

HSPV742 : ARCHITECTURAL ARCHAEOLOGY
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
SPRING, 2010

INVESTIGATION OF SELLERS HALL, UPPER DARBY, PA

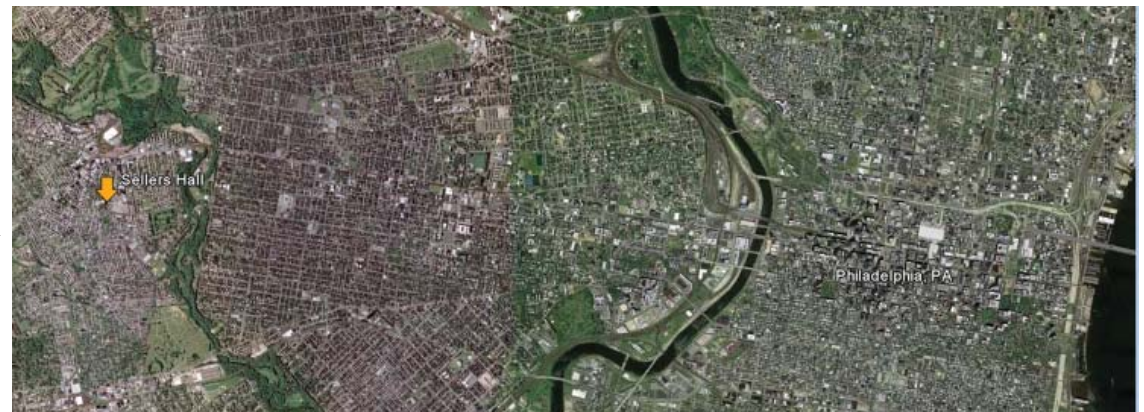
INTRODUCTION

SELLERS HALL & ST. ALICE'S



PHILADELPHIA

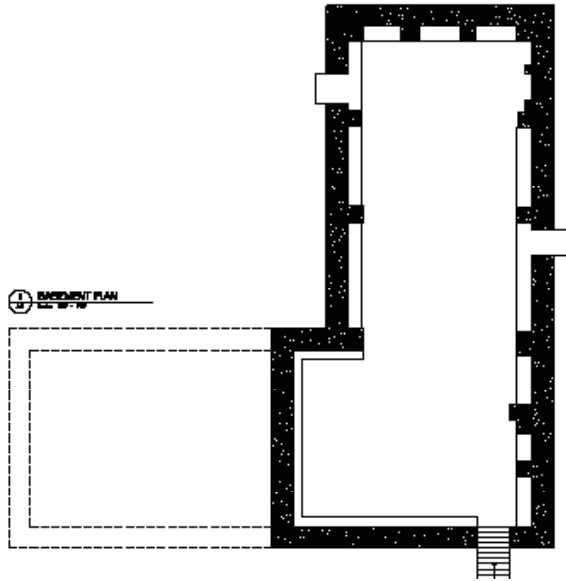
UPPER
DARBY



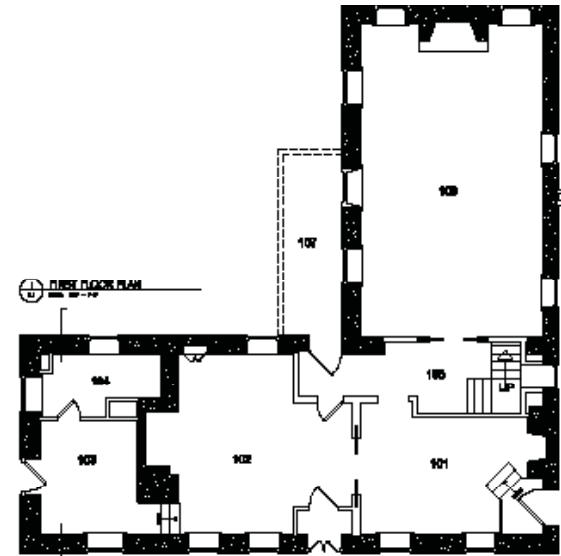
INTRODUCTION



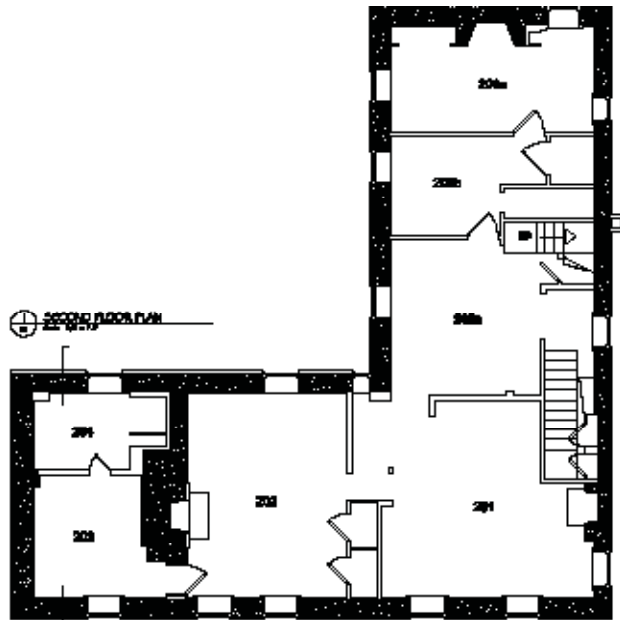
DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS



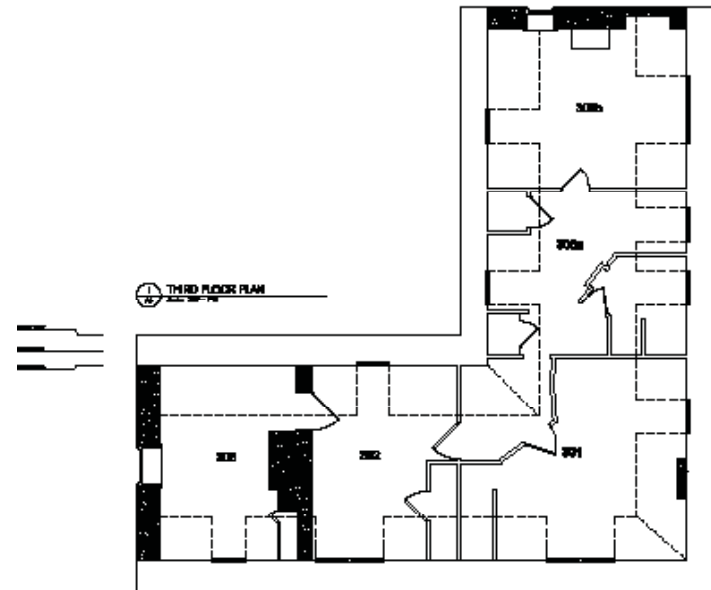
BASEMENT PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

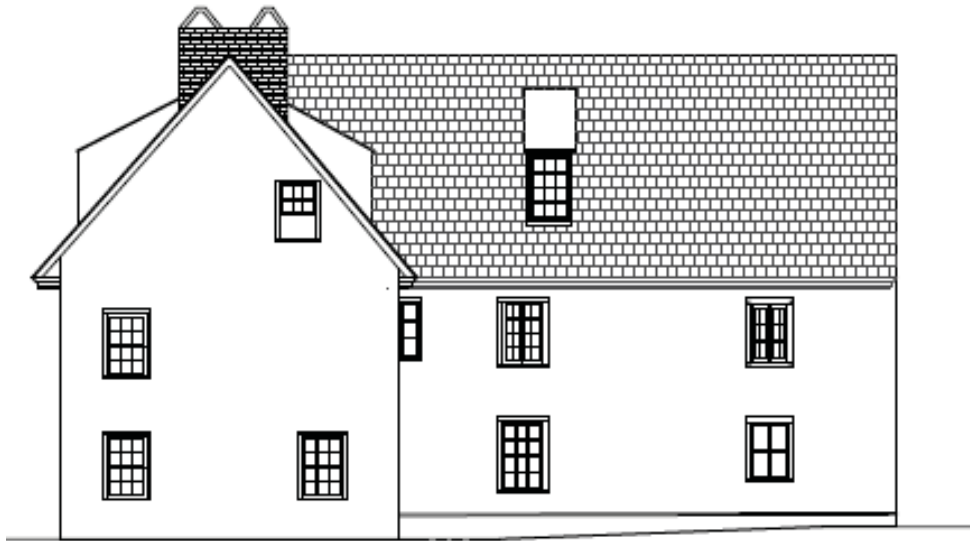


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

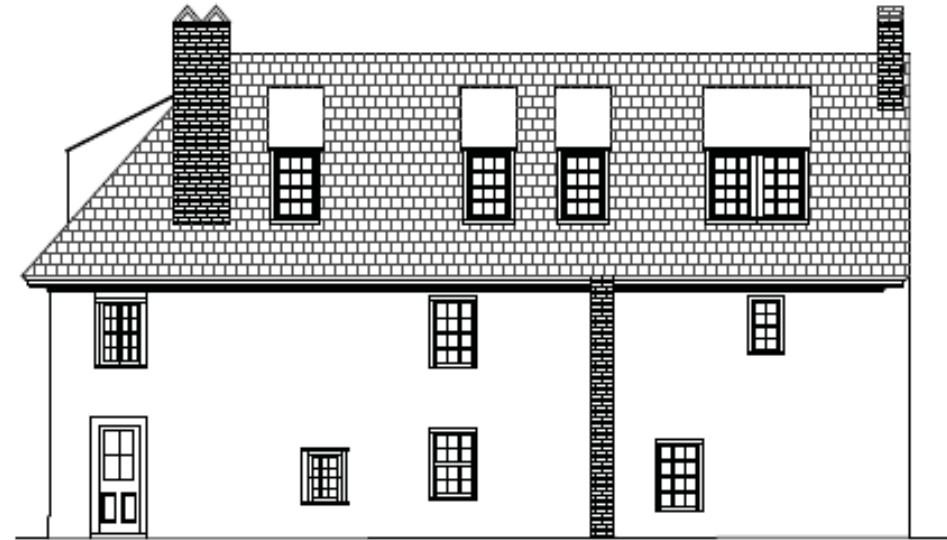


THIRD FLOOR PLAN

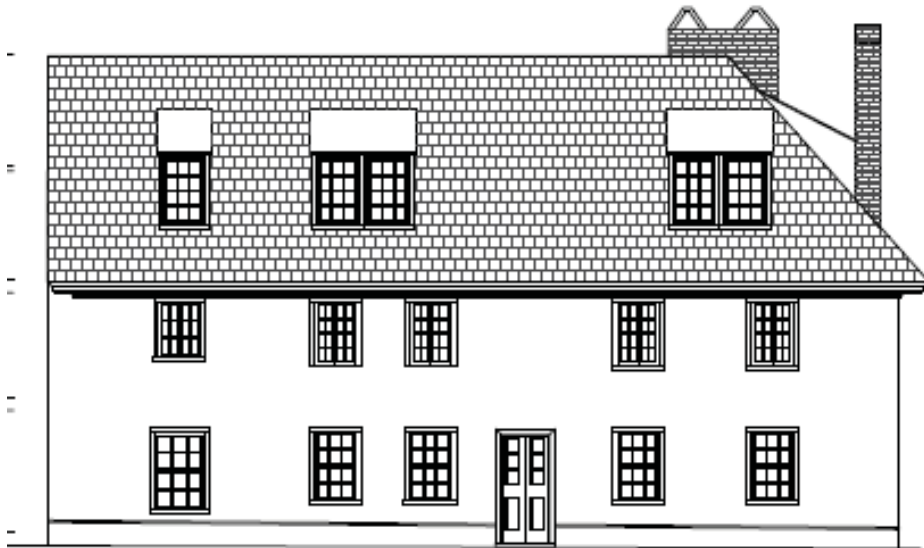
DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS



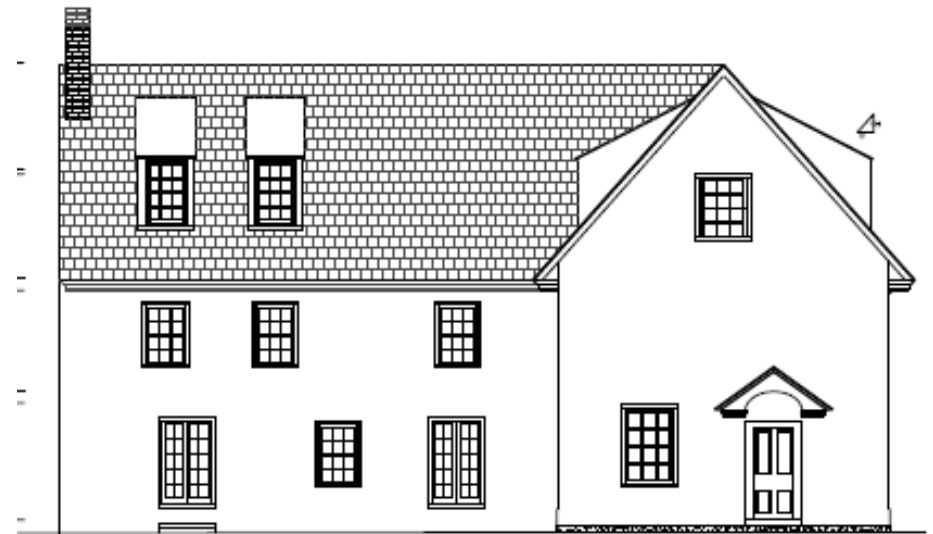
NORTH



EAST



SOUTH



WEST

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS



NORTH ELEVATION, 2010



EAST ELEVATION, 2010



SOUTH ELEVATION, 2010



WEST ELEVATION, 2010

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS



1ST FLOOR, ROOM 101, 2010



2ND FLOOR, ROOM 201, 2010

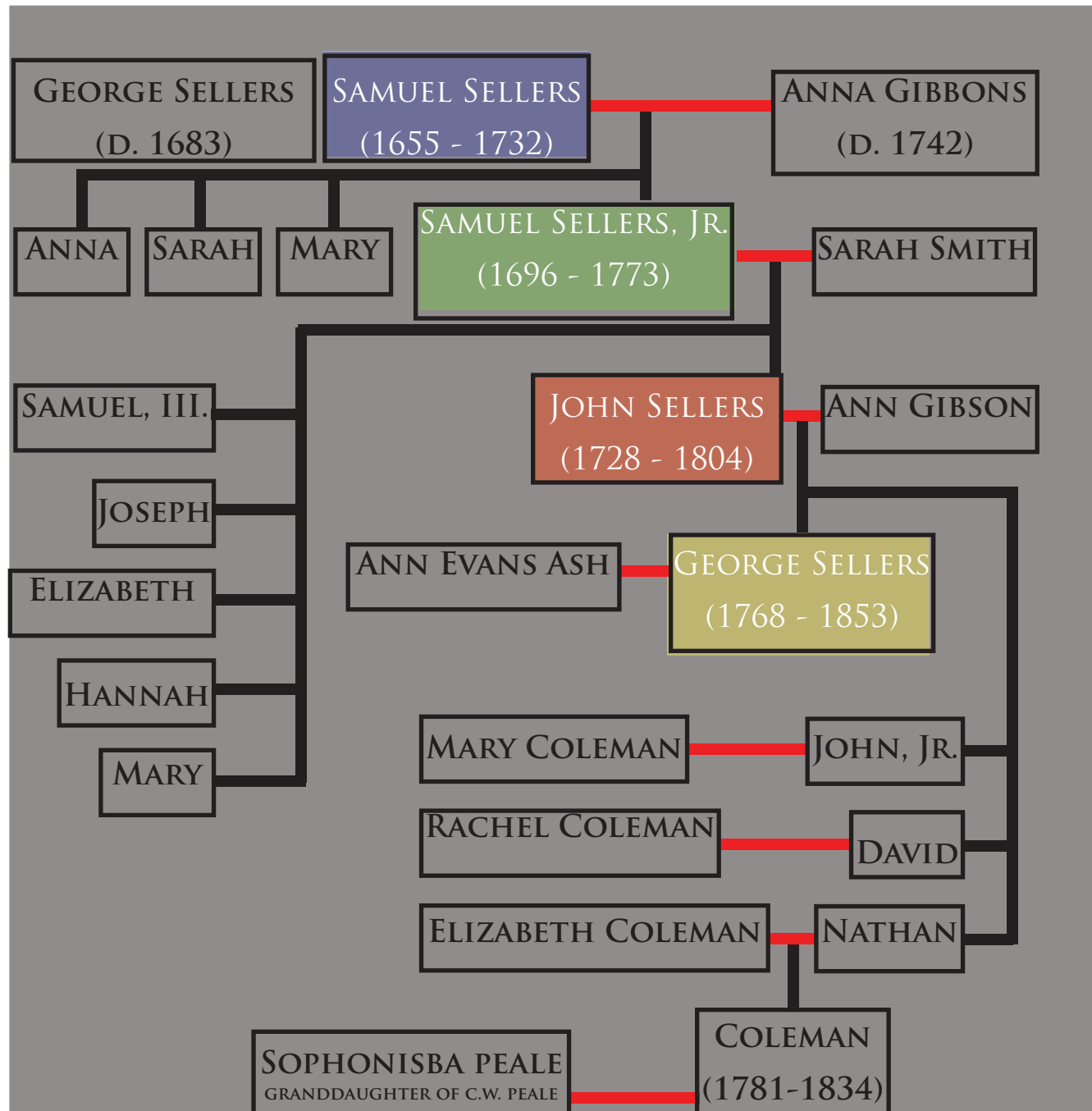


2ND FLOOR, ROOM 202, 2010



3RD FLOOR, ROOM 306B, 2010

SELLERS FAMILY TREE, AS RELEVANT TO SELLERS HALL



HISTORY, C. 1860.



SOURCE: UPPER DARBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



RURAL PENNSYLVANIA, 1897



HISTORY: C. 1900



SOURCE: UDHS



HISTORY, 1916.

UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP & SELLERS MEMORIAL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MUNICIPAL BRANCH
LONG LANE & GARRETT ROAD
UPPER DARBY, PA 19082
(215) 352-4434

76 SOUTH STATE ROAD
UPPER DARBY, PA 19082
(215) 789-4440

SOUTH BRANCH
408 S. OAK AVENUE
PRIMOS, PA 19018
(215) 622-8091

The following is an excerpt from DAVID SELLERS AND MARY PENNOCK SELLERS, written in 1916 by their daughter Sarah Pennock Sellers, and published in 1928 by the Press of Innes & Sons of Philadelphia (with a few additions); page 18 of the volume now owned by the Upper Darby Township and Sellers Memorial Free Public Library.

"Sellers Hall at present stands with south wall facing the meadow, and with a detached kitchen to the east separated from the main building by a brick passageway resembling the passageway at Valley Forge. At the west end of the homestead, with one window south and one north, and with doorway to the west, was a small building with two solid stone walls between it and the main building. This small building consisted of two rooms on the ground floor, two rooms above that, and an attic over all. This double stone wall was never broken through until after

"Sellers Hall at present stands with south wall facing the meadow, and with a detached kitchen to the east separated from the main building by a brick passageway resembling the passageway at Valley Forge. At the west end of the home-

Hall, and went over the building with them. They examined the walls and came to the conclusion that the far end of the building from the kitchen was the oldest portion. Between this portion and the main house was a double stone wall 40 inches thick, and from the lapping of the stones, they said it was evident this part had been erected before the rest of the homestead. Another proof in favor of the small building separated by the double stone wall being the original house was that it was nearer the spring than the detached house.

"The original entrance to Sellers' Hall was on Marshall Road, west of Naylor's Run, as the Marshall Road is older than the West Chester Road. The entrance used later was off the West Chester Road, east of the building called the cocoonery. The present Long Lane was given by James Sellers and George Sellers for a public road, the land being taken from both farms. The entrance to Sellers' Hall is now from Long Lane."

"*In 1862 I know Sellers Hall was owned by the Sellers family. In 1865, I think Thomas H. Powers owned it, but I do not know the exact date of his purchase."



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS AT VALLEY FORGE.
CREDIT: WWW.REVERSEPINS.COM/WASHHDQTRS.JPG



HISTORY, 1922-1936



THE RECTORY—As it appeared in 1922



... and as it is today.

1936



PHOTOS DEPICTING EXTERIOR CHANGES FROM ST. ALICE'S OCCUPATION
IN 1922 TO 1936. CREDIT: UDHS.

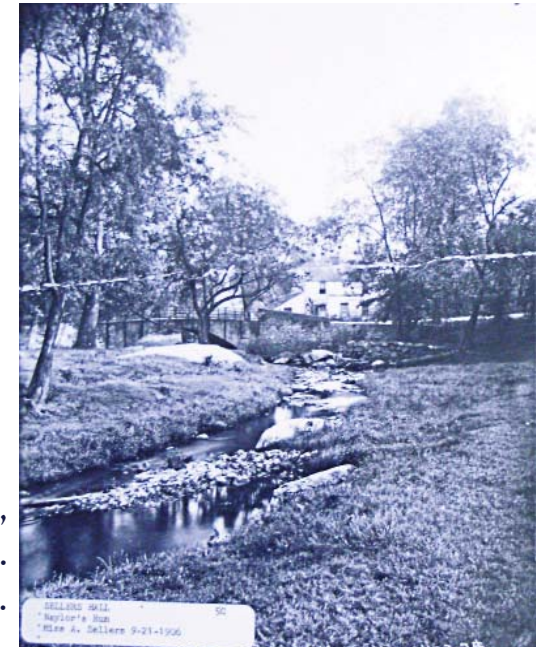
LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION



LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION



VIEW FROM THE FARM,
SELLERS HALL, C. 1860.
CREDIT: UPHS.



NAYLOR'S RUN,
1906.
CREDIT: UPHS.



C.W. PEALE, 1818.
“LANDSCAPE LOOKING TOWARDS
SELLERS HALL FROM MILL BANK,”
CREDIT: MFA, HOUSTON, TX.

LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION

VIEW OF SELLERS HALL, C. 1830-1900

DRAWING BY ANNA SELLERS

DEPICTIONS OF FARM LIFE

IMAGES FROM THE FAMILY SCRAPBOOK OF TENANT FARMER, JESSE FULLERTON, LATE 19TH C.



LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION



DETAIL OF ELIM FARM, C. 1909.
CREDIT: A.H. MUELLER.
DELAWARE COUNTY ARCHIVES.

J.L. SMITH, BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD, 1889.
CREDIT: UDHS.



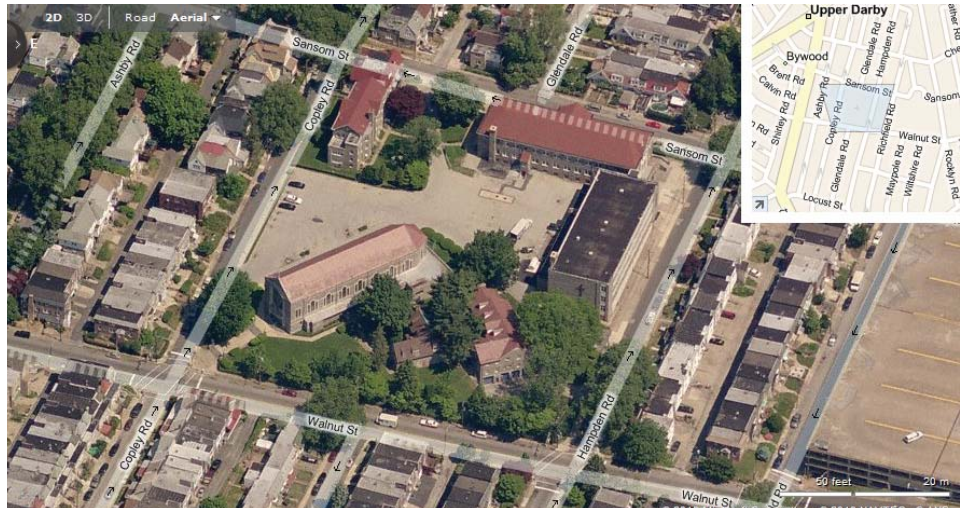
LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION



SELLERS HALL, C.1990s. CREDIT: UDHS.

