

“House with the Round Corners”
George Stickney and his House

Submitted
by
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in the
Master of Science in Historic Preservation program
at
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
fall of 1993

“House with the Round Corners” George Stickney and his House fall, 1993

Historical Background

The house with the round corners is one of the oldest homes in McHenry county. It was built by George Stickney, the first white settler in Nunda township.

George Stickney was born in Jaffrey, New Hampshire on June 26, 1809. When he was 19 years old he bought his time from his father for \$100. The following season he worked on a nearby farm for \$10 per month, and finished his schooling. Stickney moved to Binghamton the following spring where he was employed in the lumbering business until 1835. That next spring, he decided to move West. He built a small, round, wooden trunk, in which to carry his possessions, and started out for Buffalo, New York. He took the canal steamer, *the Daniel Webster*, down the Erie Canal to Detroit. From there he strapped the trunk on his back and began his journey to Michigan. After two weeks of traveling on foot he changed his plans, boarded a schooner at the mouth of the St. Joe River and sailed for Chicago. He arrived on June 25, 1835.¹ There he bought a compass and set out on an Indian trail to the Fox River Valley area. He made a land claim in Nunda township on December 10, 1835, three years before the government surveyed the area.² George Stickney built the first house in the township using logs and pegs.³

More settlers moved into the area and a town was quickly organized. Stickney was appointed supervisor by the court. He also served as road commissioner for three years and as a school director for sixteen years. Stickney, with G.L. Beckley and William Holcombe, as school directors, built the first log school house in the township. On October 27, 1839 he married Miss Sylvia M. Beckley, the daughter of G. L. Beckley. George and Sylvia Stickney were married for forty years and had ten children.⁴

Stickney was a prosperous farmer and merchant. It was in 1849 that construction of the very large (38'x38') and unusual brick home began.⁵ Because Stickney probably constructed the building himself and reportedly purchased many of the materials from outside the area, the construction was slow. The house was completed in 1856.⁶

George and Sylvia Stickney were Spiritualists, members of a religious movement that combined elements of Protestant conservatism with occult practices, including communications with the dead through seances.⁷ Spiritualism was not uncommon on the America frontier. In fact, it became a well accepted form of religious belief during the mid 1800s, with many highly

¹ History of McHenry County, Illinois. Chicago: Inter-state Publishing Company. 1885. p. 873.

² “House of Rounded Corners Continues Hold Much Interest” *Crystal Lake Herald*. March 13, 1947.

³ History of McHenry County, Illinois. p. 873.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 874.

⁵ “House of Rounded Corners Continues”. March 13, 1947.

⁶ “Stickney House”. Historic Structures Report compiled by Carow Architects, Planner, Chicago, Illinois. May 31, 1991. p. 1.

⁷ *Ibid.*

absorbed soot, dirt, and grime quickly, made the brick a difficult product to sell.¹³

Geologically, Wisconsin clays can be divided into two basic types, residual and transported. The former group is created by the disintegration of rock where it stands. Transported clays originate in the decomposition of rock on slopes and crests of high ground and slowly work their way into the valley with the assistance of water. Since the number and variety of sources for a single deposit may be great, these clays tend to be more complex. The lacustrine group of water-deposited sedimentary clays reportedly formed during the successive advances and recessions of the ice during the glacial epoch.¹⁴

The reason for the rarity and unique color of the Cream City brick lies in its chemical analysis. Since the composition of clay varies according to the quantity and quality of the rock in the zone supplying each respective deposit, only average percentages can be quoted for ingredients as a typical bed. . . .41% silica, 14.5% lime, 8.34% magnesia, 8% alumina, 3% iron, 3% potash, 20% combined water and insignificant amounts of soda, titanite and manganese oxide.¹⁵

Since almost all clays contain this same list of ingredients, it becomes obvious that the proportions are most critical. There is an uncommonly large percentage of calcium and magnesium in the cream city brick. These constituents have the common effect of neutralizing the presence of iron which normally gives the ruddy red color to clay.¹⁶

The dimensions of the buff colored bricks used in the Stickney house measure 2 inches by 4 inches by 8 inches. Those bricks laid on the straight portions of the elevations were pressed into straight rectilinear molds. Special bricks were also made with a slight curve on the stretcher side with tapering headers for use in the rounded corners.

