



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-27
Negative no(s). 4349, 4350
Steno 1

SURVEY FORM

Historic name The Shelter	Common name
County/Town/City Prince William County	
Street address or route number Shelter Lane, Haymarket	1790,
USGS Quad Arcola	Date or period c. 1740, 1840
Original owner Martin Cockburn	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Residence	
Present owner Dale G. Simpson et al	Source of name
Present owner address Gainesville, Va.	Source of date Previous surveyor.
	Stories
Present use Not in use.	Foundation and wall const'n Stone foundation; frame wall construction
Acreage 128 acres	Roof type Metal-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs House is in very bad condition, is structurally unsound, and has had much of its siding and interior woodwork removed. Site is in an overgrown pasture.
State potential threats to structure Continued deterioration, arson, demolition. Land to be subdivided.
Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ___ no ___

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

Main part of the house has a double foundation on north and west, as if the house had been built in part upon the foundation of the west room of an earlier house, this part having been demolished for the new construction. The main house is about 4 feet wider than the adjacent older parts making it necessary to rest the 1840's part on stone piers spaced about 2 feet away from first foundation, which extends into a full basement. Unfortunately, it is on this side that the walls are sagging the worst, and that may be due to the effects of the building method described above. Present stone chimney on 1840's house may be a rebuilding of the earlier chimney, using the same foundation.

Note on condition. Previous surveyor in 1959 said The Shelter had received no care in the last 75 years. While this may be true, The Shelter was occupied at least until the 1940's, and though it appears in immediate danger of collapse, must have been well built to have survived for so long.

Outside, kitchen end, rear. Wide stone stairs level to finished basement containing about 4 rooms, one with a large fireplace and smoke-darkened ceiling.

Also on this end of the house there was a wooden stair, now missing, which led from the east end (warming room, or dining room?) to ground level.

Roof. Wooden shingles present under metal roof of both older sections.

Interior. Mantels, doors, windows missing. Staircase, cited by previous surveyor as good example of simple federal stair, has been vandalized. Floor in 1840's portion - 3½-4" wide tongue and groove, possibly walnut. Floor in center section - narrow oak boards. Floor in east room - wide pine planks but very worn.

Interior inspected? (continued on separate sheet)

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

The Shelter was once part of the Burwell portion of the Bull Run Tract. Martin Cockburn acquired this 1,115-acre estate from Samuel Beale in 1789. Cockburn's home was "Springfield", near Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall. Cockburn, a Scot by birth, was a vestryman of Truro Parish, a member of the Fairfax Safety Committee, and an executor of George Mason's will, with whom he was close friends. Cockburn married Anne Bronaugh, a cousin of George Mason. Since Cockburn and his wife had no children, The Shelter passed to his wife's niece Rose Bronaugh, who married Dr. John Bronaugh, II. They passed the estate to a daughter, Mary Emily Bronaugh, who married William Bailey Tyler, and the property has been in the Tyler family until recently.

Alice Maude Ewell, who visited The Shelter during the Tyler ownership, said that the older part of The Shelter, "the lower and thick-walled part", was probably the summer home of Martin Cockburn, who would have retreated there to escape the summer's heat along the Potomac.

Architectural description continued.

Fireplaces. Fireplace in west room missing keystone. Fireplace in center section is stone to ceiling, then brick. Fireplace in east room is rather small, suggesting that this was either a warming room or the dining room. Upstairs, only one room has a fireplace. All very deteriorated.

Outbuildings. Small stone structure (10' x 10') behind and to the east of kitchen end. Has a metal pent roof. Walls c12" thick and white washed inside. Has two entrances, one to the south and one on the west. Northeast of the home, there is the stone foundation of a bank barn, c37' square.

A cemetery for The Shelter is located at Clifton, the next farm to the east, but it is not accessible.