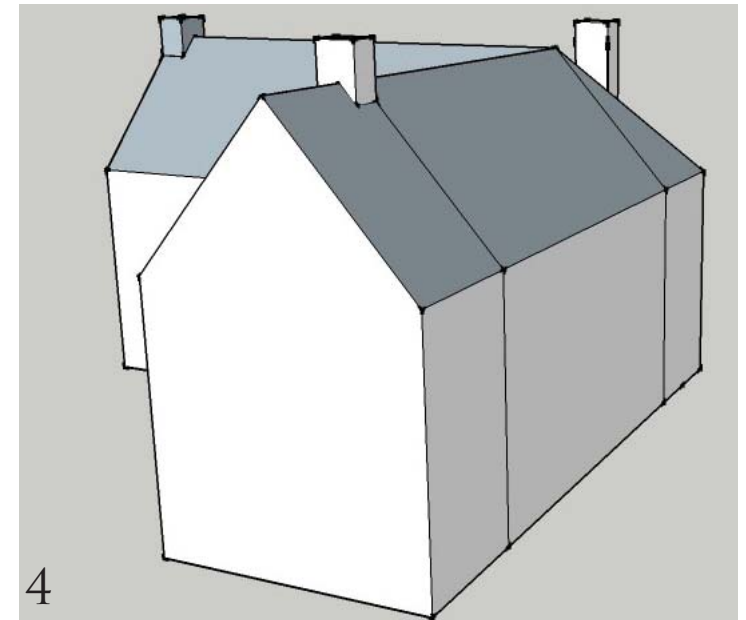
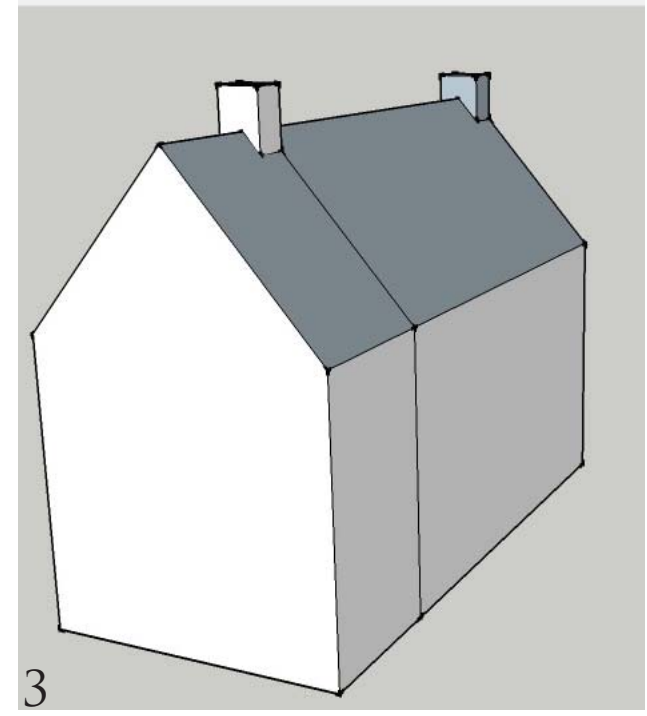
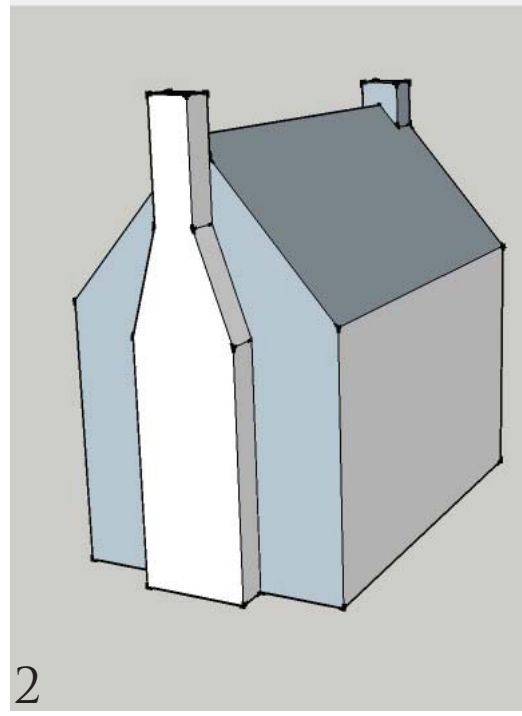
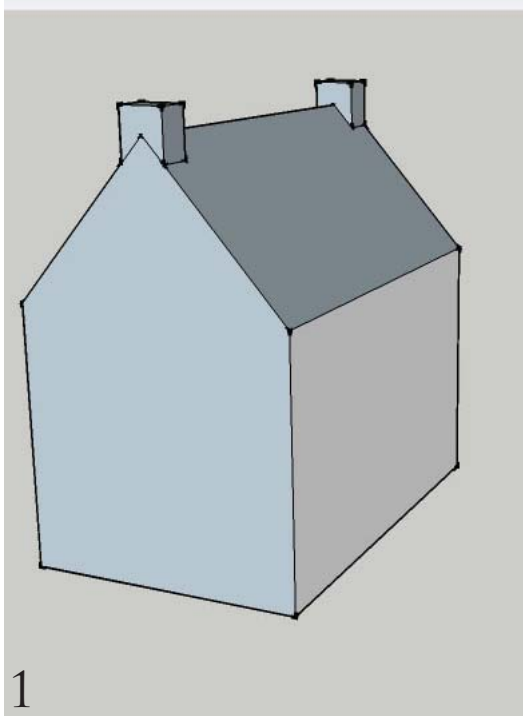


SELLERS HALL, 2005. CREDIT: "SAVING SELLERS HALL," DELCO DAILY TIMES.

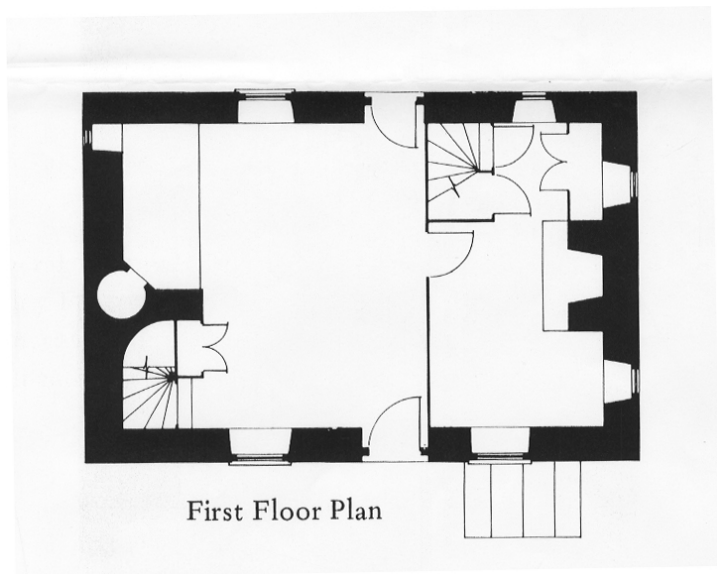


BIRD'S EYE VIEW, ST. ALICE PARISH.
CREDIT: BING MAPS.

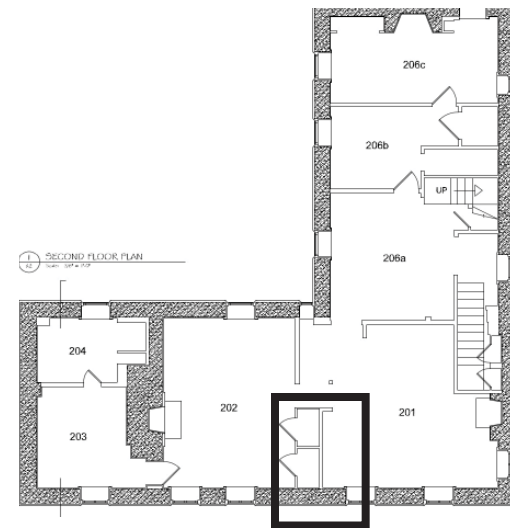
1 ST PHASE	SAMUEL SELLERS (1684 - 1714)
2 ND PHASE	SAMUEL SELLERS, JR. (1714 - 1752)
3 RD PHASE	JOHN SELLERS (1752-1804)
4 TH PHASE	GEORGE SELLERS (1808-1853)
5 TH PHASE	THOMAS POWERS (1863-1920)
6 TH PHASE	PARISH OF ST. ALICE (1922-PRESENT)



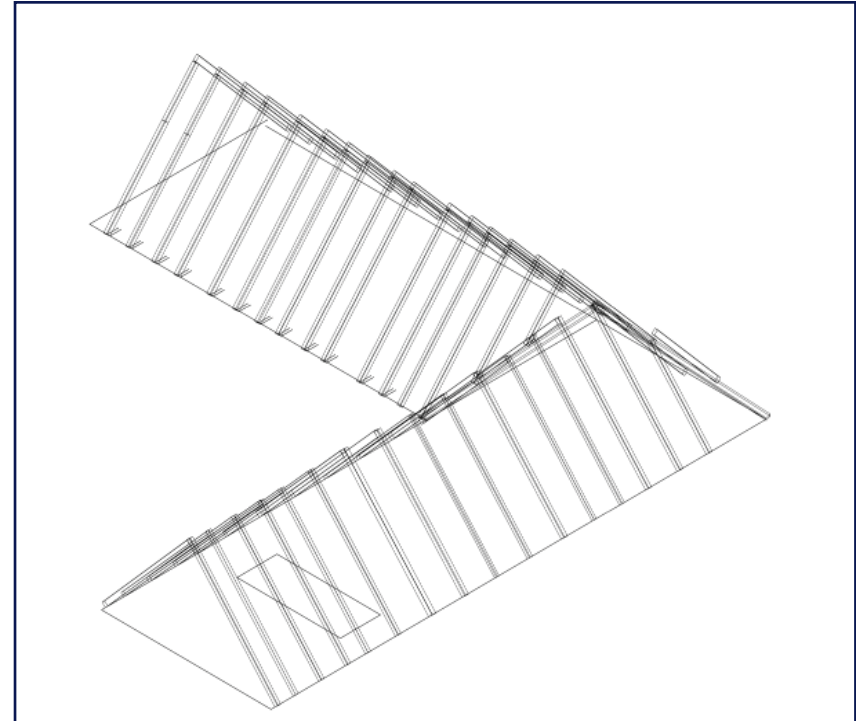
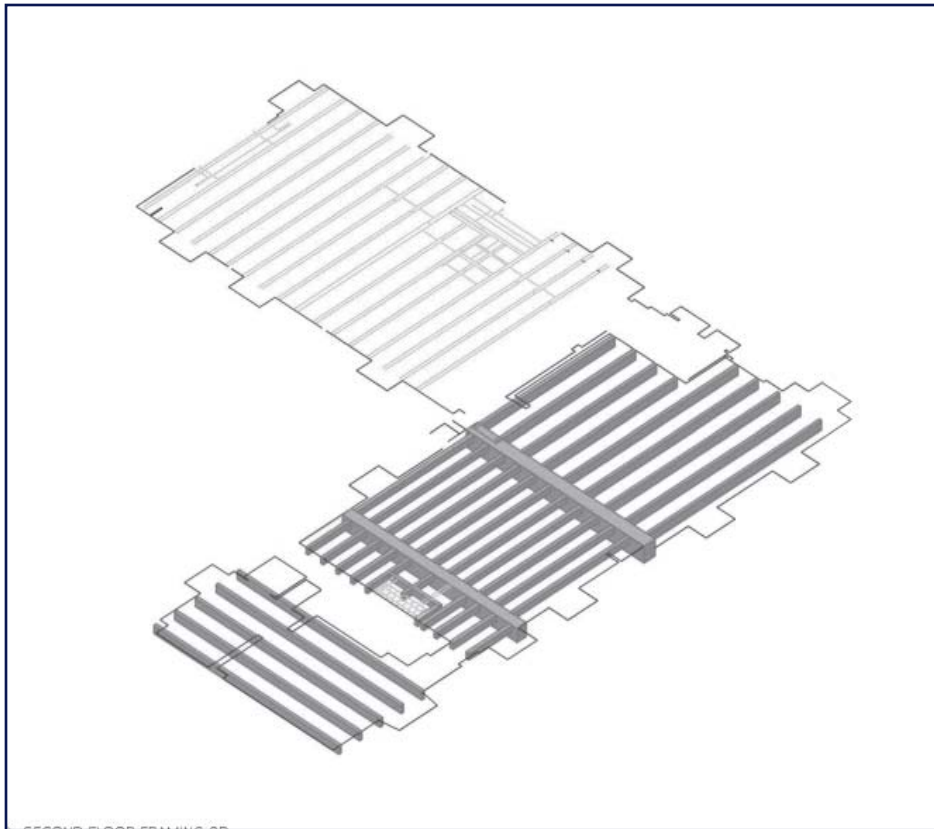
DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY OF BUILDING FIREPLACE



DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY OF BUILDING PARTITIONS



FRAMING IS...THE WOODEN STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK OF A BUILDING.



