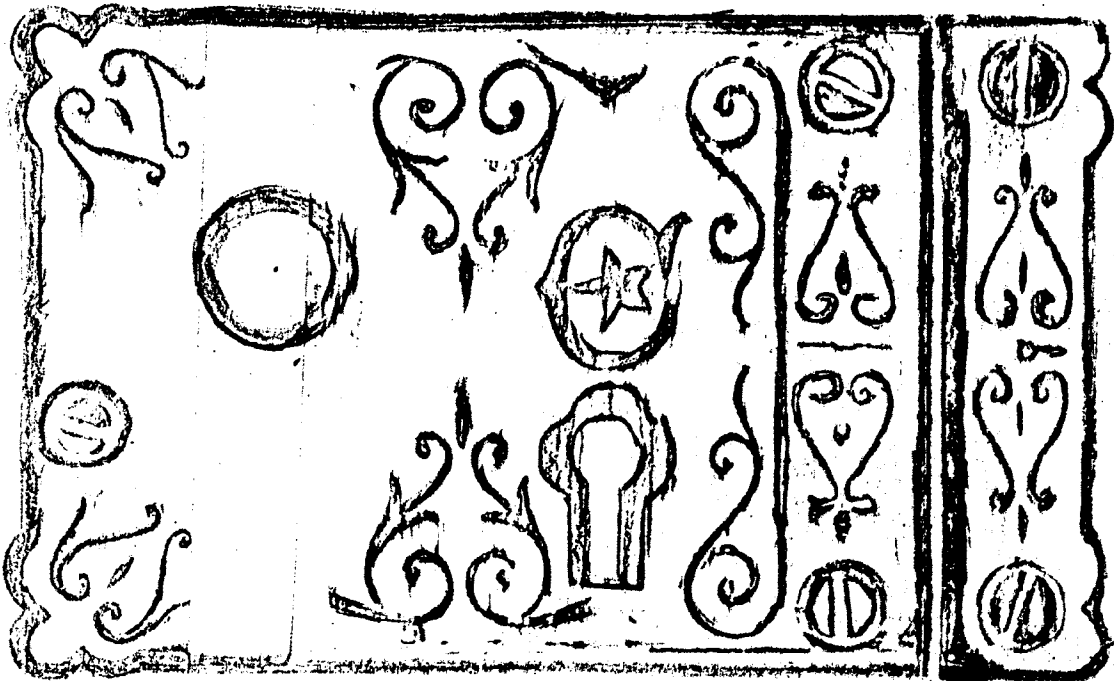


Figure 25 LOCK FACING, EXTERIOR DOOR OF THE SITTING ROOM

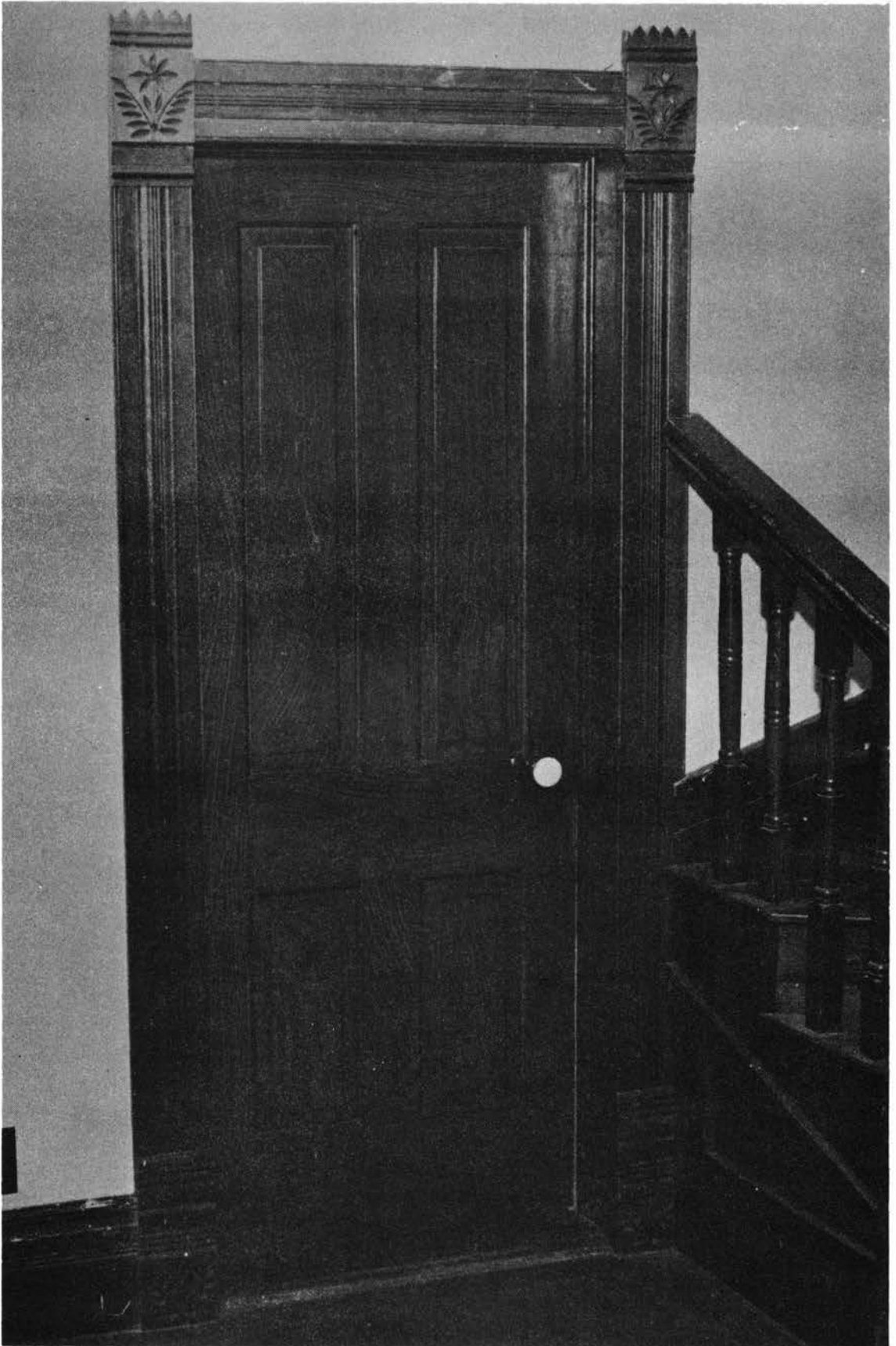


Figure 26 DOOR AND STAIRCASE IN SITTING ROOM

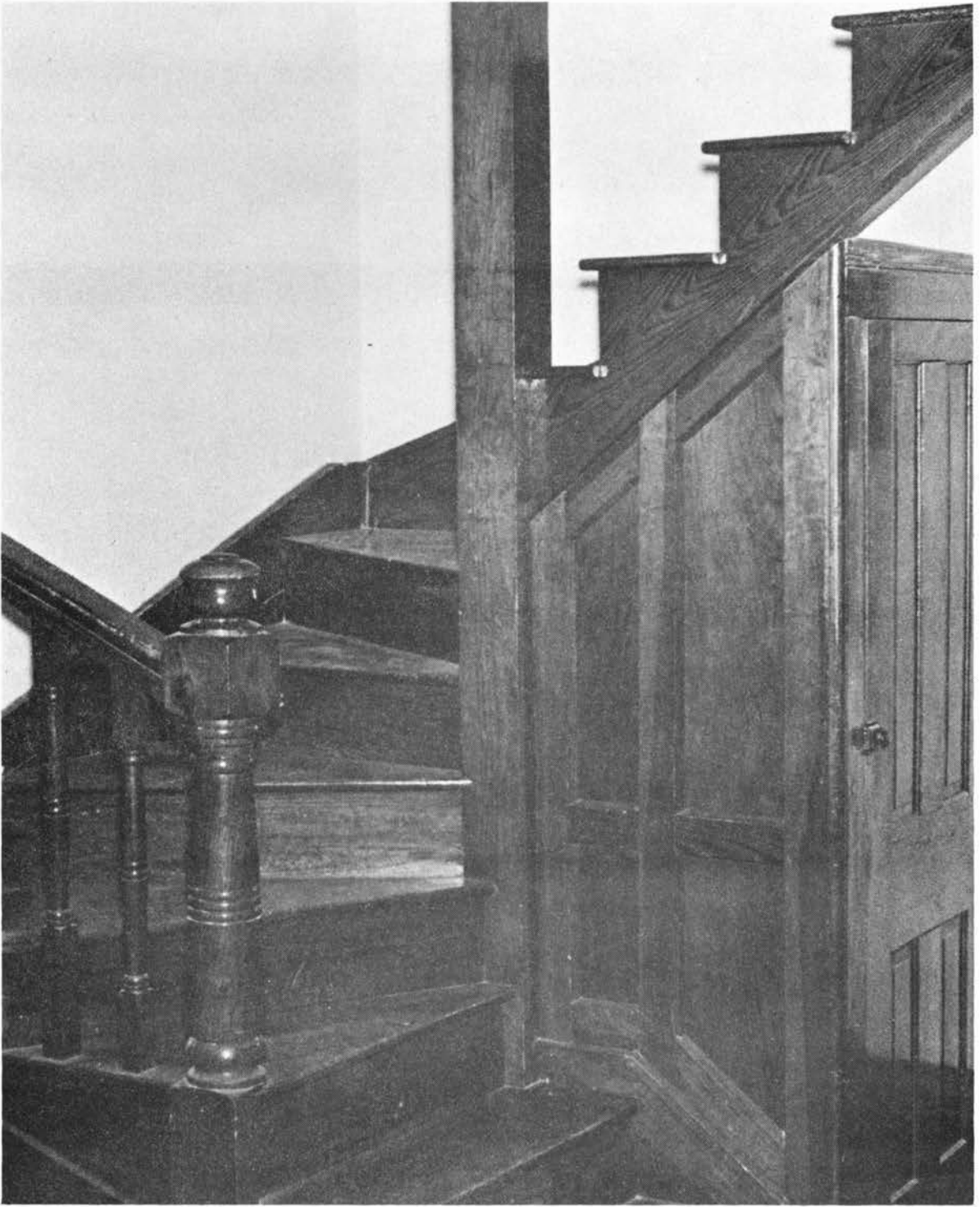


Figure 27 STAIRCASE IN SITTING ROOM

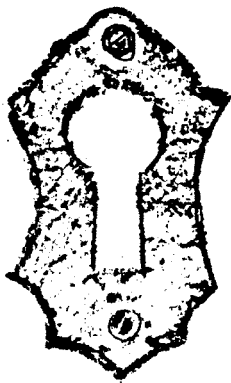
square blocks at the lower and upper termination. A plain rounded handrail is placed on the balusters on the edge of the third, fourth and fifth step. The handrail ends at the pilaster of the door. The staircase is open except for the square support beam in the center of the turn. A small closet is built-in under these stairs. Block paneling was used in the soffit.

A small landing at the top of the stairs opens into two bedrooms, one on the north and one on the south. Storage area has been designed in the south bedroom under the east gable, as shown in Figure 15.

The two bedrooms downstairs are on the south side. The west bedroom with the glass double doors from the parlor is eleven and one-half feet by thirteen feet. It has two windows, one on the west, fifty-five inches wide, and one on the south, thirty-six and one-half inches wide. A door, thirty-two inches wide opens into the south east bedroom. The measurements of this room are square, eleven and one-half feet by eleven and one-half feet. Double hung windows, fifty-eight inches wide are on the south side. A flue is in the northwest corner of this room. There are two doors, one on the north wall to the sitting room and one on the east wall which leads outside.