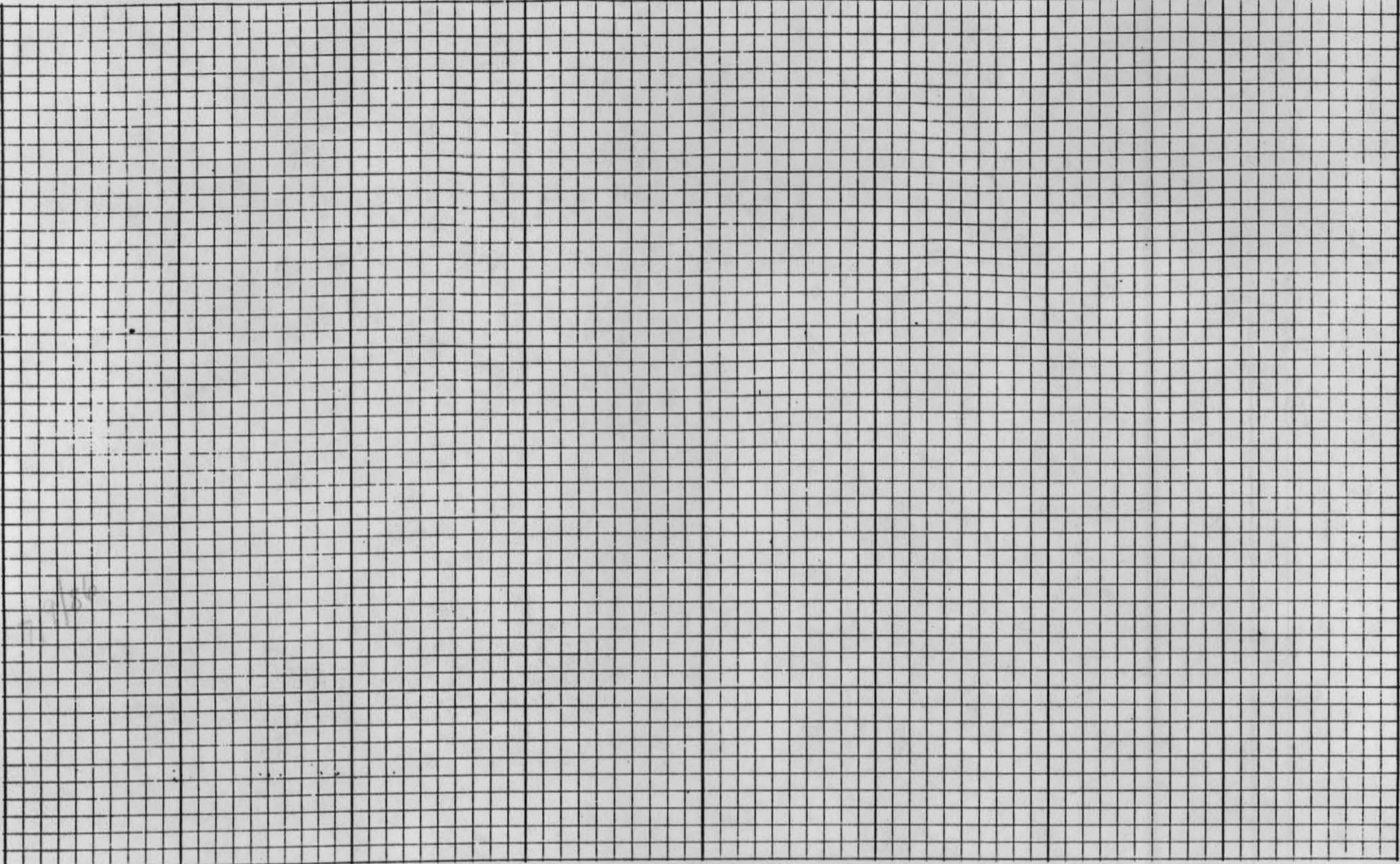
Sources and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.) Prince William, The Story of Its People and Its Places (1941, 1969) pp. 181-182; Alice Maude Ewell, A Virginia Scene, or Life in Old Prince William (1931) pp.159-161; Templemen & Netherton, Northern Virginia Heritage (1959, 1966) p.184.