The masonry walls are two wythes thick (8 inches) with the interior wythe construction consisting of a wood course of equal dimension to the brick (across the header and rowlock) inserted horizontally in the mortar every three to four courses. Along the rounded corners, the wood is cut into short sections making it easier to create the curvature or rounded corner. The exterior wythe, was laid at the same time as the interior and is exclusively brick.

The masonry walls are tied to vertical wood studs, at the horizontal wood courses, and attached to the wood lathe and plaster. A horizontal belt course was probably run for floor joist attachment.

The brick corbeled cornice projects about 18 inches from the plane of the wall. The cornice, comprised of a series of corbeled brackets spaced about 12 inches apart following the rounded corners, is a prominent element of the design and encircles a slightly pitched flat roof on three sides and four corners.

On April 24, 1991 the firm of Carow, architects and planners, of Chicago, reported in their Historic Structures Report on the Stickney House, that the walls are in fair to poor condition.¹⁷ The cornice requires complete reconstruction. There are two large vertical cracks in the southwest

¹³ Richard Perrin. Historic Wisconsin Buildings: A survey in Pioneer Architecture 1835-1870. Milwaukee Public Museum. Second edition. 1981. p. 64.

¹⁴ H. Russell Zimmermann. The Heritage Guide Book: Landmarks and Historical Sites in Southeastern Wisconsin. Milwaukee: Heritage Banks. 1976. p. 19.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* p. 15.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ "Stickney House" HSR by Carow. p. 6.

corner rounded wall extending from grade level, through the foundation and up--a total of 7 feet.. Cracking and deflection are also visible below the windows on the west elevation extending from the window's limestone sill to the foundation. Severe spalling and crumbling has taken place on the east elevation between and below the two rectangular windows. This is due to extensive water damage from the roof and possibly inadequate support of this upper wall portion when the lower wall was rebricked. Above the two second floor rectangular windows are structural stress cracks. In the 1930s, concrete buttresses were constructed on the north elevation to counter structural damage. This problem requires further study and a more sensitive solution.

Surface damage has been partially masked by a slurry or film of portland cement, a common practice for maintaining brick structures in the early 1900s. A chemist at Portland Cement Company suggests that this treatment was applied to the Stickney House after 1900 as it is a white-based cement with pigment added. This type of material was not available prior to 1900. Sometime after 1935 the house was painted. The type of paint used has not been determined. Removal of this has been attempted, but due to the softness of the brick, any removal attempt, even of a water spray, not only eliminates the paint and portland cement, but also the outer surface of the brick. Further investigation of this problem is planned.¹⁸

Limestone Masonry

Other important masonry elements of the house are the quarried limestone window lintels, sills, and foundation caps. Three-piece limestone lintels follow the arch form of the windows with rounded ends and a central keystone. The quarry source for these is not known. Each limestone element was hand hewn and decorated with hammered patterns adding to the ornate qualities of the building. Two patterns are distinguishable. . . a bush hammer stippled texture is found in the center of each piece surrounded by a patent hammer or chisel finish of parallel lines.¹⁹

The limestone elements have been painted and removal of the paint will help in giving a more accurate condition report. Some surface spalling, as on the window lintel in the southeast corner, is visible. In some cases loss of significant portions of the original cross-section areas is evident.

Windows and doors

The windows throughout the house are of wood frame and are double-hung in design. All but three windows on the rear (east) elevation have rounded arch top elements with wood muntins terminating in a triple Gothic arch. This design motif is common in ecclesiastical architecture and reflects the religious influence in the design of the house.

The condition of the 15 windows on the north, south and west elevations of the house is fair with varying degrees of wood rot evidenced. Most of the windows are covered exteriorly with plywood. The interior condition indicates that frame, muntins, and sash restoration work will be necessary on all windows and glass pane replacement is also required.

