

APPENDIX A

Preliminary Historic House Inspection

Field Report of inspection conducted on 10/2/05 with Dianne Cram, Wentz Farmstead Administrator, & Norm Glass, Historic Restoration Contractor

Exterior

- Large cistern found located under concrete porch floor on the southwest side of the house adjacent to the summer kitchen and near the entrance to the kitchen.
- Evidence of terraced gardens typical of the Victorian period in the front yard on the southeast side of house.
- The tee shaped house appears to have been constructed all at one time with the summer kitchen and bake oven probably at a different time. Perhaps the bake oven is from an earlier structure.
- The architectural style of the house appears to be a “plain Victorian”
- The house is constructed from stone and covered with stucco.
- Two over two divided double hung windows, popular during the Victorian period, appear to be the original windows.
- Wood shingles (probably original to the house) remain under subsequent layers of roofing. The shingles appear to be smooth indicating that they were hand split and planed with a draw-knife or draw-shave not manufactured with a circular saw.



Front (Southeast)



Southwest Side



Northeast Side



Rear (Northwest)



Photo of house taken in the winter of 1960 with the barn on the left.

Interior

- The interior follows a simple center hall plan, one room deep on each side of hall. Many of the interior walls are finished with wood lath and plaster.
- Main entry into small center hall with stairs directly in front of main entry with parlor to the right and dining room to the left.
- Artifacts found in bake oven cleanout including various redware, yellowware, & whiteware fragments. Most accessible pieces were moved into the house for security. The access opening into this cleanout should be secured.



Artifacts in bake oven cleanout.

- Found writing in plaster on a stone wall in the basement. The writing consists of a name and date. The date looks like June 1879. This could be the date the house was finished.
- Two stairs found –The main front stair still in use and accessible and smaller closed off rear stair from the kitchen up to the second floor. The section of this smaller stair to the attic is still in use. Main steps were abandoned when the main bath was installed on the second floor at the front center of the house.
- Cheeking at windows is present on the southwest side of the front block and the entire rear block. The northeast side of the front block of the house have casing on both levels.
- The door and window casing appears to be consistent throughout the house. Simple plinth blocks at doorways are present throughout the house.
- Original interior partition on the second floor of the rear block of the house was removed at some point in the history of the house.
- Victorian style hardware found consistently through house.
- Two–sided butler pantry at wall between the kitchen and dining room.
- Ridge beam in roof structure only appears in one small section near the intersection of the main front block of the house and the rear block of the house.
- Circular saw used to mill roof rafters.
- No evidence of fireplaces were found in the main house. Only the large cooking fireplace in the attached summer kitchen existed.
- Stove piping appears to be contained in all three gable end walls. Brick chimneys are present at each gable end walls with only slight corbelling to support the chimneys on the inside of the stone walls visible in the attic. A stove is present in main room on the southwest side of the main block. Patched round holes for stove pipes are visible on each gable end wall on the first and second floors of the main and rear blocks of the house. Additionally it appears that stoves may have been present in the finished attic of the main block.
- Floor covering in summer kitchen appears to be an early linoleum floor covering. Perhaps original to house? Linoleum was invented in 1860 and was considered to be an excellent, inexpensive material for high use areas. In the late 1800s and early 1900s it was favored in hallways and kitchens. Its water resistance enabled easy maintenance of sanitary conditions and its resilience made standing easier and reduced breakage of dropped china.
- Wood flooring throughout house appears to be yellow pine. Tongue and groove narrow widths of 3 to 6 inches and $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick are present throughout the house on all three levels. Appear to be installed with cut nails.
- Cold storage rooms present in the basement with plastered walls and ceilings.
- Original hand hewn wood floor beams found throughout basement. Summer beam modified for 20th century installation of interior stairs to basement.
- Wood doors that had been modified and installed in the basement at the cold storage rooms look to predate the house.