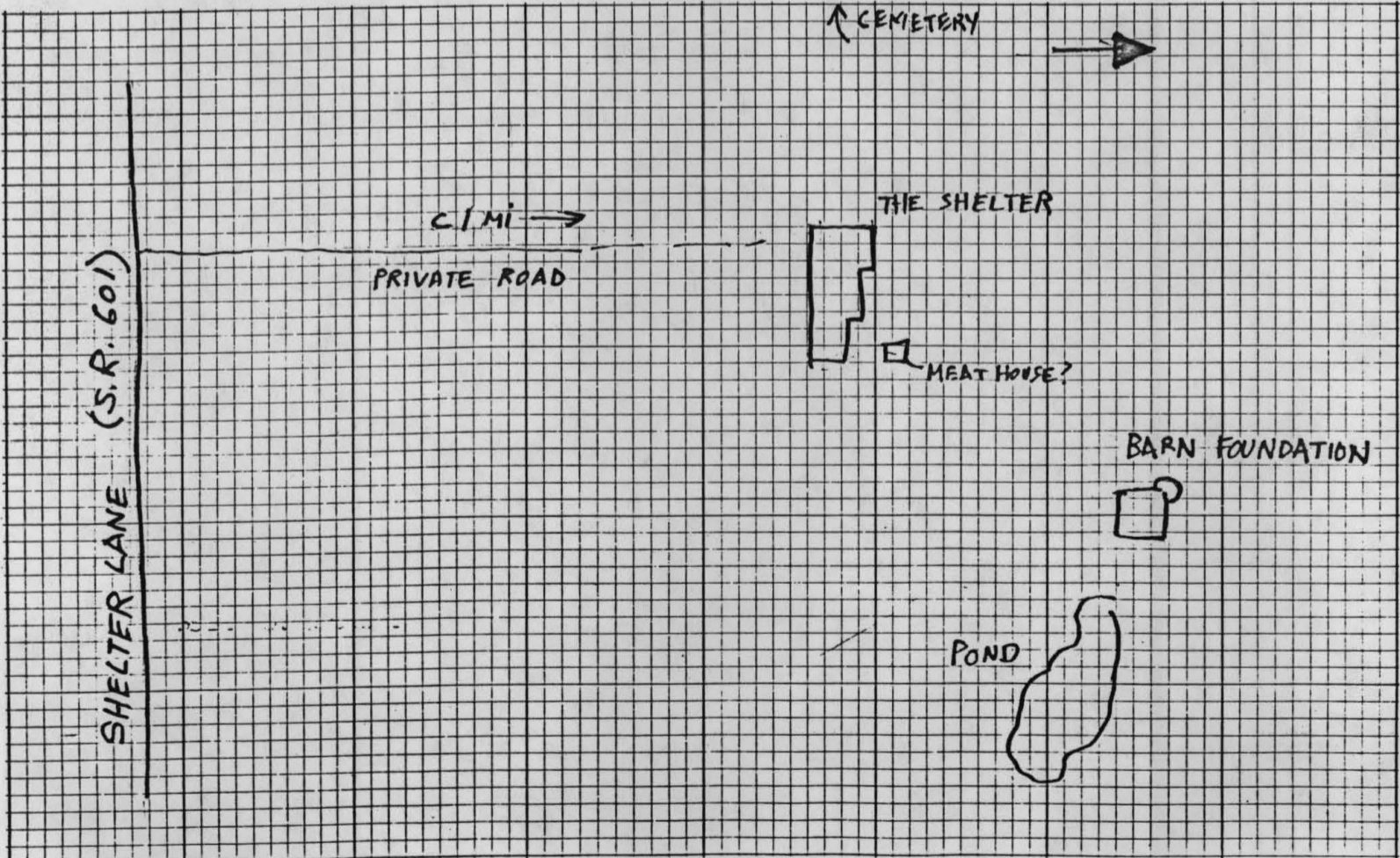
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