The escutcheon on the outside of this door, shown in Figure 28, is plain in design with a shaped surface. The key facing box on the interior of this door, also shown in Figure 28, has a plain design. The manufacturer's name, Branford, is shown on the surface. The door has a white china door knob.

In 1900 the original part of the first house was remodeled. The living area was designed for the dining area with the room on the east remodeled for a larger kitchen area. Later, a bath was built on the southeast corner of the house, and the porch on the south side was enclosed. A porch was added to the north side.



THE ESCUTCHEON

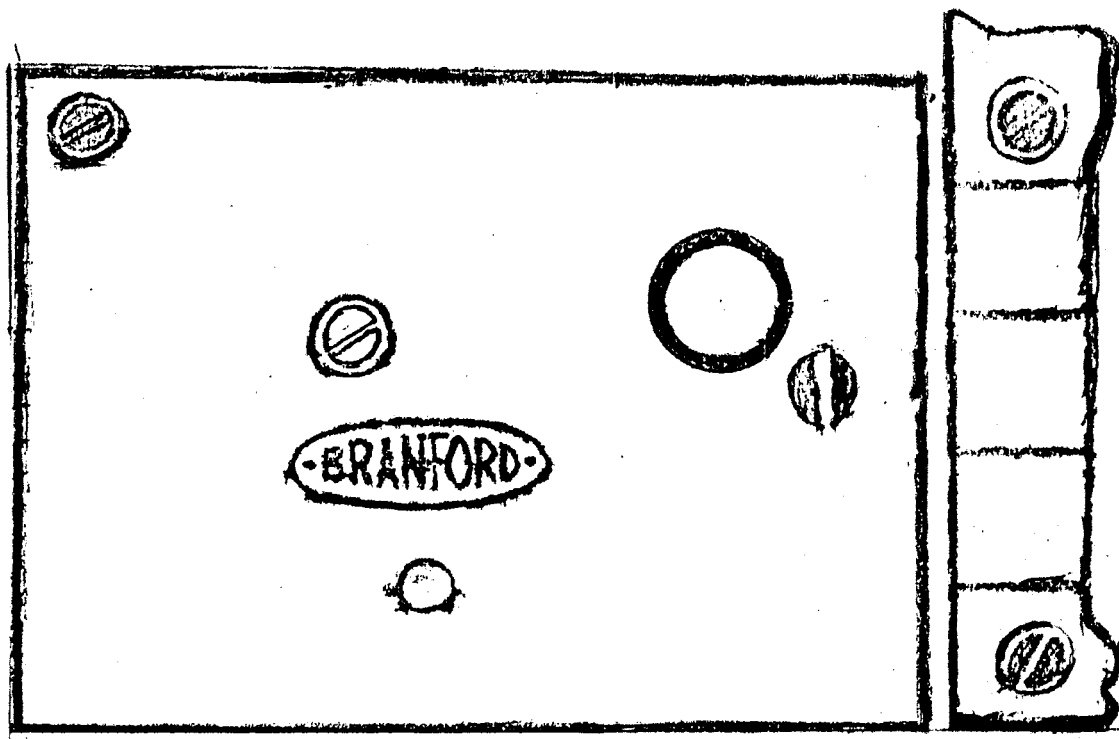


Figure 28 LOCK FACING, EXTERIOR DOOR OF THE SOUTHEAST BEDROOM

CHAPTER V

THE FRANKLIN N. BACON HOUSE

The Land and Its Owners 1889-1968

Seven years after the original Eyler house was built, Franklin N. Bacon purchased Lots 7 and 8 in Block 9 of the Lowry Addition from Robert A. Lowry. The transaction was made the day this addition was platted into the town of Stillwater, May 14, 1900. Mr. Bacon acquired Lot 9, Block 9, on August 29, 1900.¹

Franklin N. Bacon, who came from the state of Kansas before 1900 (the actual date is unknown), brought his wife, Mary, and their six children to Stillwater, Indian Territory. The names of the children were Elmira, Samuel T., Colette E., Birdie Beatrice, Mary, and F. Roy.² Mr. Bacon was a blacksmith by trade.

It is established by the record in the Payne County Clerk's Office that Franklin N. Bacon was the builder of this house. Mr. Willifred Bays, the grandson, stated that all of the remaining records and pictures were destroyed

legal document in the County Clerk's Office of Payne County in Stillwater, Oklahoma; Deed Record Book, VII, p. 406.