An interview with two prior residents of the Stickney House, Mrs. Helen Colcord (1922-1930) and Mr. Carl Nelson (1930-1935) confirmed that a 16th window of the same design did occupy the opening now being used as the north door which was installed in the 1930s. A 17th window, also of the same design, was located on the east wall, south of the back porch.²⁰

Of the three documented original door openings, two still hold the 1850's doors. . .the upstairs balcony door on the west elevation and the door on the southern elevation. Both require

¹⁸ Maggie Bailey, Bull Valley Foundation member who handled the brick/paint evaluation in 1991. interview. December 8, 1993.

¹⁹ Frederick P. Spalding. Masonry Structures. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 1921. p. 63.

²⁰ Helen Colcord and Carl Nelson, interview on video tape. April 20, 1991.

repair.

The main entrance on the west elevation, further expresses the curved motif of the house in the detailed framework and tracery of the transom and sidelights flanking the front door. The original door, which has been lost over the years, was also curved to fit the door frame as shown in a 1947 photograph. The front door has been replaced with a flat one. The wooden support lintel above the front doorway is severely deteriorated and will required replacement.

Porches

Although the porch on the west elevation was removed several years ago, we know from early photographs and from the surviving foundation, that it also had rounded corners. The porch foundation was constructed of rubble, cobblestone, and mortar - measuring 15 inches thick and extending 20 inches above grade. It was a footing form of foundation. The balcony and its roof were supported by columns. Both porch and balcony had handrails which followed the curvature of the house design. The balcony roof was probably slightly pitched as not to interfere with the cornice. The exact design of the original porch and balcony is unknown as no photographs have been found which date earlier than 1912.²¹ In more recent years the foundation has been encased in wood vertical boards which are rotting away. Consulting architect John Jurwicz, has drawn a computer generated projection of the original porch based on documentation to date.

Along the south elevation was another covered porch. This porch which was also removed many years ago, was of one-story height but considerably wider than the porch on the west side. Its function was probably that of an outdoor sitting area providing privacy and a sunny exposure. Early photographs show this porch without a handrail. Mr. Nelson told a colorful story during the 1991 interview about this porch. He remembered that the roof on this porch was flat and of tin construction, because the hired men who stayed in the room just above the porch roof were often too lazy to go out and use the out house. They would just open up a window and go on the porch roof. When the sun shown and heated up the porch roof, the stench was unforgettable.²²

The porch foundation of the south elevation was also constructed of cobblestone, rubble and mortar. The original decking material of the porch is unknown but, was more recently covered with concrete. This concrete is breaking away from the cobblestone.

In the 1991 interview, Mr. Nelson also revealed that on the east elevation of the original house there was a back porch. It is likely that there was a door which lead into the first floor of the house from this porch even though no documented evidence currently exists, to that effect. The porch had steps going off to the north and to the south. A door opening into the basement was underneath this porch. This opening has since been filled with concrete but it's location is still discernible. Evidence of the roof flashing from the porch still remains even though parts of the wall have been rebuilt over time.²³

During the interview, Mrs. Colcord spoke about a summer kitchen which was not attached to the main structure, but was built a short distance from the northeast corner of the house. A future archeological dig is proposed to find it's exact location.²⁴

²¹ Ders Anderson, archeologist and planner. interview, November 19, 1993. He has 1912 photograph in his files.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Colcord and Nelson, interview. April 20, 1991.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

Roof Structure

John Jurwicz, consulting architect, postulates the original roof materials were wood block, coal pitch tar, and layers of organic felt. They were applied using a process called hot mop, where tar was heated to extreme temperatures in a large kettle and applied to the layers of felt. As the tar cooled it hardened and formed a solid seal.²⁵ The roof is flush with the top of the parapet along the west elevation and pitches down towards the east. This design was to provide a directed drainage for rain water and melting snow.

The roof is in poor condition and a recommendation of its complete removal and replacement within 18 months has been made.²⁶ Water damage from its poor condition has been extensive, causing the buckling of the east wall with damage also evident on its interior surface. Meanwhile, steps have been taken to temporarily seal the roof.²⁷

Cobblestone Foundation

The exterior facing of the foundation was covered with cobblestones, small rounded rocks shaped by the action of glacial ice and water. They were placed in horizontal rows. The horizontal mortar lines were exaggerated to emphasize the curving movement around the corners, and to create an ornate patterned quality. Building in this material was always slow, as every few feet it was necessary to stop and allow the mortar to set up in order to achieve a firm condition. No building was ever done when the weather was wet or during the winter when it was cold.²⁸ This cobblestone treatment is quite common out east, especially in western New York state, but is unique in this part of the country²⁹.