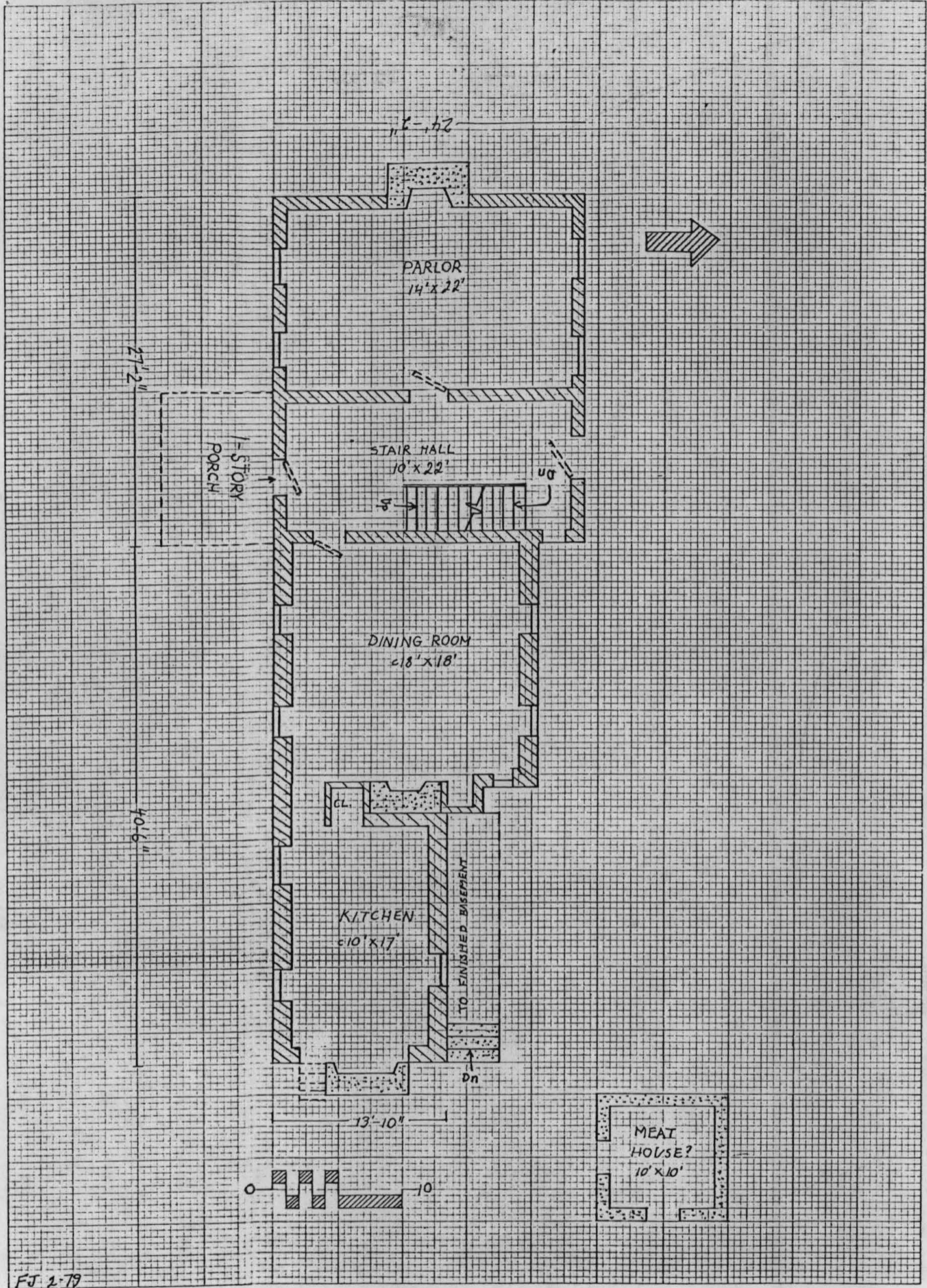
Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder
Frances Jones, Architectural Historian/Surveyor, NVPDC