²Interview with Mr. Willifred Bays on December 2, 1967, who is a grandson of Franklin N. Bacon.

in a house fire after the family had moved from this location. The only statement that Mr. Bays made about the family was that F. Roy Bacon was with the 101 Ranch Rodeo and that he toured England with this company as a bronco rider.³

Franklin N. Bacon died November 11, 1935. The petition for administering the estate is in the County Clerk's Office of Payne County in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The petition listed the survivors as Elmira Gardenhire, Arkansas City, Kansas; Samuel T. Bacon, Mantone, Texas; Colette E. Brofft, Arkansas City, Kansas; Birdie Beatrice Martin, Rockford, Illinois; and F. Roy Bacon, Waskon, Texas. A daughter, Mary, preceded her father's death. She was survived by six children.⁴

The house was sold to J. R. Dryden, January 19, 1939.⁵

On August 8, 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver H. Spurgin purchased the house.⁶ Mrs. Spurgin (Birdie Moore), the present owner, stated that she came to Cimarron City, Oklahoma, from Kentucky at the age of three.⁷

Cimarron City, later destroyed by a tornado, was a small town five miles west of Perkins, Oklahoma. After their marriage in Perkins Mr. and Mrs.

³Ibid.

⁴Legal document in the Court Clerk's Office of Payne County in Stillwater, Oklahoma; Probate Appearance Docket, No. 6, p. 181, Case No. 1868.

⁵Legal document in the County Clerk's Office of Payne County in Stillwater, Oklahoma; Deed Record Book, VII, p. 565.

⁶Legal document in the County Clerk's Office of Payne County in Stillwater, Oklahoma; Deed Record Book, XCVII, p. 571.

⁷Interview with Mrs. Birdie Spurgin, December 14, 1967.

Spurgin moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma, and purchased their first home at 1202 Duck Street. They are the parents of five girls and one boy. Their names are Clara Ramsey, Calvin Spurgin, Ione Waltman, Iris Rein, Donna Vanatta, and Lois Wyant. Mr. Spurgin is deceased.

The House

The two story, red brick house at 1116 South Chester, shown in Figure 29, faces the east. It was built upon a one-foot rock foundation set in mortar.

At the time the Bacon house was constructed there were two brick companies in Stillwater. The Keiser Brick Company, manufacturers of fired bricks, supplied the bricks for this house. The other brick manufacturer, the Bullen Lumber Company, made unfired bricks.⁸ The size of the brick used in the earlier days differs from the size used in the 1960's. The bricks measured eight inches long, four inches wide, and two and one-fourth inches thick.

The roof of the porch is supported by the original four wooden columns. The weathered columns are in the classical Greek Doric style.⁹ They are eighty-four inches tall, twenty-five inches in circumference at the base, gradually decreasing in size from the base to the top. The porch roof, presently covered with green composition rolled type roofing, is a shed-type roof extending downward from just below the second floor windows.

The main portion of the house has a wooden shingle gable roof. There

⁸Interview with Mr. Clarence Bullen, October 25, 1967.

⁹Sherrill Whiton, Elements of Interior Design and Decoration, (Chicago, 1951), p. 41.



Figure 29 THE FRANKLIN N. BACON HOUSE

are two small brick chimneys through the ridge of the roof.

The one concrete step leading to the porch is forty-five inches wide and twelve inches deep. The twenty-six foot concrete porch, which replaced a wooden porch, is on conventional concrete blocks. On the north and south ends of the porch there is a parapet with one inch square vertical balusters and a two-by-four capboard on the top and bottom.

The facade of the house has two doors and five windows and measures thirty-three feet in width. The two windows on the ground floor are double hung without any partitions in the glass. The top window line, ten inches higher than the top line of the doors, has the same architectural detail as the doors, a wooden lunette painted white. Above the lunette is an arch of two rows of bricks. The four inch side of the brick has been placed in a vertical position to form the arch. The windows are sixty-five inches tall and twenty-seven inches wide. Below the windows there is a concrete sill forty-four inches long and five and one-half inches high.

The two windows on the second floor are placed in a direct line over the windows on the first floor. A third window is placed in the middle of the second floor facade. The second floor windows are fifty-one inches tall and twenty-eight and one-half inches wide. The bottom of the sill is at the roof line of the porch.

The two wooden doors on the facade are alike in architectural style, but they differ in their design motifs. Each door is divided into two parts. The upper part has a glass panel measuring twenty-nine inches tall and twenty-two and one-half inches wide. The lower part is divided into three small panels. The doors are seventy-nine and one-half inches tall and thirty-two inches wide. Each door has an identical door knob with a design of embossed leaves and an escutcheon containing a keyhole and decorated with embossed branches

with leaves.

The south door, the entrance to the living area, has an elaborately etched glass pane as shown in Figure 30. In the middle of the pane is a deer, bordered by roses, leaves, and framed with a simulated fret design. Bordering the fret design is a continuous design of flowers and leaves. A classical scroll is above and below the central motif, which completes the design of this elaborately etched glass.

Above, below, and on the sides of the glass pane are vertical and horizontal wooden carvings. The horizontal carving is a sunburst with a semi-circular radiating design as shown in Figure 31. The vertical carvings on either side are split spindles with finials and pendants. At the base of the finials there are vertical, rectangular blocks measuring two and three-fourths inches by one and three-eighths inches. The concave carvings on these blocks of wood consist of four leaves radiating from the center circle to the corners. Figures 31 and 32 show this design. The lower horizontal carving, shown in Figure 30, is a classical scroll with three vertical lines placed in the middle of the design.

The four corner panels in the lower part of the south door, when combined, form a circle of sun's rays.

The north door, opening into the dining-kitchen area, has a clear glass with plain wooden panels.

The screen doors are identical, painted black, and have two reinforcing panels. The panel in the middle of the door contains eight turned spindles. The panel at the base of the door has four similar spindles.

The main entrance to the house is through the south door, opening into the large living area. The plan of the first and second floors is shown in Figure 33 and Figure 34. The living room is sixteen feet long by fourteen feet

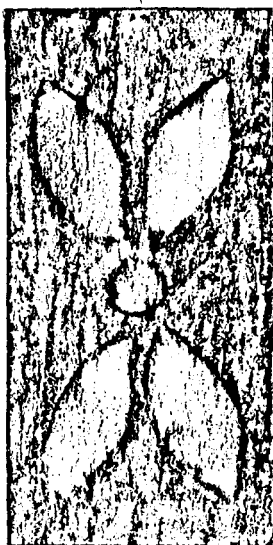


Figure 30 THE FRONT DOOR OF THE BACON HOUSE



Figure 31 VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL WOODEN CARVINGS
OF THE FRONT DOOR