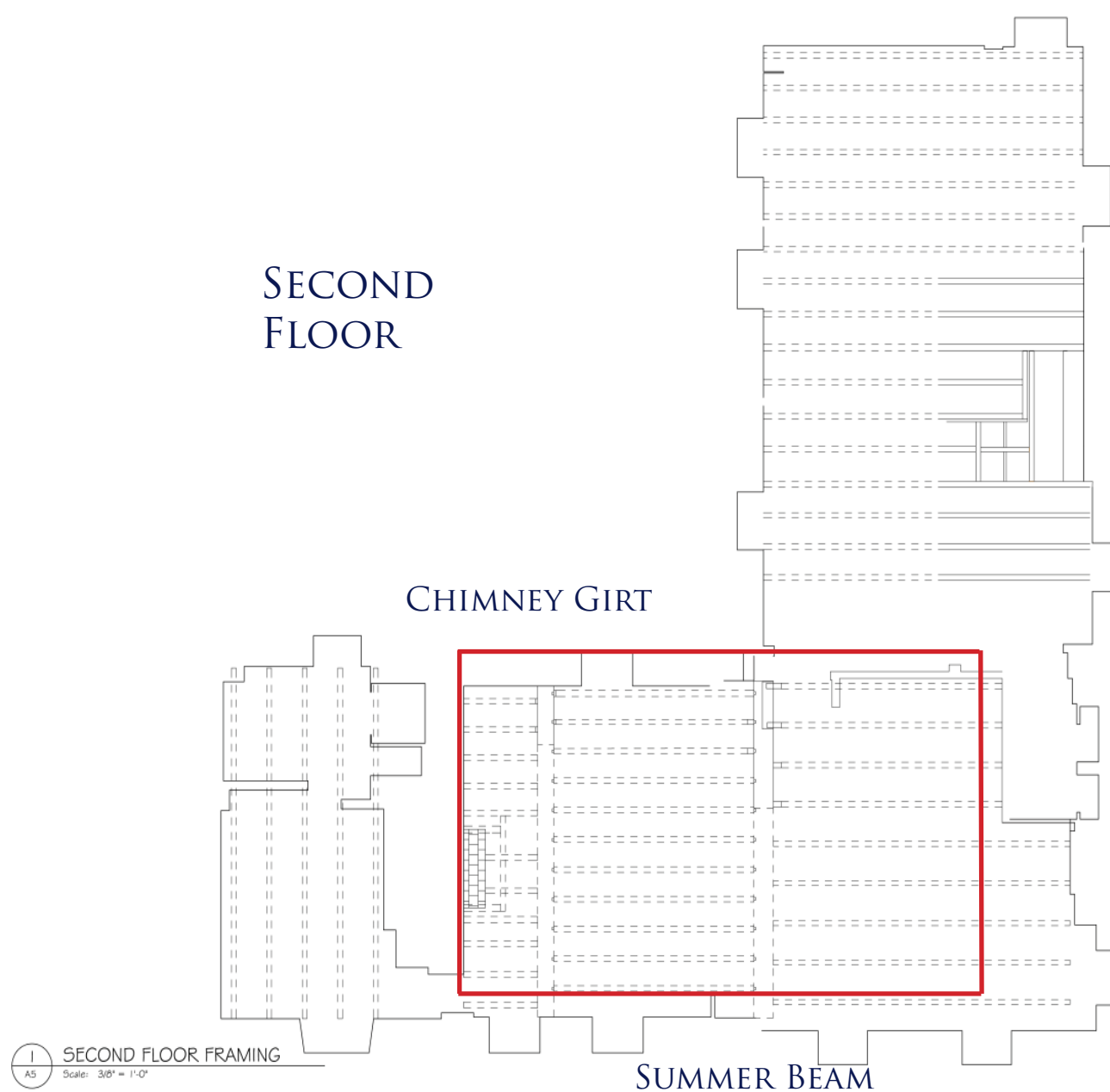
IT IS LIKELY THAT THE SUMMER BEAM AND CHIMNEY GIRT IN THE SECOND FLOOR FRAMING IS FROM 1684.