During the late 1800s however, there was a local man, Andrew Simons, who was noted for his cobblestone foundations. Simons, who came to Illinois from New York, carted the stones from the shore of Lake Michigan by wagon and is known for his cobblestone foundation work in neighboring Crystal Lake. . .the Walkup house, the Colonel Palmer house and the Wallace house.³⁰ It is possible that Simon also worked on the Stickney house, but documentation of this has yet to be found.

Two of the cobblestone corners remain exposed, the others have been capped in concrete. The southwest corner foundation cap has cracked and is displaced due to settling. It should be reset. Many pier bases have also spalled, cracked and broken off due to moisture and settling.

Structural systems

The original load bearing system consisted of fieldstone and rubble foundation walls, made from indigenous stones, taken to a depth of five feet below grade.³¹ These supported four exterior walls and two interior load bearing partition walls, each 12 inches thick and running north and south. The foundation walls support the oak wood framing system of stud walls, floor joists, and roof rafters spanning between the east and west exterior walls and the two north/south interior partition walls in the basement. The east-west pitch of the roof and the north/south bearing of the interior foundation walls strongly suggest that the roof rafters and floor joists on both floors span the east-west direction.

²⁵ John Jurwicz, interview. November 16, 1993.

²⁶ "Stickney House" HSR by Carow. p. 5.

²⁷ Ders Anderson, interview. November 19, 1993.

²⁸ Alec Clifton Taylor. English Stone Building. London: Victor Gollancz Ltd. 1983 p. 52.

²⁹ Harley McKee. An Introduction to Early American Masonry. Washington D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States. 1973. p. 30.

³⁰ Mary Ann Fergus. "Stone Mason Builds own House of Wood" *The Northwest Herald*. April 15, 1993.

³¹ "Stickney House" HSR by Carow. p. 5.

Carow reported in 1991 that there was the possibility of a powder beetle infestation in the wood framing on the first floor. This condition has weakened the structure.³² Powder beetles lay their eggs in cracks and crevices in the surface of unfinished wood. After the eggs hatch, the larvae feed and tunnel through the wood, reducing it to a powdery residue. The newly formed adult beetles chew small round holes in the wood surface. Shortly after emerging, the beetles mate and lay eggs, reinvesting the same wood.³³ A professional inspection by a licensed pest control operator has been made and the exterminating company has corrected the problem for the present time.

When the two interior foundation walls were altered, reportedly during the installation of the heating system in the 1940s, the load bearing effectiveness of the foundation was substantially reduced. New bearing walls have been constructed on top of new hand dug and reinforced footings. Second floor joists have also been added to the existing 2"x8" joists to strengthen the structural system.³⁴

Heat and Electrical systems

An early photograph indicates that four brick chimneys, extending five feet above the top of the cornice, were symmetrically arranged along the north and south walls.³⁵ Chimney stacks were built within the walls, as no exterior evidence of these exist except from atop the roof.

The four chimney caps, no longer needed for wood stove flues as in the original heating system, were removed and their roof penetrations were eliminated. Evidence indicates that originally there were three wood stoves and a cook stove on the first floor and two wood stoves in the ballroom on the second floor. Mr. Nelson reported that about 50 years ago a central furnace was installed with the chimney construction supported on an interior foundation footing in the basement.³⁶ This chimney extends up through the roof and is visible above the east elevation and also along the east wall of the original dining room and central upstairs bedroom. A fake, brick veneer fireplace was installed in the 1970s in the dining room with provisions for a working wood stove on the hearth. The stove pipe was then tied into the furnace chimney chase for venting up through the second floor.³⁷

The house is currently heated by a gas forced air furnace located in the basement. The unit was installed twelve years ago.³⁸ A liquid propane gas tank, located on the east side, provides the necessary fuel. The air distribution system is in need of work as only three ducts feed into the second floor and none are located below windows, which are the primary sources of heat loss.

At the present time there is no working electric on the second floor or in the first floor parlors.