Finial



Pendant

Figure 32 BLOCK DESIGN ON EXTERIOR DOOR

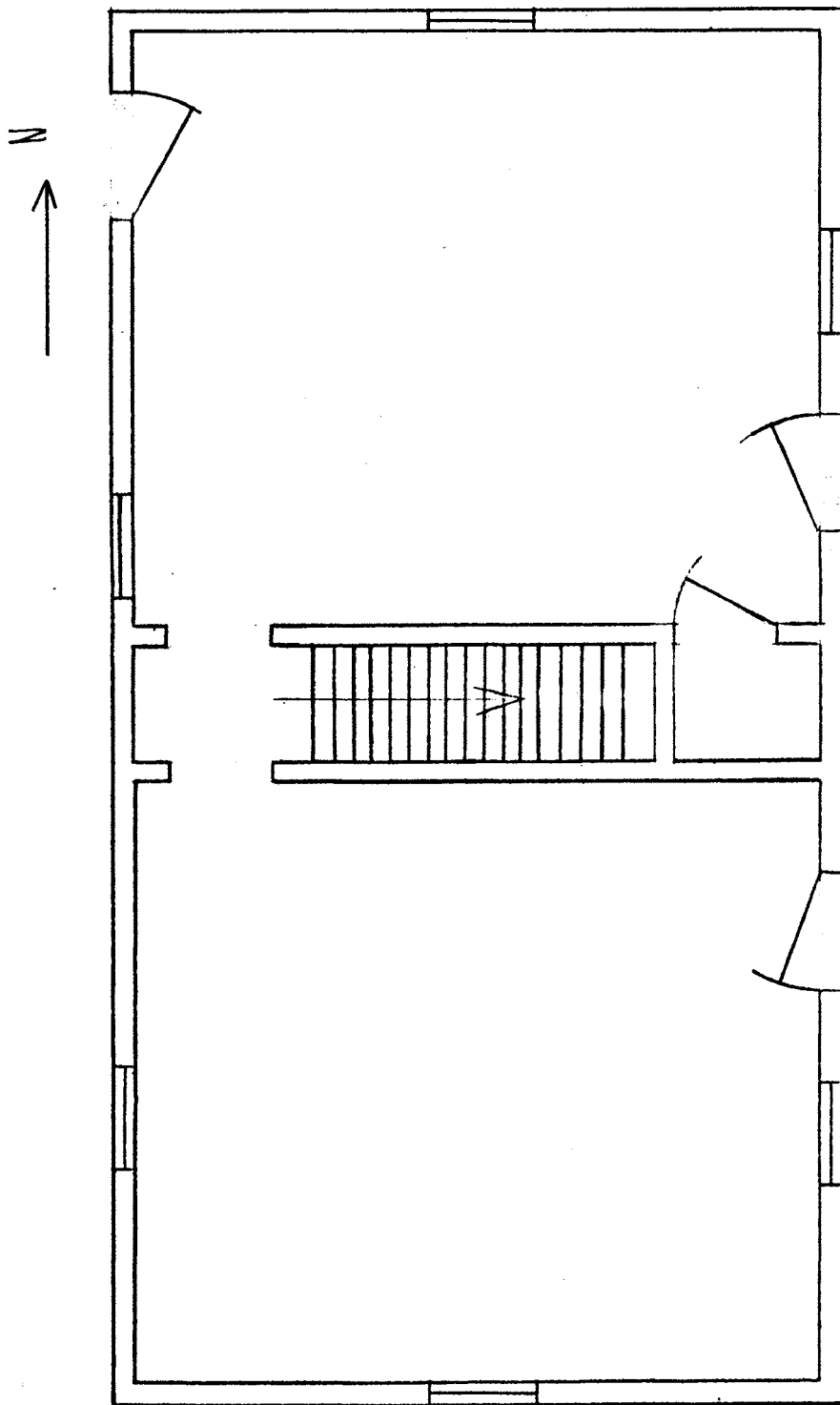


Figure 33 PLAN OF THE FIRST FLOOR

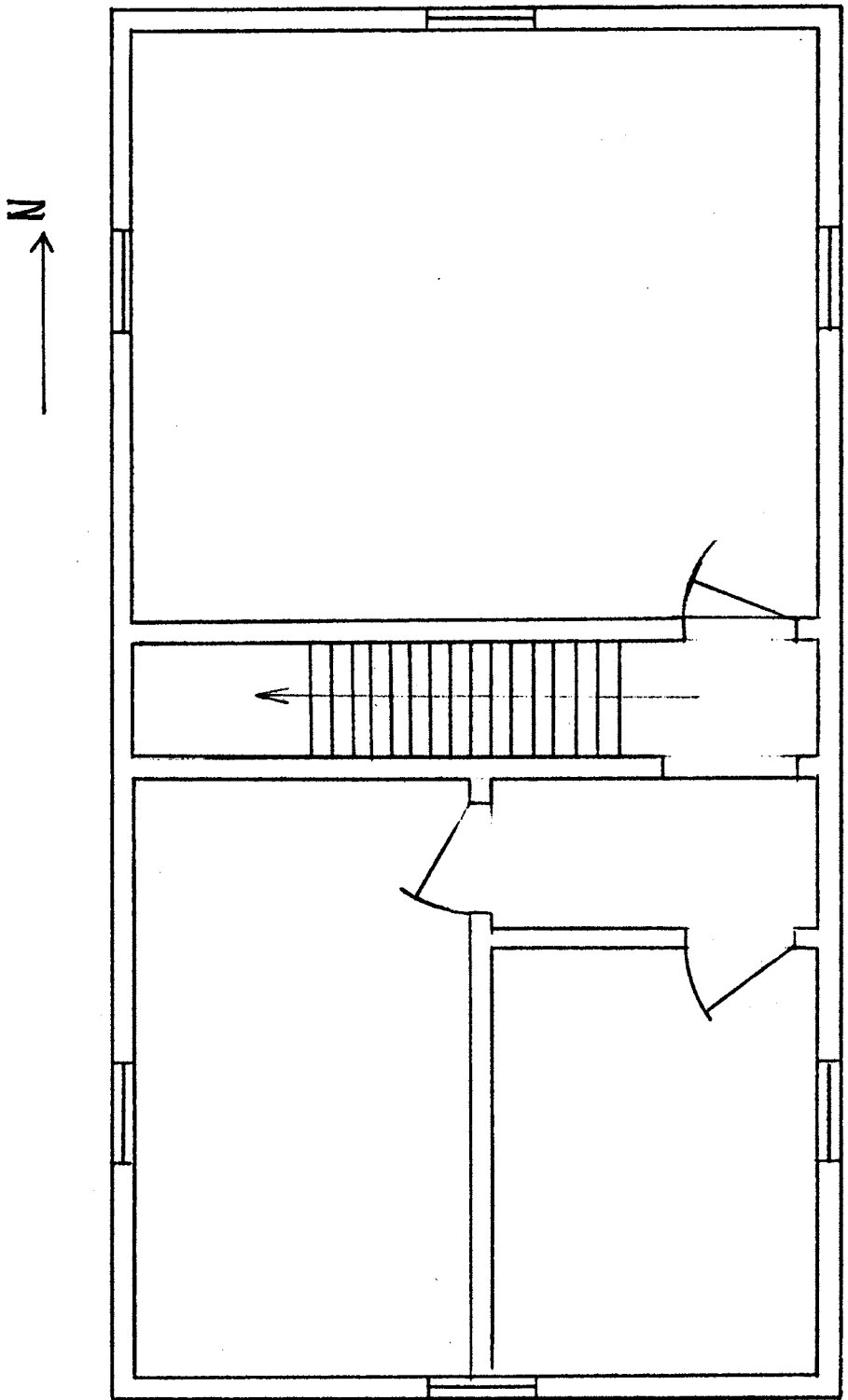


Figure 34 PLAN OF THE SECOND FLOOR

wide, and the ceiling height is eight feet eight inches. The room has three windows: on the east, south, and west. The only architectural details of this room, and all other rooms throughout the rest of the house are the moldings around the doors, windows, and the baseboard.

At the top of the interior door pilasters there are five and one-half inch square blocks of wood with carved concave leaf motifs consisting of three leaves attached to a stem in each corner. In the middle of the wooden blocks are concave circles with one concave ring around them. The head block design, Figure 35, is also used in the four corners of the interior window facings.

At the base of the door pilasters there are carved concave designs with two branches of six leaves and a center stem with three petals attached to a small circle. A half-inch above this design are four horizontal fluted lines. This design called the base block is shown in Figure 36. The complete design measures six and one-fourth inches in length by five and one-fourth inches in width.

Around the doors and windows, the fluted pilasters and the friezes are identical in width: five and one-fourth inches wide. Figure 37 shows the fluted pilasters.

The baseboard, nine and one-half inches wide, has a variety of fluted designs as shown in Figure 38. It has a square edge at the top with a small concave flute and a convex curve with a wider concave curve ending in a slight roll with an edge. One inch down, three concave curves complete the design of the baseboard, and the remainder of the board is finished in a plain surface.

A flue that projects twelve inches into the living room is eighteen inches wide and is located thirty inches from the door that opens into the hallway. The brick flue is covered with plaster. The gas stove in the room has a vent pipe which is connected to the flue.

