

CRBIB#000712

EDIS.026

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT - PART I 403/D-9A

BUILDING NO. 16, FRAME BARN

EDISON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

(ADMINISTRATIVE, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHITECTURAL DATA)

Prepared by Melvin J. Weig, Superintendent;
Benjamin Levy, Supervisory Historian; Arthur Spiegler,
Historian; and Norman Souder, Architect

Copy No. 2

June 2, 1965

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
PART I
ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION
ON THE
BARN AT GLENMONT
Edison National Historic Site

Prepared by
Norman M. Souder
Architect
May 1965

for

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
Division of Architecture

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON THE

BARN AT GLENMONT

Edison National Historic Site

A P P R O V A L S H E E T

RECOMMENDED

Superintendent

Date _____

Robert H. Hall
Chief, EODC

Date 5-19-65

Regional Director, Northeast Region

Date 7-21-65

APPROVED

Director

Date 8-10-65

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I. FOREWORD

The barn is not readily visible to the visitors to Glenmont. It is located on the north boundary of the property and is concealed by a screen of large evergreen trees.

The actual building date is not presently known. It is hoped that future historical research may produce documentary evidence of the original structure. It appears to have been built in the same era as the mansion it served. Glenmont was built in 1880 and it is logical to assume that horses and carriages, and consequently a stable, were a necessary adjunct to the large house.

The barn was originally erected on the site of the present garage. When Thomas Edison built the monolithic concrete garage in 1908 the barn was moved to its present site in the service area, east of the greenhouse and gardener's cottage.

The construction of the barn indicates a change in the plan and orientation of the structure, probably at the time of the moving and at a time when horses and carriages were replaced by automobiles.

In the 1920's one section of the interior was adapted as a cow stable and the shed added to the inside corner of the ell for calves.

The Glenmont barn is in good physical condition, except for lack of foundations under the calf shed and chicken house.

Norman M. Souder
Architect
May 1965

II. EXISTING CONDITIONS - EXTERIOR

A. Walls

The Victorian style barn is basically an L-shaped structure, 51'-7" x 42'-6". The structure is wood frame on a concrete foundation. It is one story high with a loft over the main portion.

The exterior siding is a combination of bevel siding with 4-1/2" exposure and wood shingles with a 6" exposure. The siding is placed on the lower portion and the shingles in the gables and over a flat trim strip on the long sides. The flat trim is placed to form a decorative treatment at the corners and window heads. The east face has a series of eight panels of drop siding, separated by flat trim, located between the window and door heads of the first floor and the sill of the loft door.

The corner trim, division boards and skirting boards are placed on the same plane, dividing the wall areas into panels.

The calf shed which was the latest addition is sided in vertical boarding of varying widths and types. No effort was made to match the architectural treatment of the main structure.

The entire structure is painted dark green, causing it to blend with the grouping of evergreens which surround it.

B. Roof

The roofing of the barn is slate and the present roof of

2.

the calf shed is covered with roll roofing. The present slate roofing dates to the moving of the barn to its present site. In the chicken house two former triple skylights in the long west slope of the roof were closed up when the building was moved. Mr. Hallstrom, the Edison's gardener, explained that the skylights faced south when the building was in its original location, thus providing additional light in the chicken house interior in winter months.

When the interior was adapted for the housing of cows, the modern metal ventilator was installed on the center of the ridge of the main section.

The cornices are Victorian with an overhang on the gables ornamented with a combination of fascia board and typically Victorian mouldings. The eave sides of the building are ornamented with false rafters on fifteen inch centers. The ends of the rafters are trimmed with decorative concave cuts.

Recent repairs to the roof include a new moulded metal ridge superimposed on the slate roof in a manner similar to the ridge treatment on the house at Glenmont.

C. Fenestration

1. Windows

Most of the windows in the barn are typically Victorian. The sash, most of which is obviously original, consists of twelve

3.

six inch by nine inch panes. The sash is either hinged or fixed and on the south wall of the feed room is arranged as double hung sash. In the chicken house wing the sash are arranged in groups of three and in other areas are used as single and double windows.