Water Systems

In the southeast corner of the basement was the Stickney cistern. It was enclosed on all sides and completely lined with concrete. Opening from the east wall was a copper downspout which pointed directly into the basin carrying rain water from the roof. Water from melting snow

³² "Stickney House". HSR by Carow, p.5.

³³ Martin E. Weaver. Conserving Buildings. New York: John Wiley and Sons. Inc. 1992. pp. 28-31.

³⁴ Ders Anderson, interview . November 19, 1993.

³⁵ "Stickney House" HSR by Carow, p. 2.

³⁶ Colcord and Nelson. interview. April 20, 1991.

³⁷ Ann Collins. 1974-1981 resident, interview. November 19, 1991.

³⁸ Collins, interview. November 16, 1991.

also flowed down through the drainage system and into the cistern. The cistern had a brick vaulted covering which kept the water pure for household use. The vaulted covering collapsed in the past few years, but the path of the arch can still be traced along the back wall. There was a pump on the first floor above the cistern, to access the water.

The Stickney's also had a spring on the property. The flow was sufficient to provide adequate gravity pressure all years around. The water was channeled in to and out of the water room and was reportedly cold and pure.³⁹

According to the interview with Mrs. Colcord and Mr. Nelson, indoor plumbing was added around World War II. To accommodate indoor plumbing, the first floor bedroom and a second floor bedroom, both on the southeast corner, were converted into bathrooms. At one time, the spring was reportedly diverted into a neighboring cheese factory. Water was then supplied by a well and a septic system was installed.⁴⁰

First Floor

No plans have been found showing the original 1856 interior design, however, it is possible to postulate a plan based on existing evidence and research. The floor plan of this ten room house was a classically-arranged square with central entrance.

The foyer was flanked on either side with two identical parlors and opens to two matching doorways on the east, one leading to the curved second floor stairway and one leading into the centrally located dining room. These two interior doors restate the arched, Gothic theme of the window tracery. The pine floor in the main foyer has been spot cut over the years as central heat and electric were added.

To the north of the foyer is the north parlor, a square dimensioned room with rounded corners in plan and elevation. No structural changes have been made in this room. A chimney chase relief is visible on the north wall where the original wood stove was once vented. There is considerable plaster damage in the ceiling where water infiltration has been a problem. The floor and wood moldings are pine and are in good repair.

Across the foyer to the south is an identical parlor room identified as the south parlor. Along the south wall there is a chimney chase which projects into the room beginning four feet above the floor, giving an indication of the location of the original wood burning stove in this room. Plaster is pulling away on the ceiling in the northeast corner due to moisture penetration, but the pine flooring and moldings are in good shape.

Within the south parlor at present are the remains of the front porch materials. The pieces of hand railing, column and capitals are not from the original porch, which was replaced around the turn of the century, but from a 1950's structure. Extensive wood rot and deterioration is evident on these pieces.

East of the south parlor is the original dining room. This room has had extensive remodeling. The floor in the room is maple and is an inch higher than the other pine floors on this level. This suggests that it was added at a later date. On the west wall, missing molding and wall cracks indicate that there was once a doorway opening into the south parlor. Interviews confirm this.⁴¹ On the south wall there is a chimney chase projecting into the room which indicates the primary location of a wood burner. The fireplace structure on the east wall has been detailed

³⁹ Colcord and Nelson, interview. April 20, 1991.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

previously, but to the north of it is the original pass through. This was a manufactured piece of furniture, a built in, which filled in one half of the opening of a double door combination. It's purpose was to keep the activities in the pantry and water room private from the guests being served in the dining room. There is also question about the north east corner of the room. Unusual remodeling has occurred in this corner as the curvature of the rounded corner exists at the bottom but it has been straightened and angled at the top of the wall.

To the east of the dining room is the water room/pantry. This is where the spring water was channeled into and out of the house and where the cistern pump was located. This room presently serves as a storage area for the Bull Valley Police Department and city clerk. A wall with a small square window separates this room from a small bedroom space to the south,⁴² now being used as a bathroom.

The area which served as the Stickney primary kitchen is presently being used as the police department headquarters and was off limits to my photographic investigation. Mr. Nelson did state, during his interview, that there was a woodshed, attached to the northeast corner of the house, which had a pass through opening for wood. This made the wood supply for the cook stove more accessible.⁴³

To the north of the primary kitchen was a small pantry room with an arched window. In the 1930's, the window was removed and a door was put in it's place. The doorway is presently serving as the entry to the police station.