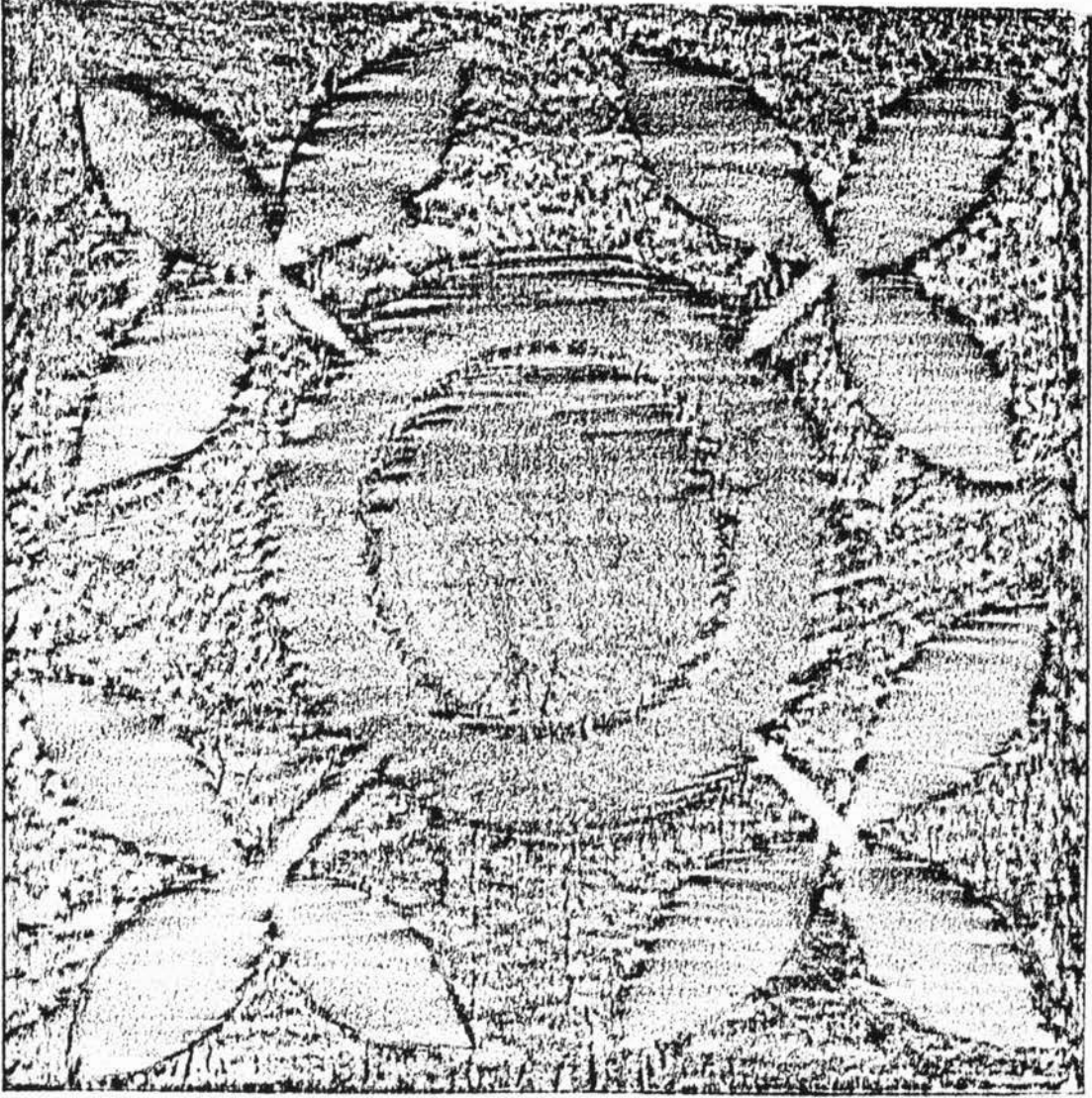


Figure 35 DESIGN OF THE HEAD BLOCK
(Rubbing Study)

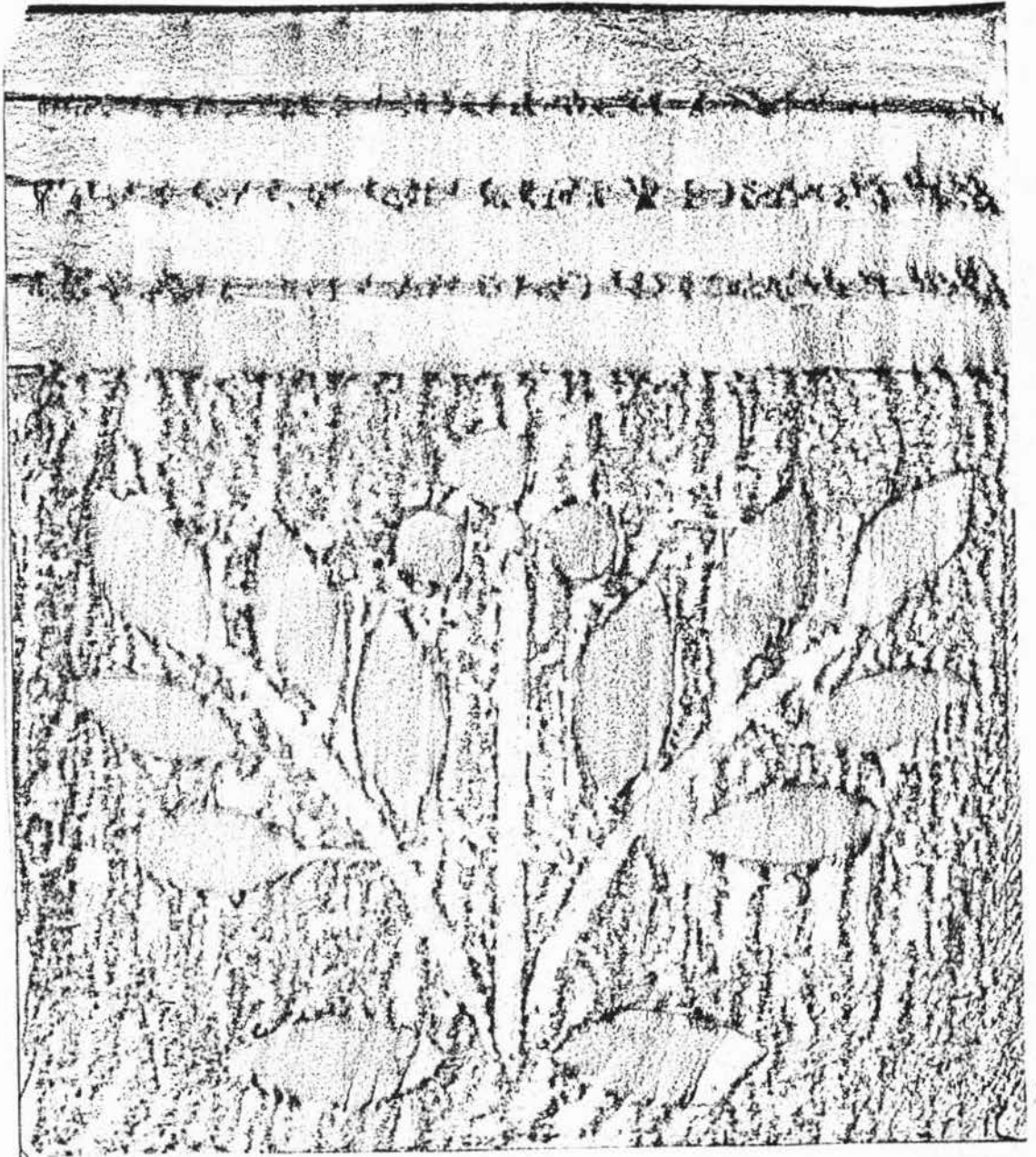


Figure 36 DESIGN OF THE BASE BLOCK
(Rubbing Study)