2ND FLOOR CHIMNEY GIRT

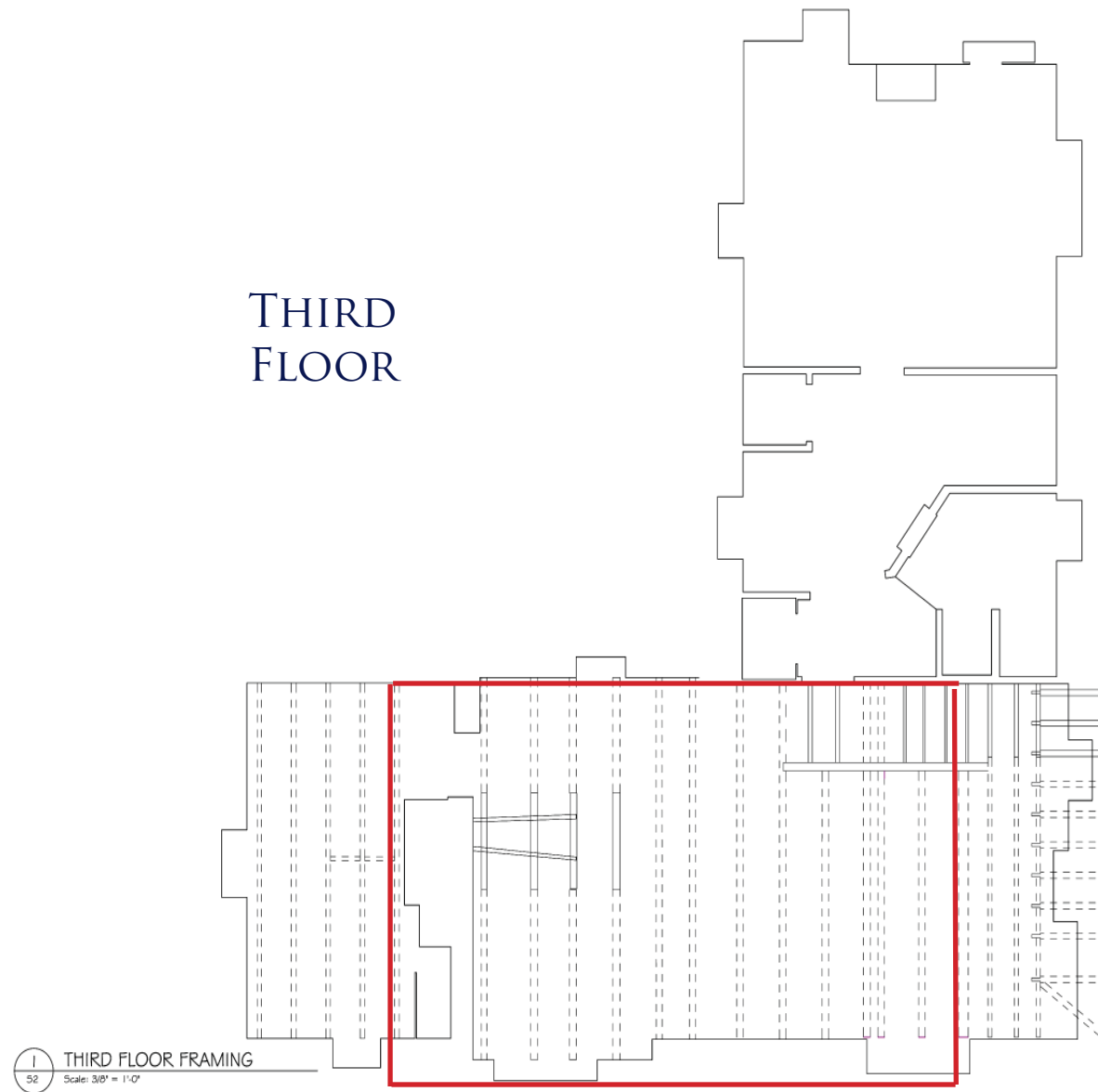


2ND FLOOR SUMMER BEAM

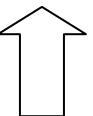


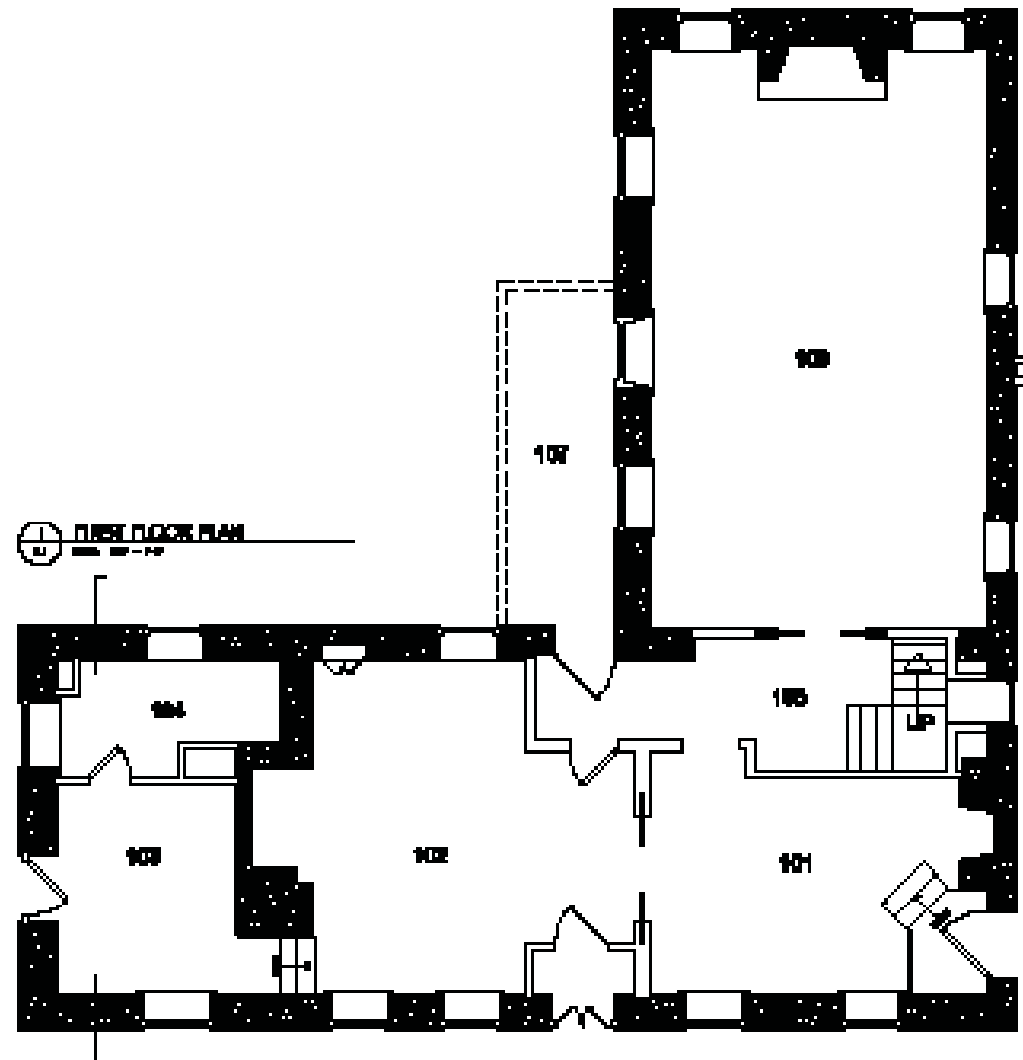
WOOD SHAPING





North



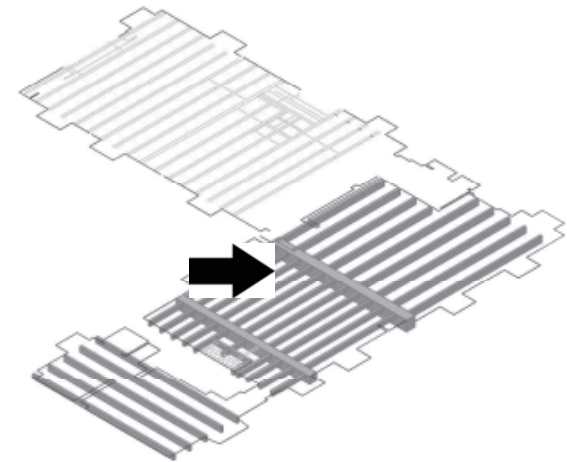


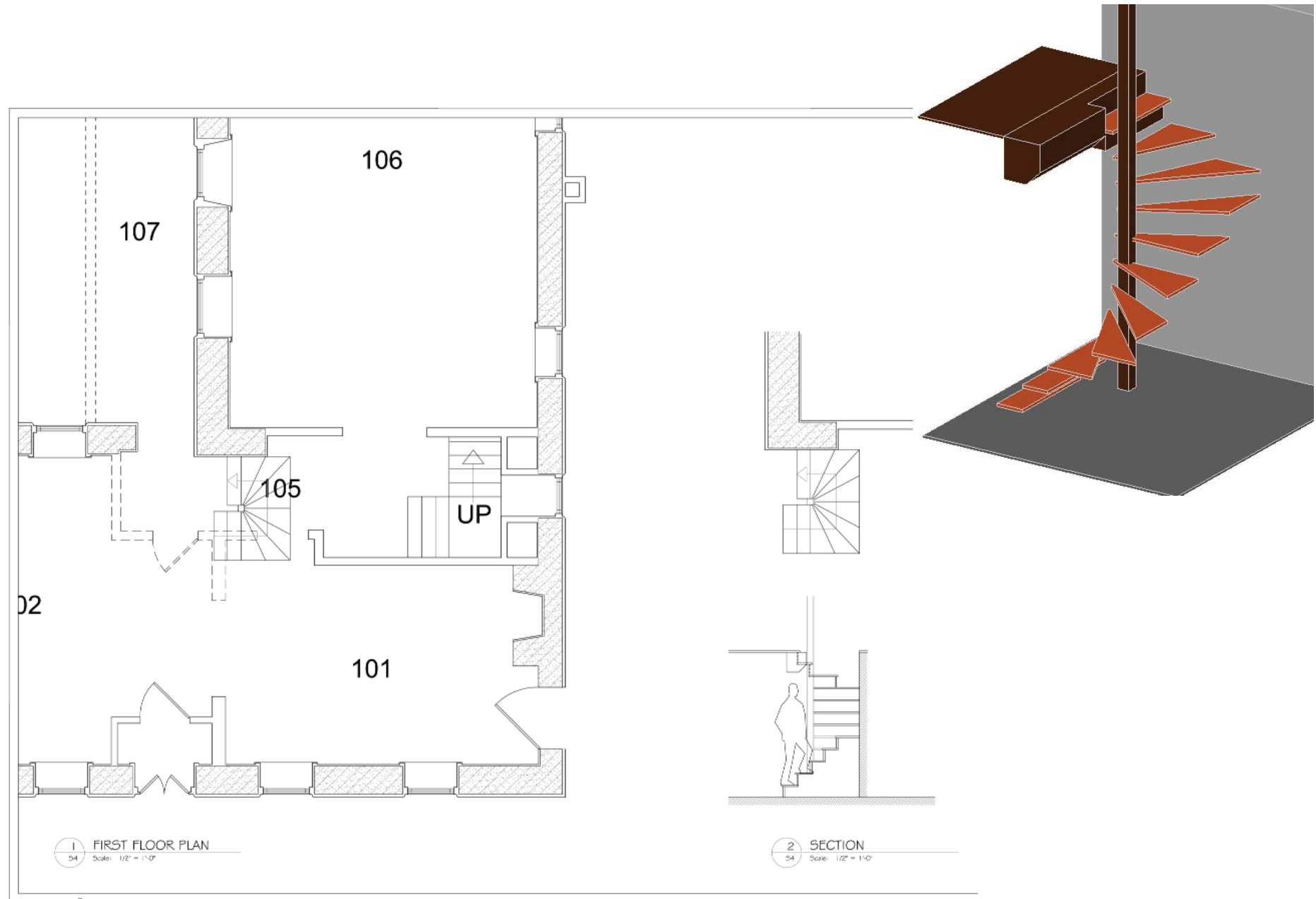


CHAMFERED SECTION OF THE
SUMMER BEAM, 2010.



RISER BOARD ATTACHED TO THE SUMMER
BEAM, VIEW FROM SECOND FLOOR, 2010.



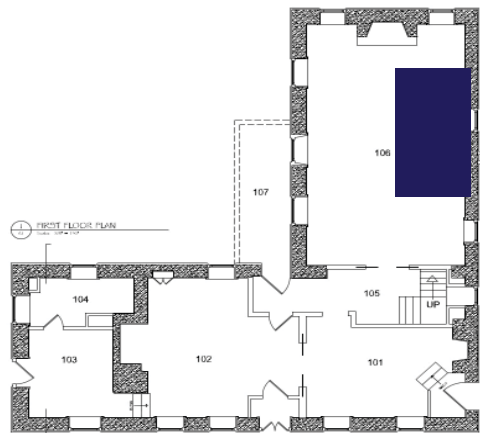




FRAMING OF RM 106; BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER CEILING REMOVAL, 2010.



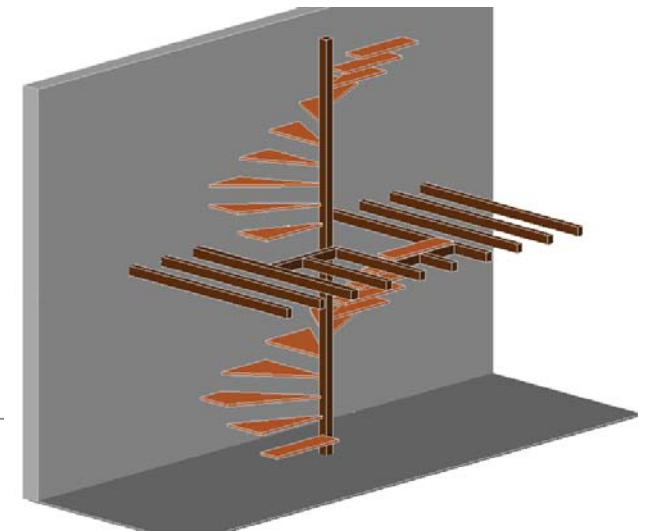
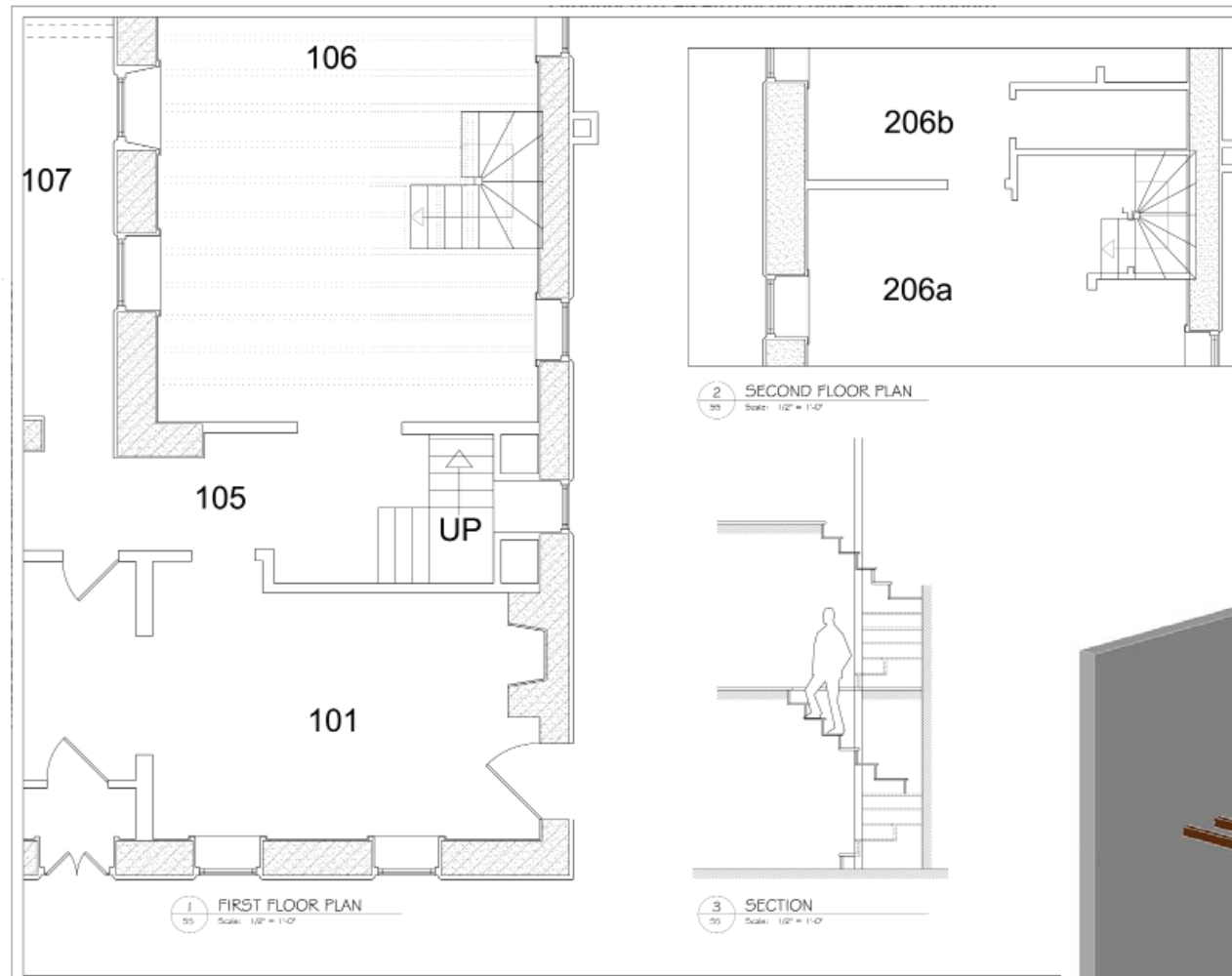
THIRD FLOOR: THREE ORIGINAL STEPS



INTERIOR ELEVATION OF EAST WALL, EXHIBITING STAIRCASE EVIDENCE, 2010.



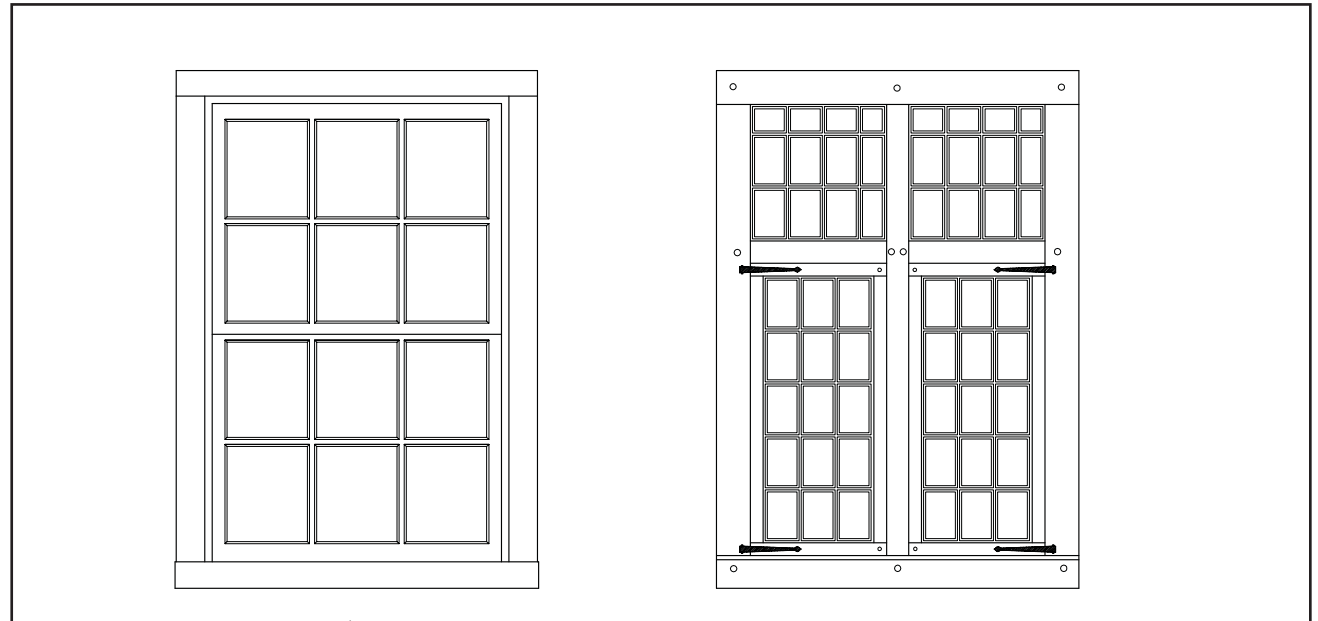
PLASTER OUTLINE BELOW THE CURRENT STAIRS, 2010.



SOUTH ELEVATION

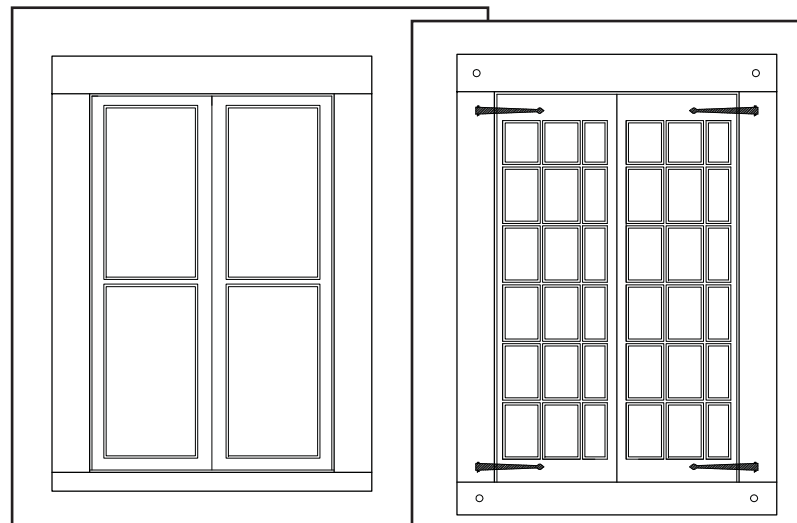


DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY OF BUILDING WINDOWS



WINDOW S1-A

CONJECTURAL CASEMENT

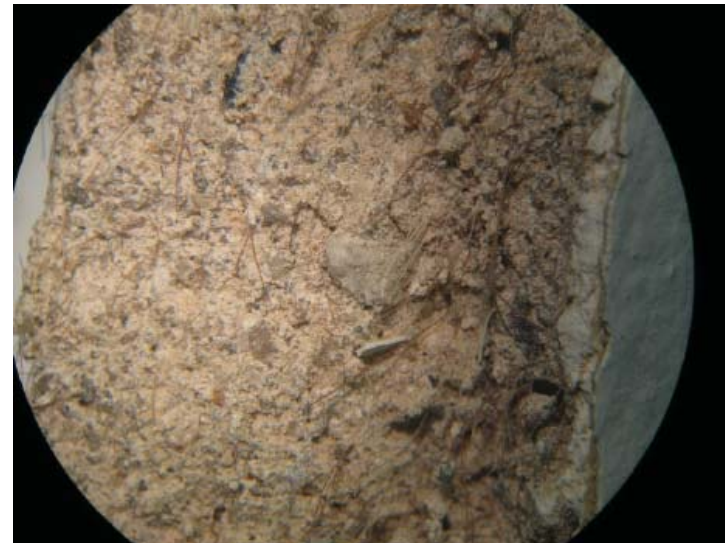
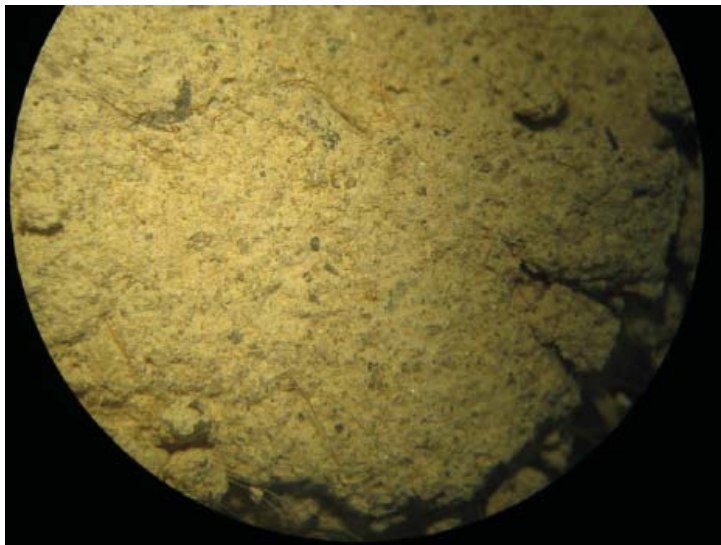