Second Floor

The design of the second floor includes a 38 foot ballroom with rounded corners both in plan and in elevation. According to reports, during the 1970's, the owners built a temporary partition wall of cedar closets to divide the room into two bedroom units.⁴⁴ This dividing unit remains today. The floor is pine and is partially painted. A chimney chase with flu cover is located on the north wall and the south wall indicating that there were wood stoves in this room. The original door which lead out to the covered balcony remains but is need of extensive repair as pieces are missing and broken.

An unpainted area of the floor molding reveals the use of faux woodgraining finishing. According to a 1991 interview with Stickney house resident, Ann Collins (1974-1981), the hand painted woodwork is a milk base paint.⁴⁵ Casein, or milk paint, was first applied to the wood in a white primer ground which was allowed to dry. It was made from soured skim milk. The curd and whey were separated, washed, dried and then ground. The resulting slightly yellowish granular powder was then emulsified. The curd of milk is a natural emulsion and in time becomes insoluble in water. It dries to an extremely hard finish. As a second layer, a coat of tinted casein was applied. The pigment for the tint was often made by adding minerals. Just before the tint coat became tacky, a comb was pulled across making a pattern on the surface. The combs were made of bone, metal or leather and the patterns most frequently used were straight or striated, serpentine or diaper (diamond).⁴⁶ The molding in the Stickney house has samples of two different patterns. On the base 2"x 6" there is a serpentine pattern and on the upper 1"x 3" their is the diaper pattern.

⁴² Colcord and Nelson, interview. April 20, 1991.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ Collins, interview. November 16, 1991.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ Isabel O'Neil. The Art of the Painted Finish for Furniture and Decoration. New York: William Morrow and Co. Inc. 1971. pp. 139-149.

In North America there has been a long tradition of woodgraining, dating back to the 1700s in which itinerant craftsman employed simple pigments and a variety of locally available mediums to grain wood paneling, molding, furniture and domestic artifacts. The purpose was to deceive the onlooker into thinking he or she was looking at something of more expensive wood materials.⁴⁷

To the east of the ballroom is a large centrally located room. Along the east wall, the 1940s furnace chimney can be seen. At the point where it penetrates the ceiling, there is evidence of water damage as plaster is breaking away and there are signs of rust. On the floor below is the fire stop where the 1970s wood stove flu came through, running up the wall and connecting with the flu hole in the furnace chimney. A circular roof hatch, centrally located in the ceiling of this room, has been covered over exteriorly with asphalt. An ornate ceiling medallion covered this hatch in years past.⁴⁸ A chimney chase runs up the wall on the south, but before it reaches the ceiling it bends to the east. This could be Stickney's chimney smoke shelf design for this chase. There is no evidence here that this room was originally heated.

A detail inspection of the small room to the east of the room just discussed, shows how the chimney completes its' bends and also the peculiar placement of a window in the acute angle behind a rounded inside corner. This small room is documented as having been connected to the room just to the north by an adjoining closet and served as a bedroom.⁴⁹

The rectangular room to the north, peculiar to the design of this house, is centered on the second floor on the east elevation. Extensive remodeling has occurred here and it is difficult to determine its original condition. A 12 over 8 rectangular double hung window is centered on the east side of this room.

To the north of the rectangular room is a small room with two rounded corners. This room also has a 12 over 8 rectangular window on the east side. A large crack extends upward from the window to the ceiling with considerable ceiling deflection above it. In the northwestern corner of the room, the west wall curves around slightly narrowing the hallway on the other side of the wall. Running the length of this room is a ceiling beam which, according to Mrs. Colcord, notes where a wall use to be. She describes this space as being divided into two separate rooms with adjoining doors and reports that the combination was originally used as a nursery and nanny's room.⁵⁰

The house has experienced many periods of vacancy as well as a long list of tenants during the last sixty years. Maintenance has been poor and vandalism has been high. Efforts to restore or maintain have been limited by funding.