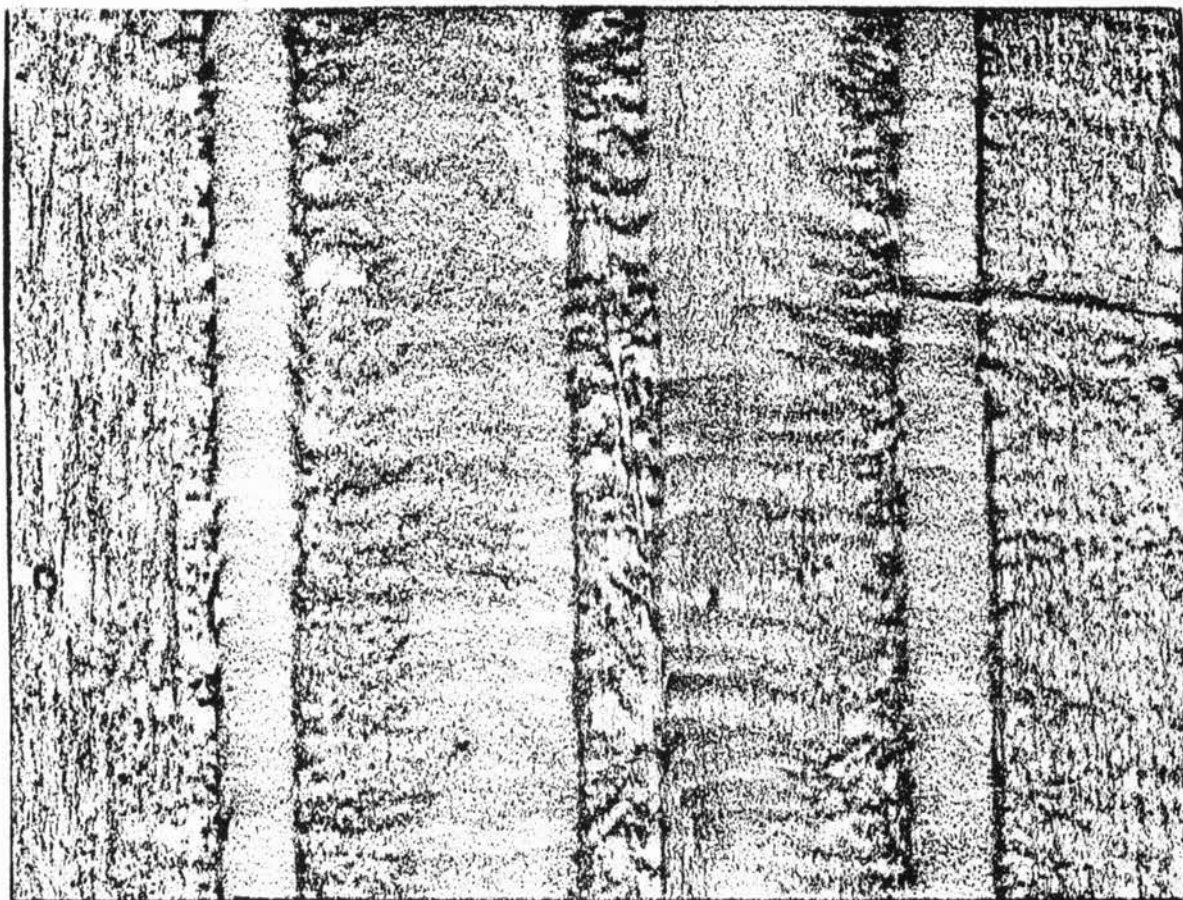


Figure 37 PILASTER WITH FLUTED DESIGN
(Rubbing Study)

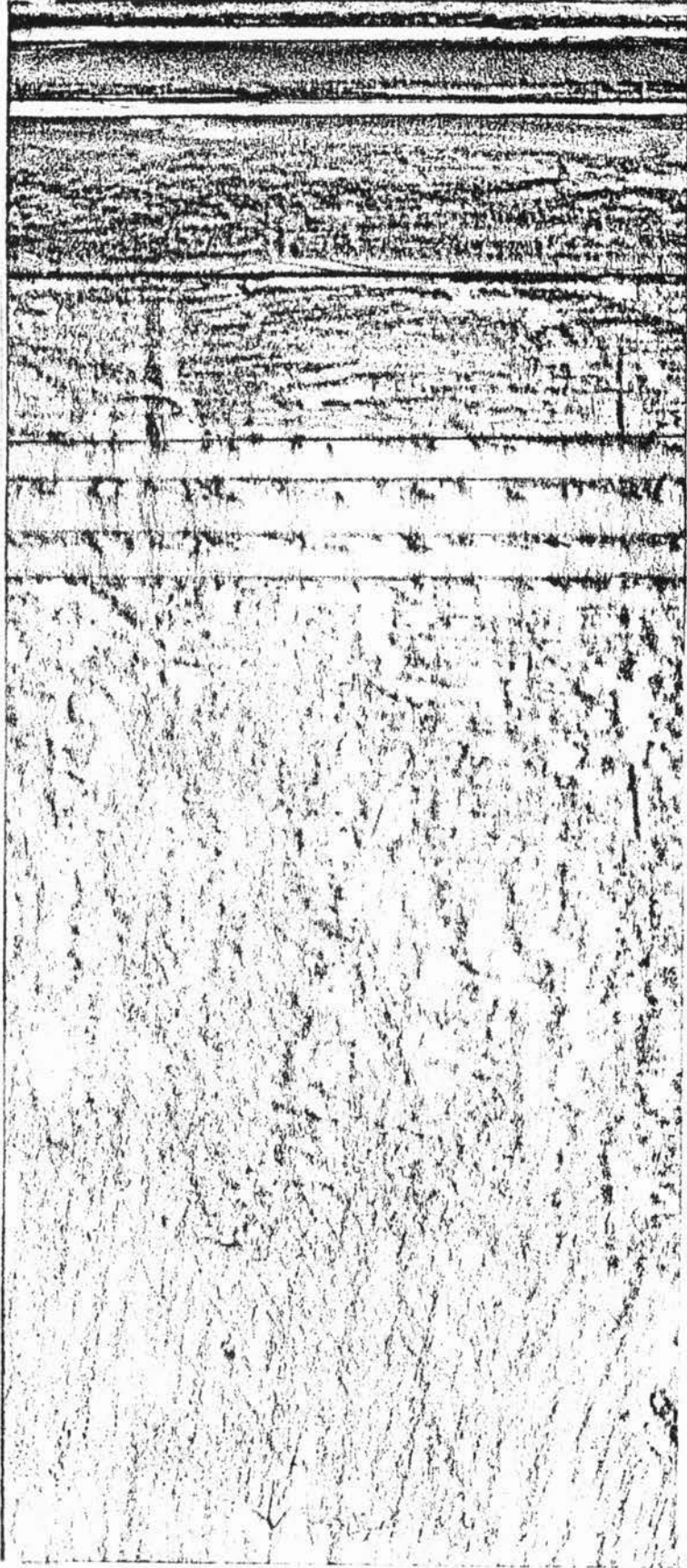


Figure 38 THE BASEBOARD

A door in the living area leads to a small hall. This door is divided into four panels, as are the rest of the interior doors. The upper panels are longer in length than the lower panels. It has a round white china door knob with an escutcheon containing a keyhole and decorated with embossed branches with leaves.

The walls in the living area are plaster painted a grayed pink. This shade of paint is used on the exposed wood. The ceiling is painted white. The off-white glass curtains with white roller type shades are used for the window treatment.

A hallway connects the living room and the kitchen. An enclosed stairway extends from the hallway to the second floor.

The kitchen is located on the north side of the house and has three windows. There are three doors: the front, the back, and one to a small closet under the stairs. The kitchen is sixteen feet by fourteen feet.

The only built-in cabinet in the kitchen is the cabinet at the sink area on the south wall. A flue, which projects from the south wall, has the kitchen stove in front of it. The kitchen walls are papered in a very small, all-over floral pattern in blue and green. The woodwork and the doors are painted white. For the window treatment in this room, there are white tier curtains edged with a yellow ruffle and white roller shades.