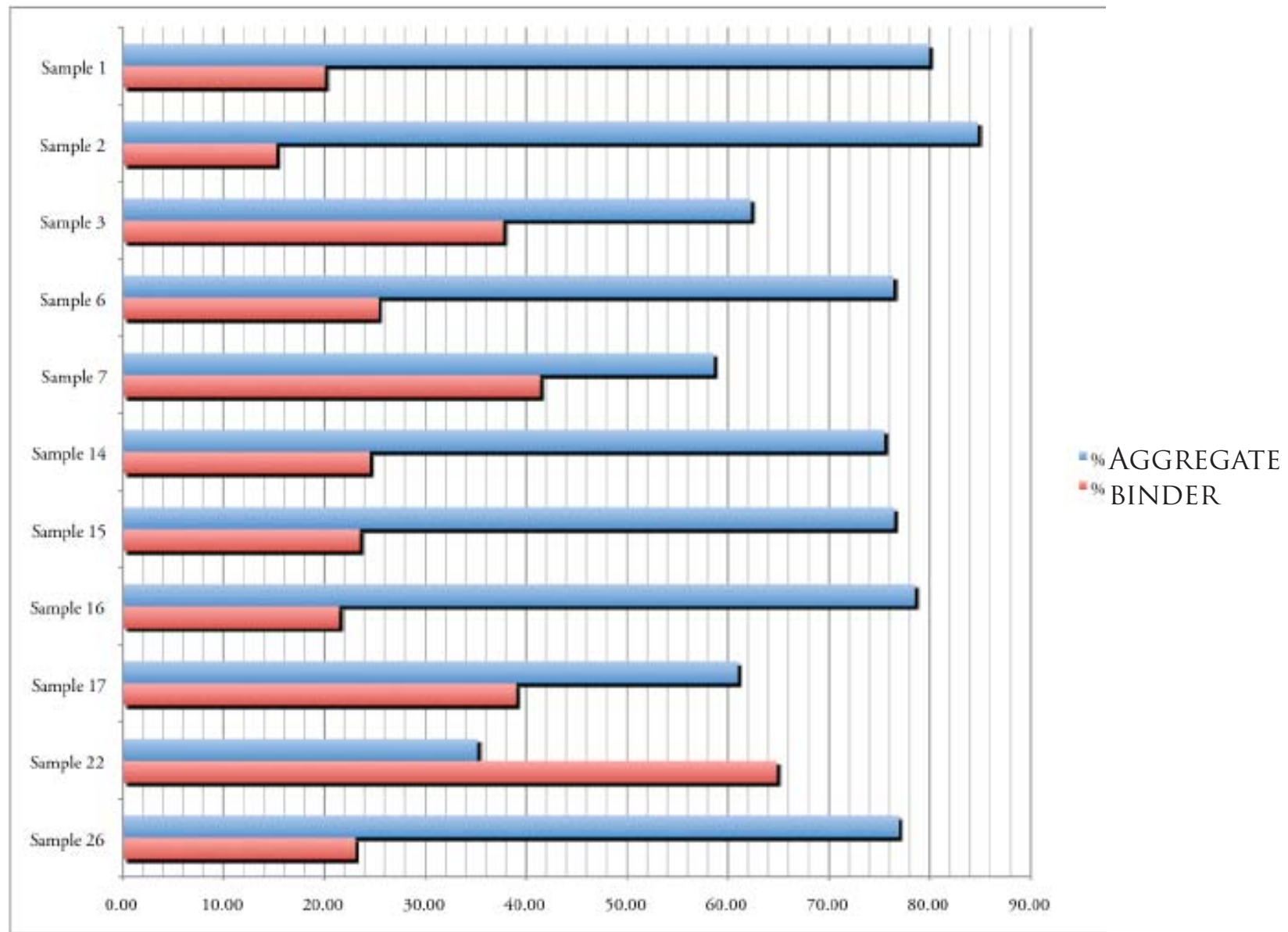
WINDOW N1-D

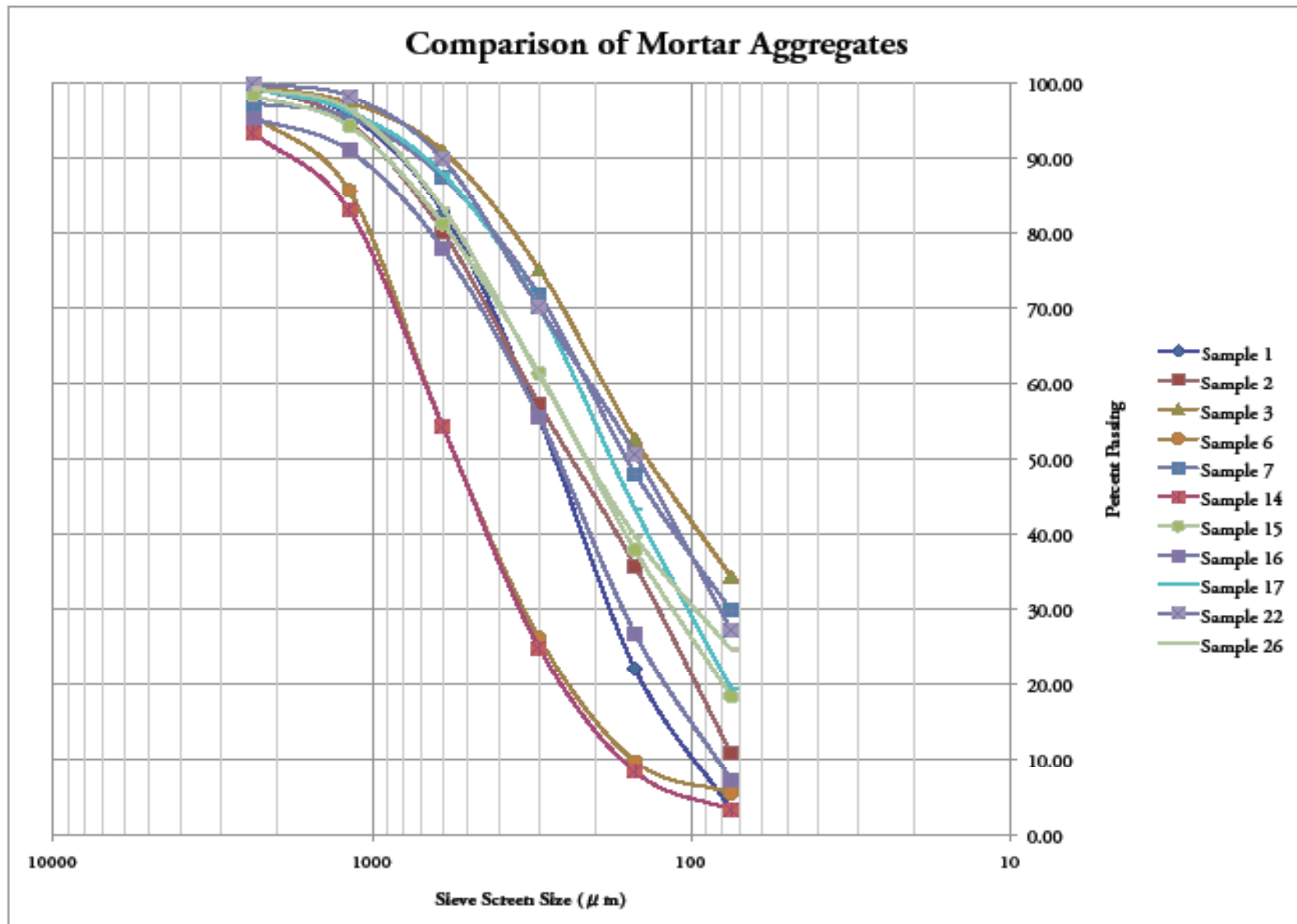
CONJECTURAL CASEMENT



PINTLE







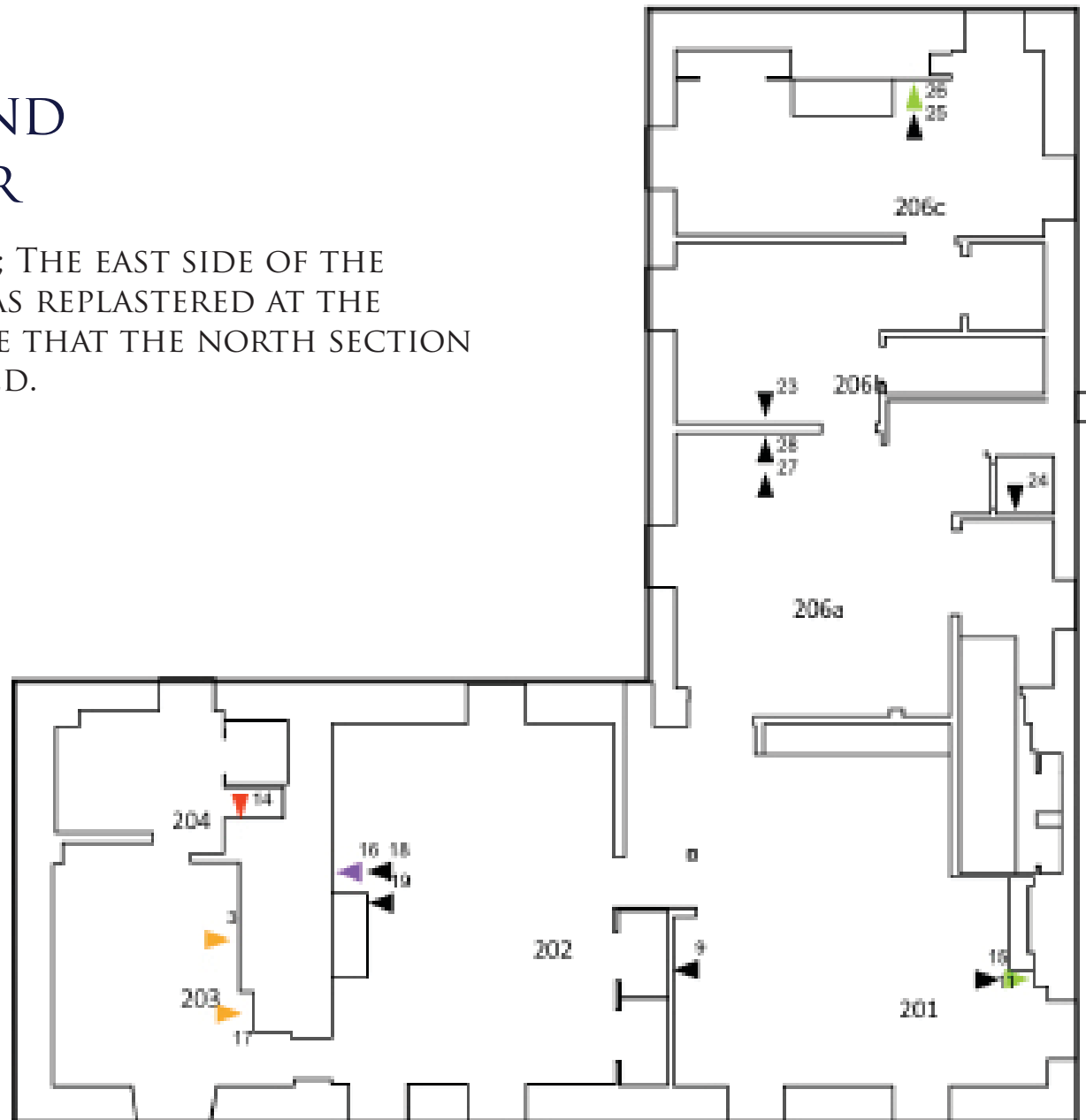
FIRST FLOOR

FINDINGS: ALL OF THE PLASTERING
IN ROOMS 102 AND 202 WAS DONE IN
ONE CAMPAIGN, WHEN THE FIREPLACE
WAS PUSHED BACK.