Restoration Objectives and Program

In 1986, three medical doctors deeded the house and 2 acres of the property to The Village of Bull Valley. That year it also was placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural uniqueness.⁵¹

The primary objective of the Village of Bull Valley is to save the house from destruction. Years of neglect, vandalism and pest infestations have put the structure in danger. The building requires extensive stabilization and reconstruction. Ders Anderson, planner and archeologist, has championed this restoration campaign.

⁴⁷ Judith and Martin Miller. *Period Finishes and Effects*. New York: Rizzoli. 1992. p. 97.

⁴⁸ Colcord and Nelson, interview. April 20, 1991.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination form. 1986.

Without accurate records, the restoration process will be difficult. The village has decided to concentrate primarily on the exterior elevations of the north, west and south, as these are the most visible to the public from Cherry Valley Road.⁵²

Within the house, the most distinctive rooms, as well as the best preserved, are the primary focus. These are the entrance foyer and the two flanking parlors on the west elevation. The Village of Bull Valley plans to restore them to their original condition and furnish them with period pieces. These rooms will then be made available to the public for viewing.⁵³

A secondary objective of the village is to remove the partition in the ballroom and open it up to its original size. This can be done easily and with little damage to the original materials. However, because of the difficulty involved in accessing the second floor by the original stairs, public use of the second floor is quite limited.⁵⁴

Restorability of the rooms on the east side of the house is questionable due to the extensive remodeling that has taken place over the years. Adaptive use is the most feasible alternative, both upstairs and down. Government offices and other facilities will be set up. A new entrance, on the east side, to meet handicapped accessibility requirements is proposed.

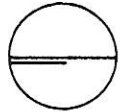
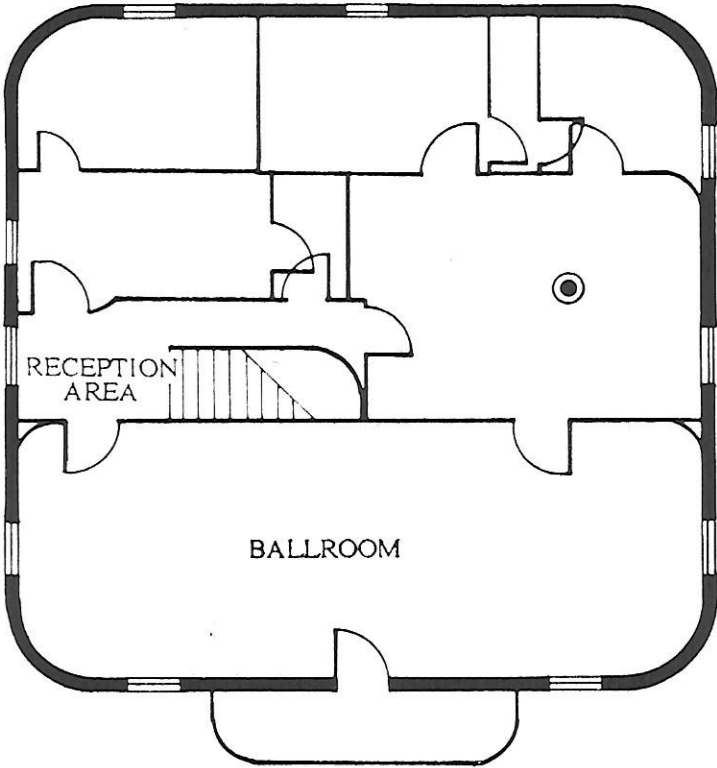
⁵² Ders Anderson, interview. November 19, 1993.