The enclosed stairway, Figure 39, has thirteen steps to a landing. There is a window on the east wall. Taking one step up to the north side, a dark stained panel door leads to the large master bedroom which is sixteen feet by fourteen feet. The three single windows on the east, the north, and the west, have maroon colored glass curtains and white roller shades. This window treatment is repeated in the other two bedrooms.

The wallpaper in the master bedroom and in the hall area is a small



Figure 39 THE ENCLOSED STAIRWAY

floral stripe of pink and green which extends to the link design border of wallpaper below a twelve inch coved ceiling that has been papered in a ceiling pattern.

The hall and bedroom areas have dark stained woodwork and pine floors.

On the south side of the stair landing is a small east bedroom. There are single windows on the east and on the south, placed thirteen inches from the floor. The measurements of the room are twelve feet by eight feet.

The floral stripe wallpaper in the east bedroom has larger flowers than the wallpaper used in the hall, Figure 39. The coved ceiling is papered in a ceiling pattern (an inconspicuous design).

A small hall with a parapet and balusters identical to the porch balusters leads to the southwest bedroom. This room has two windows, one on the south and one on the west. The size of this room is fourteen feet by seven and one-half feet.

The lighting arrangement in this house shows that the electrical wiring has been added since the house was built. Exposed wiring runs from the wall to the center of the ceiling from which there is a drop for a light bulb.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

After four centuries of history, Oklahoma emerged as the homestead state. During this time, Spain, England, and France have claimed ownership to this vast area of land west of the Mississippi. It was LaSalle, the Frenchman, who in 1682, gave the area a name. He called it Louisiana.

The United States in 1803 purchased Louisiana from the French government and twenty-seven years later President Jackson designated an area of this purchase for the Indians. This area was then called "Indian Territory".

A part of this area, to be later known as "Oklahoma," was given to the Creek Indian tribe. In 1856 the Creeks made a treaty with the Seminole Indian tribe to own it jointly. In the Treaty of 1866 these two tribes consented to sell their excess land to the United States for fifteen cents an acre. The Federal Government, after relocating other tribes of Indians in this area, had land left which was called the "Unassigned Lands".

With the West developing, the cattlemen, the railroad men, and the homesteaders all became interested in the "Unassigned Lands". The Indians, however, claimed this land had been ceded to the nomadic tribes for relocation.

During the years of 1872 to 1889, these four groups brought continued pressure on the federal government for a decision. On March 23, 1889, President Harrison issued a proclamation that the area would be opened for homesteading April 22, 1889.

The uniqueness in the history of the founding of this state was that

thousands of people were waiting at the borders to enter this section to make their selection for their new home. A group of homesteaders organized in Kansas in May, 1889, to form the Stillwater Township Company for the purpose of developing the town of Stillwater, Indian Territory. Towns developed rapidly. The court entanglements on disputed claims caused history to be documented on the founding and developing of this locale.

After making a general survey of the houses built in Stillwater between 1890 and 1900 and touring various houses, the writer of this paper found the Orlando M. Eyler house to be unique. The owner of this property had been a member of the Stillwater Township Company which platted the town of Stillwater on June 11, 1889. Mr. Eyler purchased the lot upon which he built this house and he made it his home until his death on September 24, 1928. The house now belongs to his son's wife, Mrs. William (Marjory) Eyler.

The data indicate that the Eyler house is at least seventy-six years old. Assuming it is representative of the architecture of the era in which it was built, this house provides us with information about the social pattern and the structural details of a house built four years after the founding of this town.

When compared with contemporary houses of the twentieth century, these nineteenth century examples show that changes have taken place in house designs. The architecture was devoid of ornateness. Only the very basic structural details were visible. The facades were symmetrical with the door placed in the middle flanked by a window on either side.

The floor plan of the Eyler house shows the entrance being made into the living-kitchen area, with one bedroom separated from this main living space. Space was minimal and satisfied little more than man's basic need of shelter.

Seven years later in 1900 with the survival of the town assured, the economy and the availability of materials improved. The Eyler's constructed an addition which enlarged their house into an eight room structure. The affluence of the economy showed in the living space and in the ornate detailing of the interior.

In the same year, 1900, a two-story brick house was built on a lot at 1116 South Chester by Franklin N. Bacon. Two brick companies had been founded in Stillwater making this commodity accessible. The floor plan of the Bacon house was spacious. This house had a living area, a dining-kitchen area and three bedrooms upstairs.

In comparing the woodwork of the interior of the Eyler and the Bacon houses, two details proved to be very similar in construction. The details were the hand gouged based block and the planing of the baseboard.

The charm that remains of the Bacon house is that the original exterior and the interior remain unchanged since it was built seventy years ago.

When compared with contemporary houses, it is obvious that changes have taken place in house design. The architecture, the floor plans, and the interior decor of the last century are not used in today's houses. The reasons are true to the history of design -- as time changes styles change.

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APPENDIX A

A LIST OF EARLY DAY NEWSPAPERS¹

IN STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

1889-1907

Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma

Stillwater Advance, 1902-1903, publisher John S. Hale (Thursdays)

Advance Democrat, Sept. 1, 1892, Irvin Owings Diggs, editor and publisher
1905, Freeman E. Miller, editor, (weekly)

Stillwater Bee, 1902-1903, (weekly, Wednesdays)

Oklahoma A & M College Mirror, 1895 (monthly)

Common People, Oct. 1, 1903, C. M. Becker

Condor, Feb. 16, 1893, George H. Doud

Democrat, 1893, N. A. Jamison (weekly)

Daily Democrat, 1902, I. O. Diggs (Wednesdays)

Eagle-Gazette, Oklahoma Eagle started in 1892, the Gazette in 1889 and
combined Jan. 1, 1894, Charles M. Becker

Farmers' Fact and Fancy, 1906 (weekly)

Oklahoma Eagle, 1892

Oklahoma Farmer, 1890, N. Davis (weekly, Saturdays)

¹Carolyn Thomas Foreman, A History of Printing in Oklahoma Before Statehood (Norman, Oklahoma, 1936), pp. 408-412.

Oklahoma Hawk, Payne Center, 1890, Patrick H. Guthrey and his son E. B. Guthrey, (weekly, Thursdays)

Oklahoma Law Journal, 1902-1903, Daniel H. Fernandes, (monthly)

Oklahoma Standard, 1889, Jo. W. Merifield, (weekly)

Oklahoma State, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1898

Oklahoma State Sentinel, successor to Oklahoma Hawk, 1893, James K. Allen, Freeman E. Miller

Payne County Populist, Sept. 1, 1892, C. W. and F. W. Wright

People's Progress, 1904, successor to Farmers' Fact and Fancy, Freeman E. Miller

State Herald, 1907, John R. Scott, (weekly, Thursdays)

Stillwater Gazette, 1889, Dan W. Murphy, (weekly)

Stillwater Gazette, 1894, Frank H. Millard and G. G. Guthrey (daily)

Stillwater Populist, Al Krebs

Stockman and Farmer, 1901, Frank D. Northup

Tidings, Baptist, (semi-monthly)