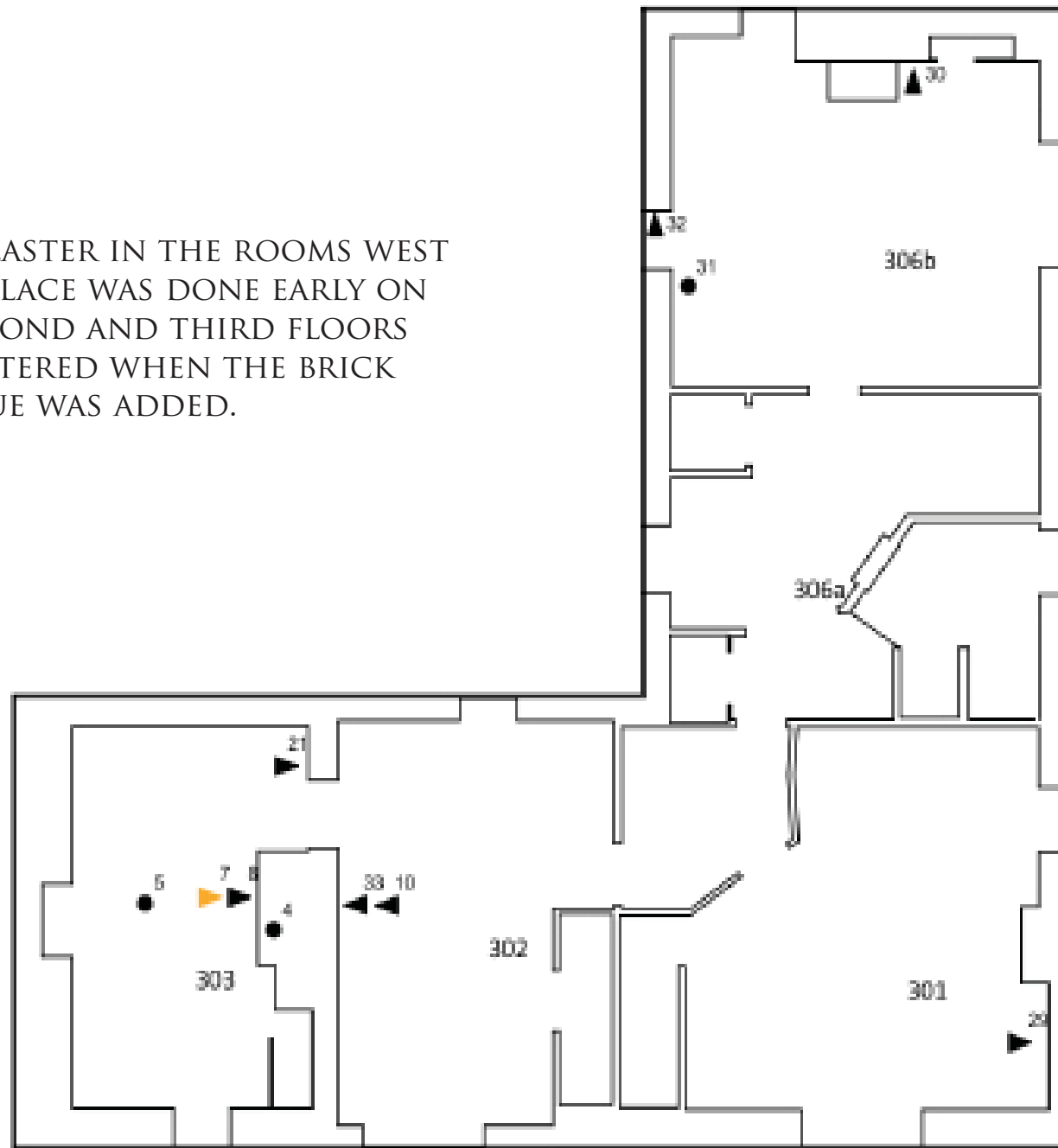
SECOND FLOOR

FINDINGS; THE EAST SIDE OF THE HOUSE WAS REPLASTERED AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE NORTH SECTION WAS ADDED.



THIRD FLOOR

FINDINGS: PLASTER IN THE ROOMS WEST OF THE FIREPLACE WAS DONE EARLY ON AND THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS WERE REPLASTERED WHEN THE BRICK CHIMNEY FLUE WAS ADDED.



FIRST FLOOR

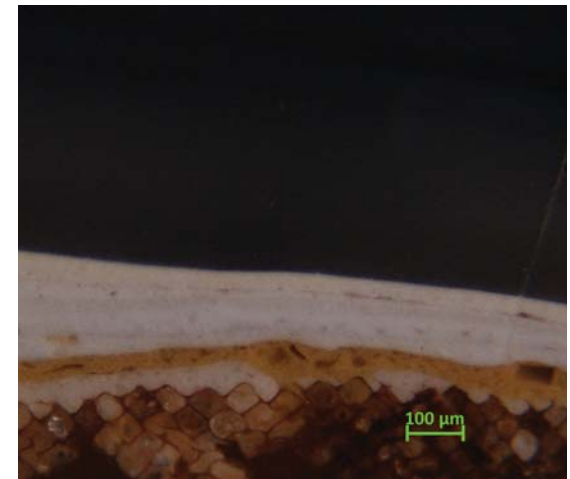
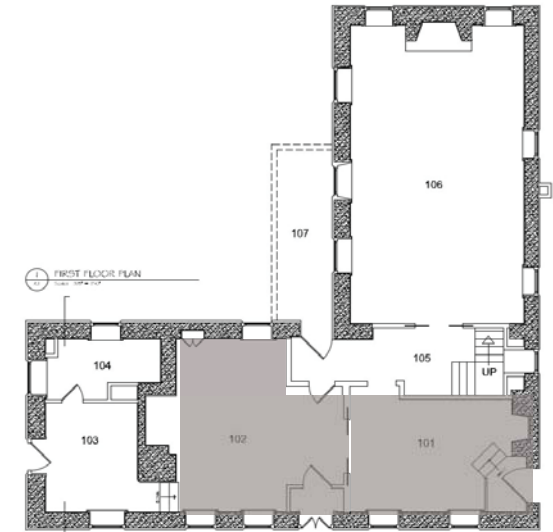
DRASTICALLY CHANGED OVER TIME -- NOT STUDIED EXTENSIVELY

MOST ROOMS WALLPAPERED

TRIM MOSTLY NEUTRAL (OFF-WHITES, CREAMS)



PARLOR, 1908. DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



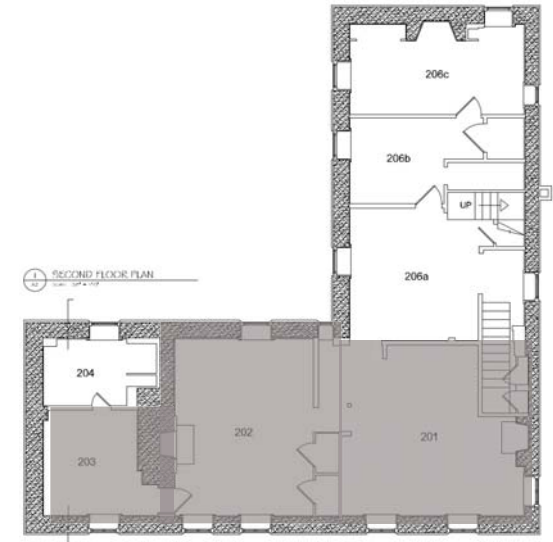
WINDOW IN RM 102. ROGERS, 2010.

SECOND FLOOR

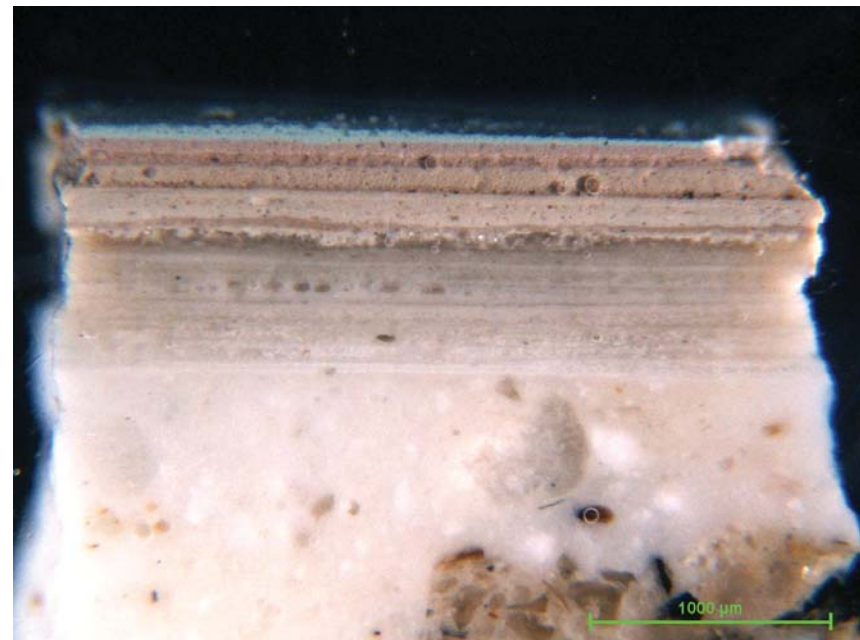
MOSTLY NEUTRALS (WHITE, OFF-WHITE, CREAM)

WINDOWS ARE NOT ORIGINAL

WALLS DO NOT MATCH FIRST FLOOR



CHAIR RAIL IN RM 201. ROGERS, 2010.



WALL IN RM 201. ROGERS, 2010.

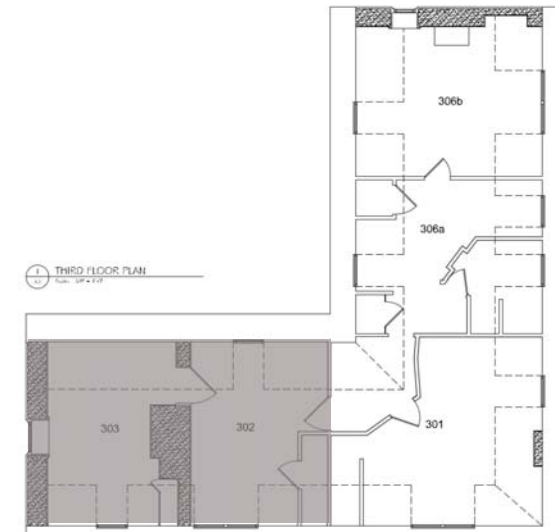
THIRD FLOOR: RM 302 & 303

HISTORIC PHOTOS SHOW WALL PAPER, BUT NO TRACES FOUND

WALLS' EARLY LAYERS NEUTRALS LIKE SECOND FLOOR



SOURCE: GARRETT, 1908. DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

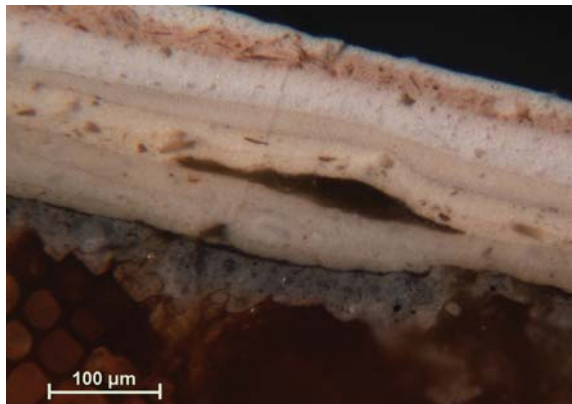
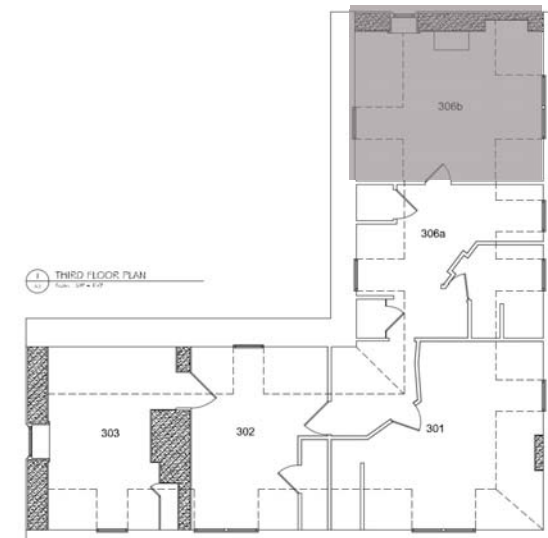


THIRD FLOOR: RM 306B

COMPLETE ANALYSIS PERFORMED: WALLS, TRIM, WINDOWS, CLOSET, ETC.