The 1920 period alterations included three new bottom-hinged sash with large panes set into the south wall. The west wall of the calf shed also has two later period sash consisting of nine large lights.

2. Doors

The exterior doors are varied in type and size, but are of the same general design. On the east side there are a pair of sliding doors, a single door to the entry and a pair of hinged doors at the loft level. All are heavily constructed doors with panels of narrow beaded boards set diagonally. The original treatment had three-quarter round moulding outlining the panels. Where the stiles and rails have been repaired the mouldings were replaced with the bevelling of the replacements.

The upper panels of the sliding doors are fitted with the twelve light sash typical of the building. Both loft doors have nine inch by eleven inch glass set in the upper vertically boarded panels.

The two doors on the west side, one opening from the cow

4.

stable to the open shed, and the other from the calf shed are two swing doors. Both sets of doors have diagonally boarded panels.

The interior of the open shed on the west end of the barn is lined with flush siding similar to the interior treatment of the barn.

III. EXISTING CONDITIONS - INTERIOR

A. Plan

As has been noted, the basic plan of the barn is in the shape of an "L". The main portion placed approximately on an east-west axis, houses an entry, feed room, cow stable and open shed. The wing extending to the north on a line with the east wall contains a pony stable and chicken house.

The presence of several posts with quadruple reeded decorations about five feet above the floor line gives rise to the speculation that the plan is changed from the original. The wood columns were obviously designed to be in full view, but in their present locations are partially concealed by partitions. It is not possible nor practical at this time to do a thorough architectural investigation to determine the original layout.

B. Floors

The floors in the barn are concrete or earth, depending upon the use of the area. Concrete is used in all areas except the chicken house, calf shed and the open shed.

The flooring in the cow stable is on various levels and contains a feeding trough and drainage gutter. The area between the stanchions is paved with brick. The concrete aisle on the south side of the stanchions is approximately fourteen inches above the

aisle on the north side. The two aisles are joined by a concrete ramp on the west wall. The sixteen inch gutter is bridged at the base of the ramp by a finely designed cast iron plate in a raised fleur-de-lis pattern.

C. Walls and Ceiling

The interior walls and ceilings throughout the first floor are sheathed with flush board siding. In some cases beaded edge boards are used. The entry, in addition to the siding, has a chair rail high wainscot trimmed with a heavy moulding of multiple beading.

The interior siding is painted white and in the stables and chicken house whitewash was applied over the paint.

D. Interior Features

1. Chicken House

The chicken house end of the building is now used for storage. There were formerly four openings to the chicken runs located under the centers of the triple windows on the east and west walls. These openings were later covered on the exterior by skirt boards. The two ranks of triple skylights in line with triple windows on the west wall were covered when the barn was moved to its present site. However, they are still visible on the interior.

The two ranks of triple window openings are presently covered with wire screens. Marks on the jambs and head show that

sash were once used in these openings similar to the windows on the north and west walls.

2. Pony Stable

The pony stable, entered from the exterior by the sliding doors, is a room housing both a carriage and the pony. The stall, located in the northwest corner, is sided with a wood wainscot surmounted by an elaborate cast iron screen. The newel at the end of the stall is capped by a cast iron finial. The manger is a quarter circle of cast iron rods. The concrete floor in the stall is covered with a sturdy wood slatted duckboard. A shallow gutter runs from the stall area into a floor drain near the center of the room. The former sash in the double window on the west wall are no longer in place. They appear to have been re-used in the construction of the north wall of the calf shed. A long, narrow, re-used window sash of unknown origin is located in the north wall above the stall to provide borrowed light from the chicken house.

3. Feed Room

The feed room to the left of the entry is lighted by a single hinged sash on the east wall and a double hung sash on the south wall. The unusual feature in this room is the twenty inch concrete riser to the narrow door opening on the feeding aisle in the cow stable. A wood, slatted gate is hung at the opening between

the entry and feed room in lieu of a door.