APPENDIX B

TABLE I

HOUSES ASSUMED TO HAVE BEEN BUILT IN 1890-1900
IN THE ORIGINAL STILLWATER TOWNSHIP¹

Owners as listed in 1943	Address	Lot	Block	Year
Vincent, Charles	228 S. Lowry	1, 2, 3	1	1900
Rotroff, Ada Lucile	235 S. Main	S 15' 11, 12	2	1900
Holmes, D. A.	202 S. Main	1, 2, 3	3	1900
Munger, Shy	229 S. Husband	9, 10	3	1900
Camp, Theresa C.	235 S. Husband	11, 12	3	1900
Board, M. A.	232 S. Husband	2, 3	4	1900
Wilcox, W. H.	310 S. Husband	4, 5, 6	5	1895
Wood, Kathryn M.	320 S. Husband	10, 11, 12, 13	5	1900
Robertson, Mary Alice	111 W. Third	W 40' 1, 2, 3	6	1900
Dollinger, Maxine	310 S. Main	4, 5, 6, 7	6	1895
Enlow, Calla Day	323 S. Husband	13, 14 less E 50'	6	1900
Wirz, Clara	315 S. Husband	17, 18	6	1900
Cowan, J. P.	307 S. Husband	21, 22	6	1900
Smith, C. R.	314 S. Lowry	5, 6, 7	8	1895
Courtright, C. H.	301 S. Lewis	W 105' 23, 24	8	1900
Davis, Cora	414 S. Lowry	7, 8, 9	9	1900
Davis, Jodie	424 S. Lowry	10, 11, 12	9	1900
Ritter, Alice	412 S. Lewis	7, 8	10	1890
Estep, J. T.	411 S. Husband	19, 20	11	1900
Radnick, Bernice	401 S. Husband	23, 24	11	1900
Oaks, Emerson and Nell	402 S. Husband	1, 2	12	1900
Oakes, Mary J.	406 S. Husband	3, 4	12	1900
Cantwell, Zella	516 S. Husband	8, 9	13	1898
Weaver, Mrs. John	508 S. Lewis	3, 4	15	1895

¹Owners of the property as listed in 1943 files in the County Assessor's Office of Payne County in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Owners as listed in 1943	Address	Lot	Block	Year
Williams, E.	512 S. Lewis	5,6	15	1900
Babcock, C. F.	514 S. Lewis	7,8	15	1895
McPheeters, Winona	518,520 S. Lewis	9,10	15	1900
Hollingsworth, Alger, D.	502 S. Lowry	1,2	16	1895
Heaney, T. J.	510 S. Lowry	5,6,7,8	16	1898
Harden, E. E.	515 S. Lewis	17,18	16	1895
Porter, Clark	604 S. Lowry	1,2	17	1900
Weeker, Ollie Lee	606 S. Lowry	3,4	17	1892
Phenicie, Jennie	610 S. Lowry	5,6	17	1895
Lytton, Mamie E.	624 S. Lowry	9,10,11,12	17	1892
Smith, Estella	623 S. Lewis	13,14, S 10'		
		15	17	1890
Montgomery, Kate	607 S. Lewis	21, S 15' 22	17	1900
Veach, Effie	620 S. Lewis	9,10	18	1898
Strode, Ruth M.	608 S. Duncan	3,4	21	1900
Bernhardt, W. F.	620 S. Duncan	7,8,9,10	21	1894
Cooper, Angela	620 S. West	9,10	23	1898
Harbison, J. A.	617 S. Knoblock	N 1/2 15, all		
		16	23	1900
Ware, Mattie	523 W. Seventh	22,23,24	24	1896
Brown, Alva T.	710 S. Duck	5,6	25	1898
Webb, Myrtle	701 S. West	23,24	25	1900
Selph, Mary	718 S. Duncan	7,8,9	26	1895
Thomas, Archie C.	701 S. Duncan	W 90' 13,14,		
		15	27	1894
Edson, Dora E.	715 S. Duncan	17,18	27	1892
Cleverdon, L. A.	113 E. Seventh	1,2	29	1894
Thompson, Mrs. G. M.	724 S. Lewis	9,12	29	1900
Grady, W. K.	702 S. Lowry	1,2,3,4	30	1889
Garrett, Sarah J.	710 S. Lowry	5,6	30	1900
Wetzel, Carl	724 S. Lowry	10,11,12	30	1890
Martin, Mrs. Parrie	709 S. Lewis	19,20	30	1890
Heif, Marvin V.	714 S. Lowry	7,8,9	30	1900
Focht, Ralph L.	701 S. Lewis	23,24	30	1900
Davis, Emma	804 S. Lowry	1,2,3	31	1898
Patton and Ross	224 E. Ninth	8 to 13	31	1890
Spillman, Anna C.	801 S. Main	11	32	1895
Westbrook, E. J.	424 W. Ninth	15,16,17	36	1900
Raynor, Emma	811 S. West	19,20	36	1896
Yantis, William and Billy Jo	524 W. Ninth	17,18	37	1892
Harden, Mrs. A. C.	515 W. Eighth	21,22,23,24	37	1896
Buss, Minnie	914 S. West	8,9,10	38	1900
Green, Mary Le Gro	523 W. Ninth	7	38	1893
Burnett, Whittier	415 W. Ninth	7,8	39	1892
Flesner, Mrs. Grid	423 W. Ninth	11,12	39	1896
Hunter, Tena M.	305 W. Ninth	N 100' 3,4	40	1893
Ingram, Mrs. Charles	323 W. Ninth	11,12	40	1896
Watson, Edna	915 S. Duck	13, N 22' 14	40	1892
Moore, Cora F.	1024 S. Lewis	10,11,12	46	1896
Ansley, Lucy	1017 S. Main	15,16,17	46	1900
Rutter, Lula	1023 S. Husband	13,14,15	47	1892

Owners as listed in 1943	Address	Lot	Block	Year
Wantland, H. M.	1009 S. Husband	19, 20	47	1894
Wantland, H. M.	1007 S. Husband	21, 22	47	1898
Wantland, H. M.	1001 S. Husband	23, 24	47	1900
Swart, J. A. Est.	1010 S. Husband	5, 6	48	1900
Babcock, T. L.	1014 S. Husband	7, 8	48	1900
Babcock, T. L.	1016 S. Husband	9, 10	48	1900
Vaughn, John	1024 S. Husband	11, 12	48	1900
Swart, J. A. Est.	1003 S. Duncan	W 100' 23, 24	48	1900
Henry, Fred	1002 S. Duncan	1, 2	49	1900
Mills, W. A.	1014 S. Duncan	7, 8	49	1898
Miller, Freeman E.	1010 S. Duck	4, and N 1/25	50	1900
Hill, Myrtle	1020 S. Duck	9, 10	50	1898
Lovell Bros.	1001 S. West	23, 24	50	1900
Frick, Mary K.	1016 S. West	8, 9	51	1896
Miller, Minnie L.	1102 S. Duck	1, 2	53	1896
Standley, Edna	1108 S. Duck	3, 4	53	1900
Hickman, Flovella	1120 S. Duck	9, 10	53	1899
Tolleson, Mrs. Minnie	423 W. Eleventh	21, 22, W 90'		
		23	53	1896
Andrews, Florence	1102 S. Husband	1, 2	55	1896
Vitek, Ama E.	1112 S. Husband	5, 6	55	1900
Jones, Harry Est.	1120 S. Husband	9, 10	55	1893
Anderson, Francis R.	1124 S. Husband	11, 12	55	1894
Thatcher, Anna	1112 S. Main	5, 6	56	1892
Wilson, Mrs. Elva	1115 S. Husband	17, 18	56	1900
Henry, Fred	1101 S. Husband	W 90' 23, 24	56	1896
Drumm, Mammie	1124 S. Lewis	11, 12	57	1896
Eyler, W. C.	1109 S. Main	18, 19, 20	57	1893
Ricker, Dora	1107 S. Main	21, 22	57	1898
Jones, H. C.	1102 S. Lowry	1, 2, 3, 4	58	1895
Drake, Cora Olive	1115 S. Lewis	15, 16	58	1896
Black, James H.	1111 S. Lewis	17, 18	58	1896
Gudgell, T. E.	1109 S. Lewis	19, 20	58	1893
Brown, Maudie A.	1105 S. Lewis	21, 22	58	1896
Carter, Myrtle G.	1202 S. Main	1, and N 12' 2	61	1898
Marquis, Frank	201 W. Twelfth	W 51' 1, 2	62	1898
Conarro, Geneva	213 W. Twelfth	50' E of NW		
		cor 4	62	1900
Spurgin, Oliver H.	1202 S. Duck	1, 2	64	1896
Jenkins, C. M.	524 S. Duck	11, 12	A	1896
Salling, S. P.	712 S. Knoblock	5, 6, N 15' 7	J	1900
Christenson, Grace P.	812 S. Hester	1, 2, 3	N	1896

VITA

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