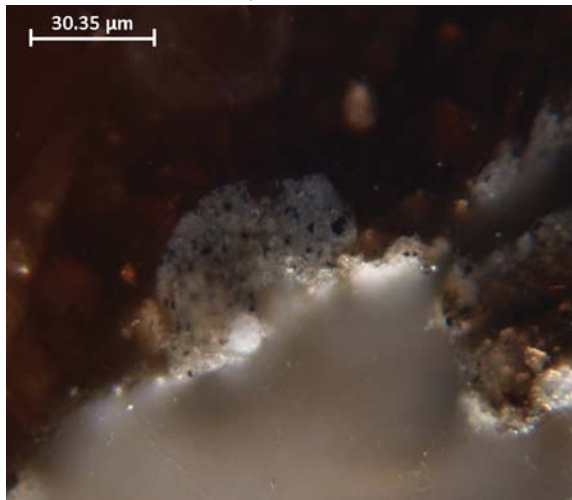
DROPPED CEILING LINE USEFUL FOR DATING WALL CAMPAIGNS

EARLY LAYERS MOSTLY WHITE, LATER LAYERS ARE MOSTLY PINK

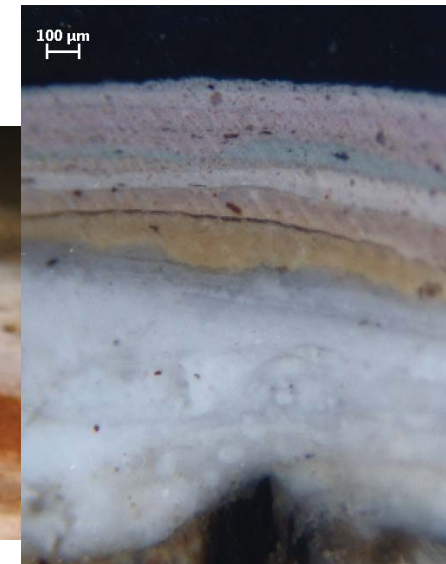


ABOVE: WOOD TRIM. LAYER.

BELOW: 200X MAGNIFICATION,
FIRST COLAHAN, 2010.



LEFT: WALL ABOVE CEILING LINE.



RIGHT: WALL BELOW CEILING LINE. COLAHAN, 2010.

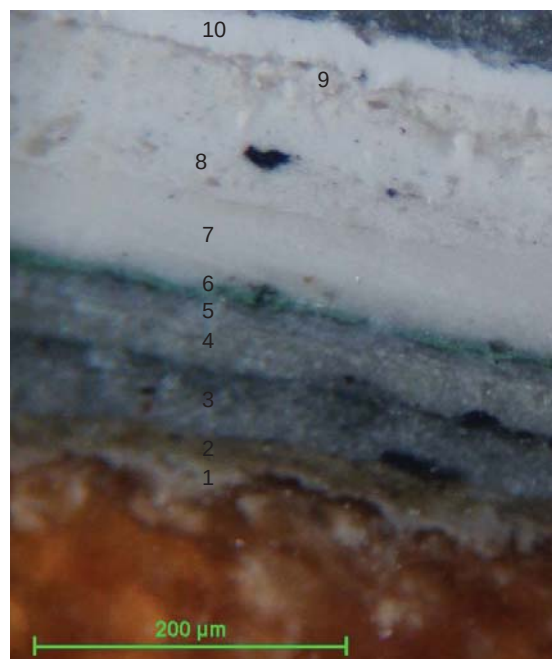
CONCLUSIONS

EARLY WALL AND TRIM CAMPAIGNS WERE MOSTLY WHITE, OFF-WHITE, AND CREAM -- COMMON FOR 18TH CENTURY INTERIORS

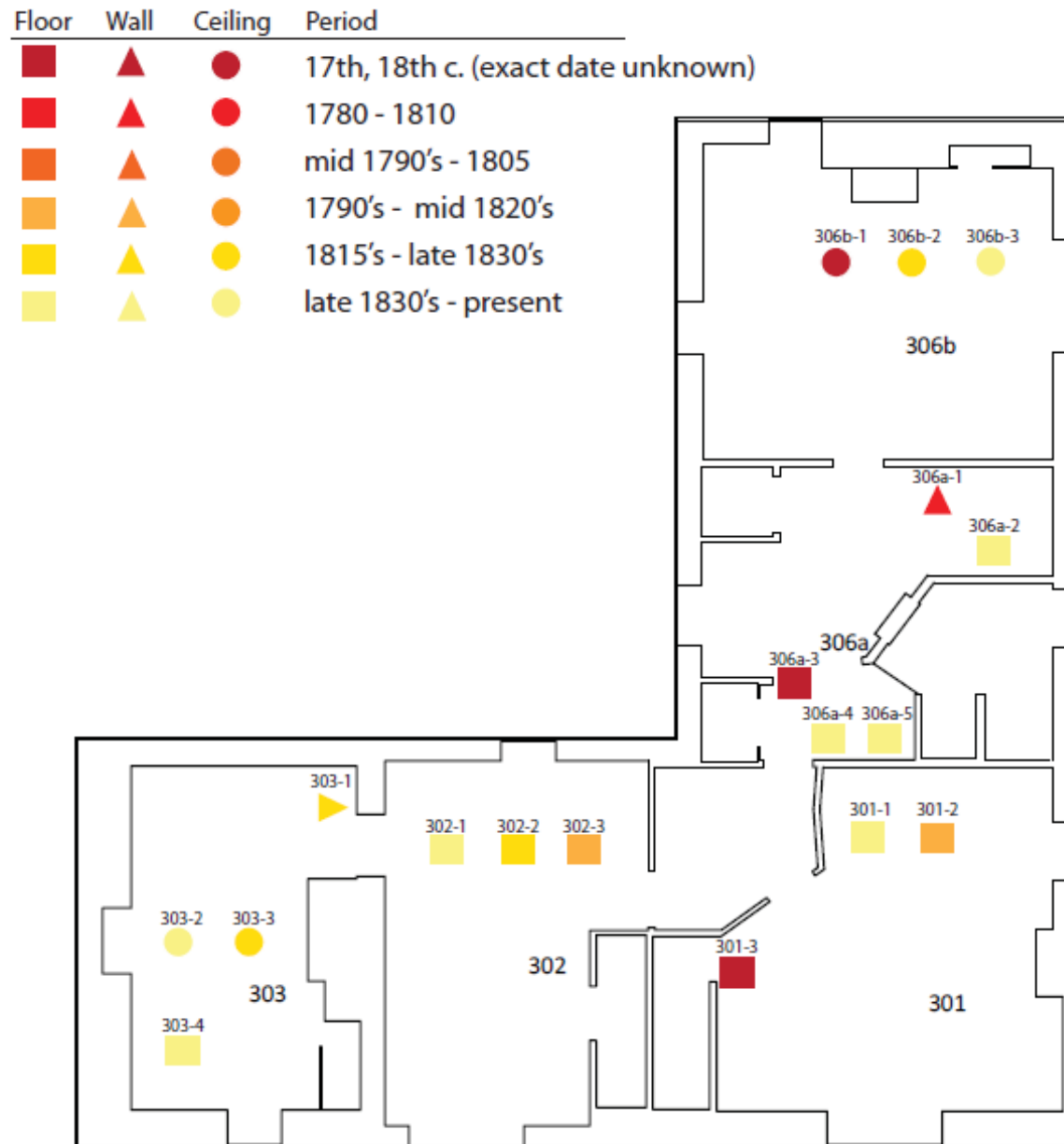
LATER CAMPAIGNS VARIED IN PALETTE

WALLPAPER WAS PRESENT, BUT NO TRACES HAVE YET BEEN FOUND

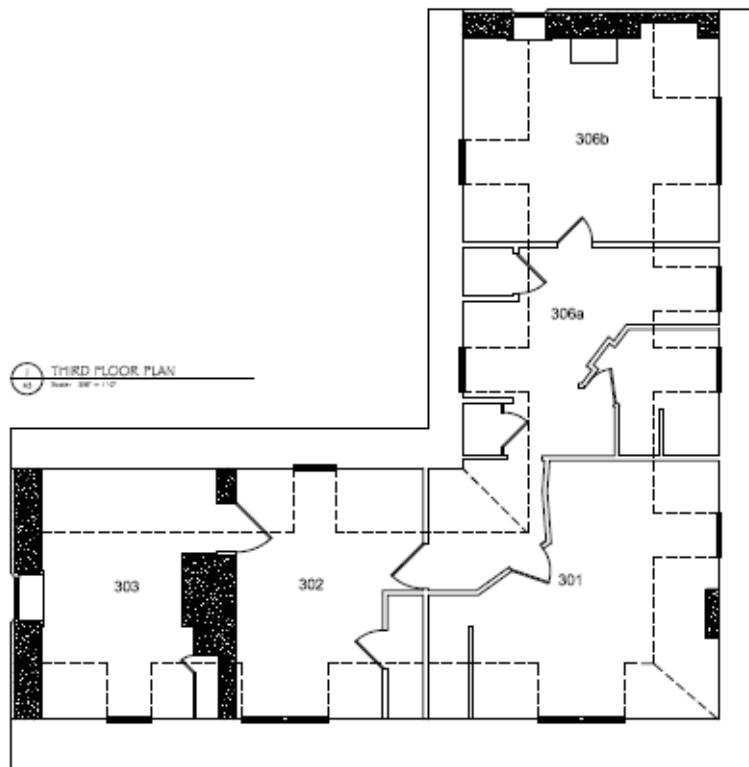
FURTHER ANALYSIS WILL LIKELY PROVIDE BETTER ANSWERS



Scheme	Color	Scheme	Color
10	White	5	Blue-gray
9	White	4	Light gray
8	White	3	Gray (2 layers)
7	White	2	Dark yellow
6	Green	1	Light gray



NAIL CHRONOLOGY THIRD FLOOR



301-1: MODERN
MACHINE-CUT, FINISH



301-2: EARLY MACHINE-CUT,
SPRINGS AND BRADS



301-3: HAND-WROUGHT, T-HEAD

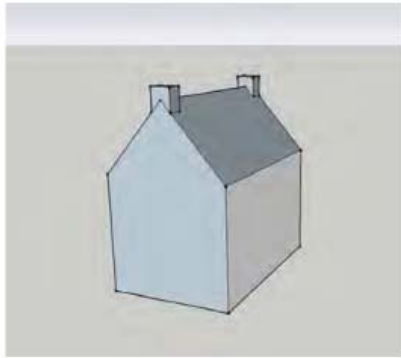


302-1: MODERN WIRE, FINISH



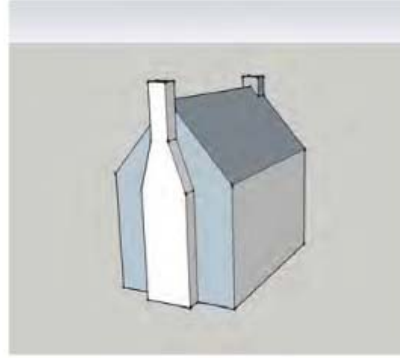
CONCLUSIONS

BUILDING EVOLUTION



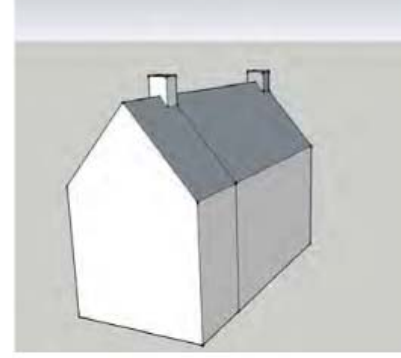
1ST
PHASE

SAMUEL SELLERS
(1684 - 1714)



2ND
PHASE

SAMUEL SELLERS, JR.
(1714 - 1752)



4TH
PHASE

GEORGE SELLERS
(1808-1853)



THANK YOU!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
ST. ALICE'S PARISH
FATHER QUINN
FRIENDS OF SELLERS HALL
BILL MCDEVITT, BARBARA MARINELLI AND MORTIMER "TIM" SELLERS
AT THE UPPER DARBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ARCHIVES
THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
JOHN HANSON AND HANSON GENERAL CONTRACTING INC.
CHRISTINA CARTER, AIA: JOHN MILNER ARCHITECTS
DANIEL CAMPBELL, AIA: JOHN MILNER ARCHITECTS

PROJECT LEADER JOHN MILNER

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