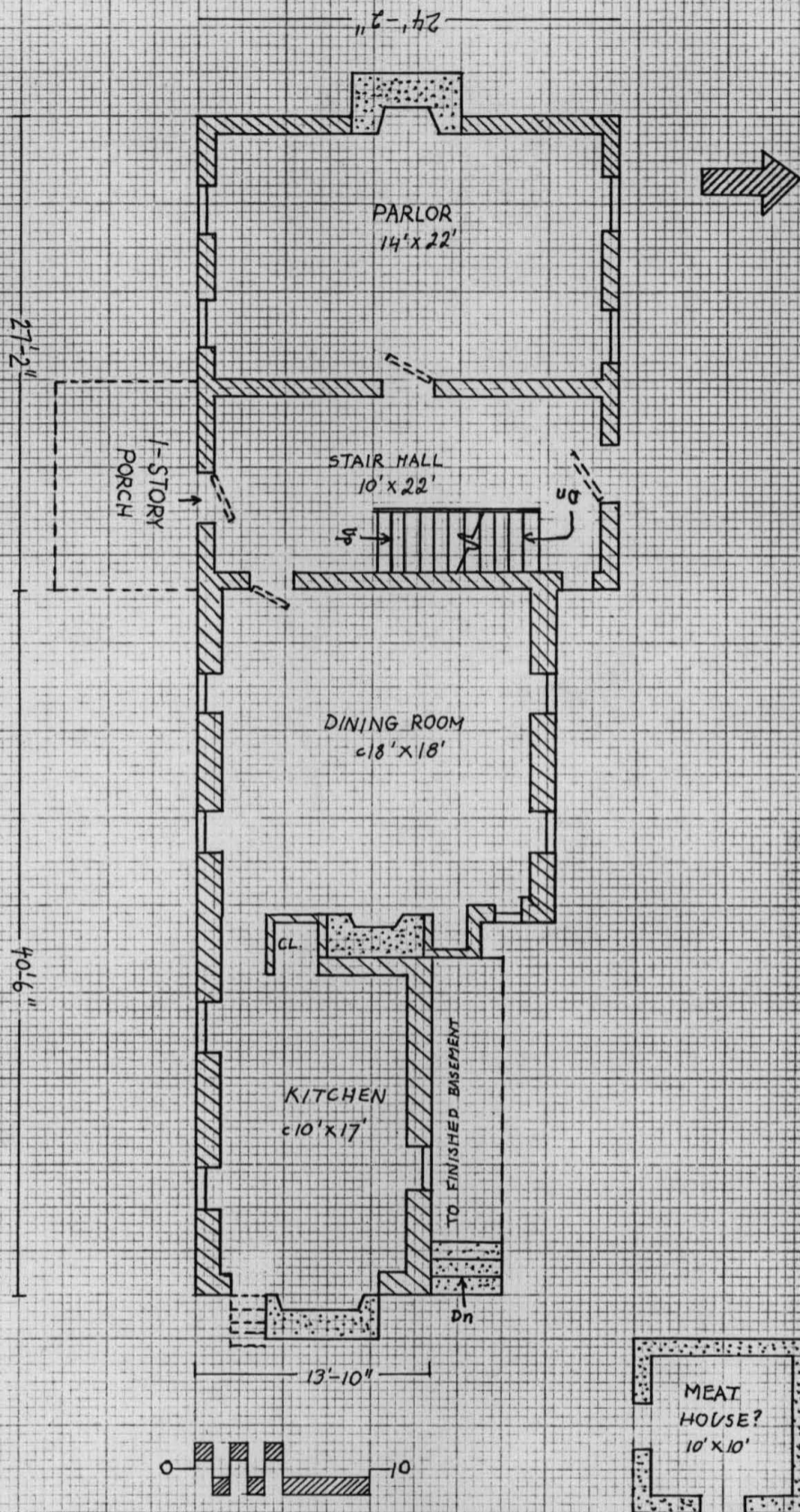
Date
1/9/79

THE SHELTER (76-27), PRINCE W^m COUNTY



FJ. 2-79

THE SHELTER (76-27), PRINCE W^m COUNTY



FJ 2-79