⁵³ *Ibid.*

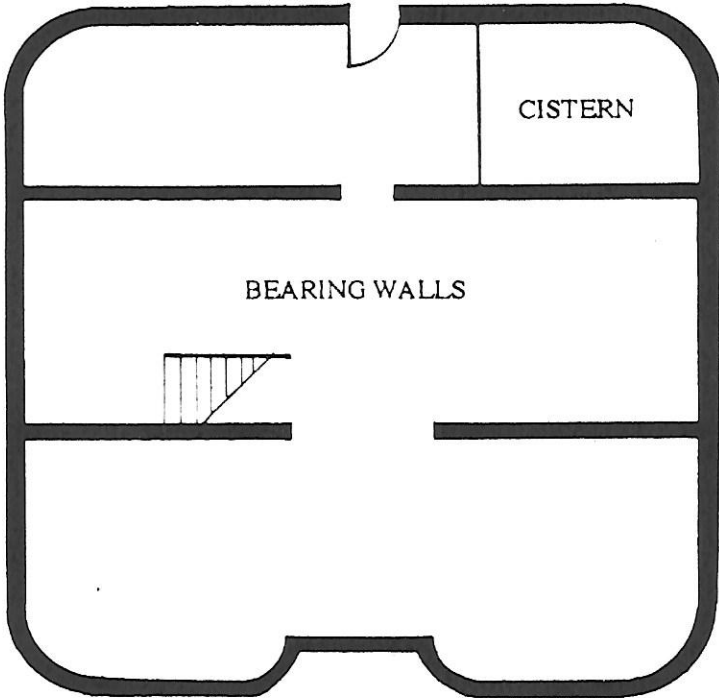
⁵⁴ "Stickney House", HSR by Carow. p. 14.

Appendix

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

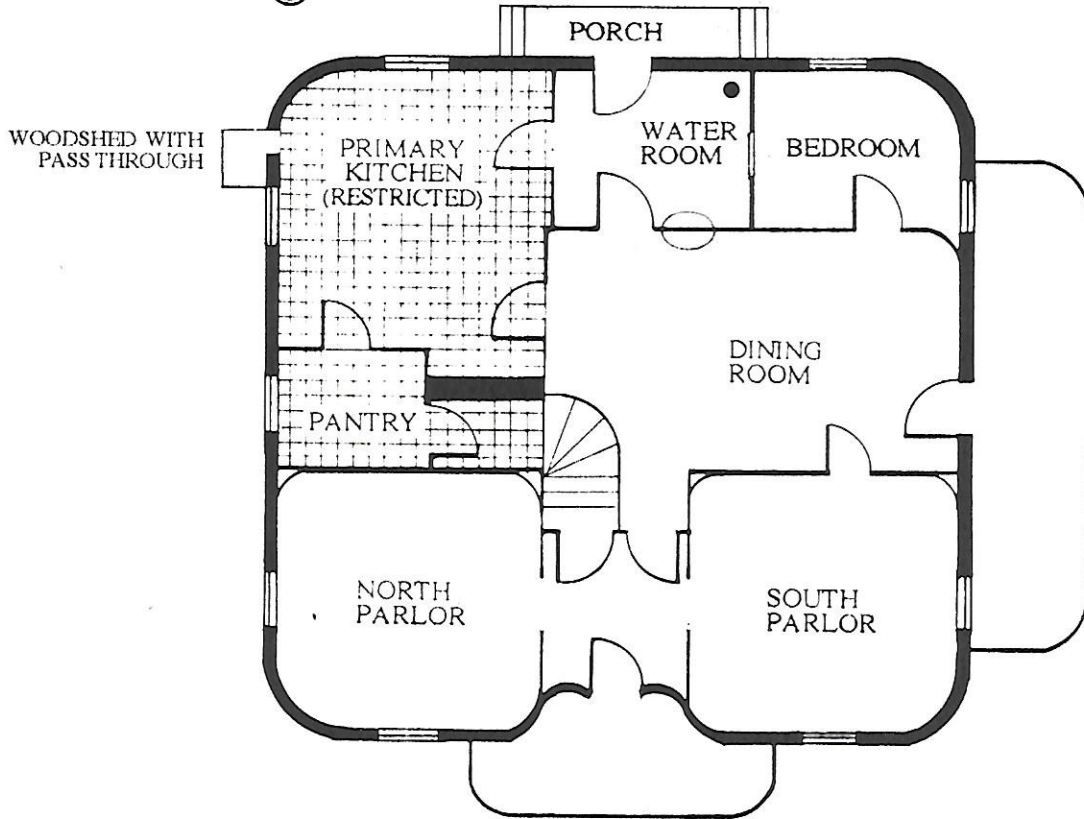
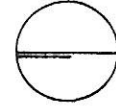


BASEMENT PLAN



SITE OF
SUMMER
KITCHEN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



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