4. Cow Stable

The unusual arrangement of floor levels has been described in Section III B, Floors. This modern system was introduced in the 1920's when the commercially produced pipe stanchions were installed. Each of the three stanchions is equipped with automatic water fountains. At the same time the small louvers and the three top opening windows were added. A built in ladder attached to the west wall is the means of access to the loft area.

A large door to the open shed is located on the west wall and another to the calf shed is on the north wall.

The doors on the east wall are the six panel type commonly used in houses at the turn of the century.

5. Calf Shed

The comparatively rude construction of the calf shed is exposed on the interior. The sill plates are resting directly on grade and are in a decayed condition. The clapboard sidewalls of the barn structure are also exposed in the shed.

6. Loft

The long narrow loft is lighted by a window in the west gable and the two small lights in the doors in the east gable. It is floored in wide boards. The rafters and roof sheathing are

exposed as are the outlookers which form the decorative rafter ends on the exterior.

A metal duct from the roof ventilator follows the sloping roof line to the floor at the north wall. The duct ends at a ceiling grille in the cow stable below. The roof is framed with vertically sawn two by six inch rafters (full dimension) placed on twenty and one-half inch centers. The rafters are attached to a 2-1/4 inch by 9 inch ridge pole.

7. Utilities

Electrical wiring and water pipes were installed in the barn in Edison's time, but in recent years have been disconnected since the barn is now used only for storage of momentos and miscellaneous materials.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

As has been noted in the foreword of this report, the building is in good physical condition except for the following:

1. The sill plates in the chicken house and calf shed have deteriorated from long contact with the ground. It will be necessary to remove the siding and plates and elevate the buildings to correct the sag.
2. New concrete foundations and sill plates will be required on the north and west walls of both the chicken house and calf shed. When this is completed matching siding and repairs will be required at the grade level.
3. To protect the interior of the building it would be advisable to replace the six sash missing on the east side of the chicken house with sash matching the 12 light sash in the remainder of the building.
4. In the process of repairing the barn the three quarter round mouldings on the door panels should be replaced.

COST ESTIMATE

Carpentry

Labor.....	\$2,000.00
Material.....	500.00
Millwork.....	350.00

Masonry

Labor.....	1,800.00
Material.....	375.00

Painting

Labor.....	900.00
Material.....	<u>150.00</u>

TOTAL	\$6,075.00
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ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

The east, or front, of the Glenmont Barn. The entrance is on the left. The double sliding doors open into the pony stable. The two banks of screened openings on the right are part of the chicken house portion of the barn. Note the decorative treatment of the main building at the right with clapboard panels and shingle above at the loft level.

Photo: National Park Service
Gordie Whittington, April 1965

EODC Neg. No. 124.74



ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

The northwest corner of the chicken house wing showing the unequal roof pitches and change in the exterior treatment levels. The stone fence against the building is the north property line and a factor in the decay of the sill plate.

Photo: National Park Service
Gordie Whittington, April 1965

EODC Neg. No. 124.75



ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

West elevation of the chicken house and calf shed. These sides of the buildings have no foundations and as a result the sill plates have decayed causing settling which can be seen in the sagging eave line. It is this area and the north side of the chicken house shown in Illustration No. 2 that will require a new concrete foundation. The long slope of the chicken house roof at the left has two skylights composed of three sections each, now covered by the slate roofing.

Photo: National Park Service
Gordie Whittington, April 1965

EODC Neg. No. 124.76



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

The northwest corner of the main section showing the open shed. The wide, light painted door leads to the cow stable. The double window in the gable lights the long narrow loft. Note the quadruple beading on the post at the corner. This feature also appears on several of the post on the interior of the building suggesting a possible change in the plan when the building was moved from its original site to the present location.

Photo: National Park Service
Gordie Whittington, April 1965

EODC Neg. No. 124.77

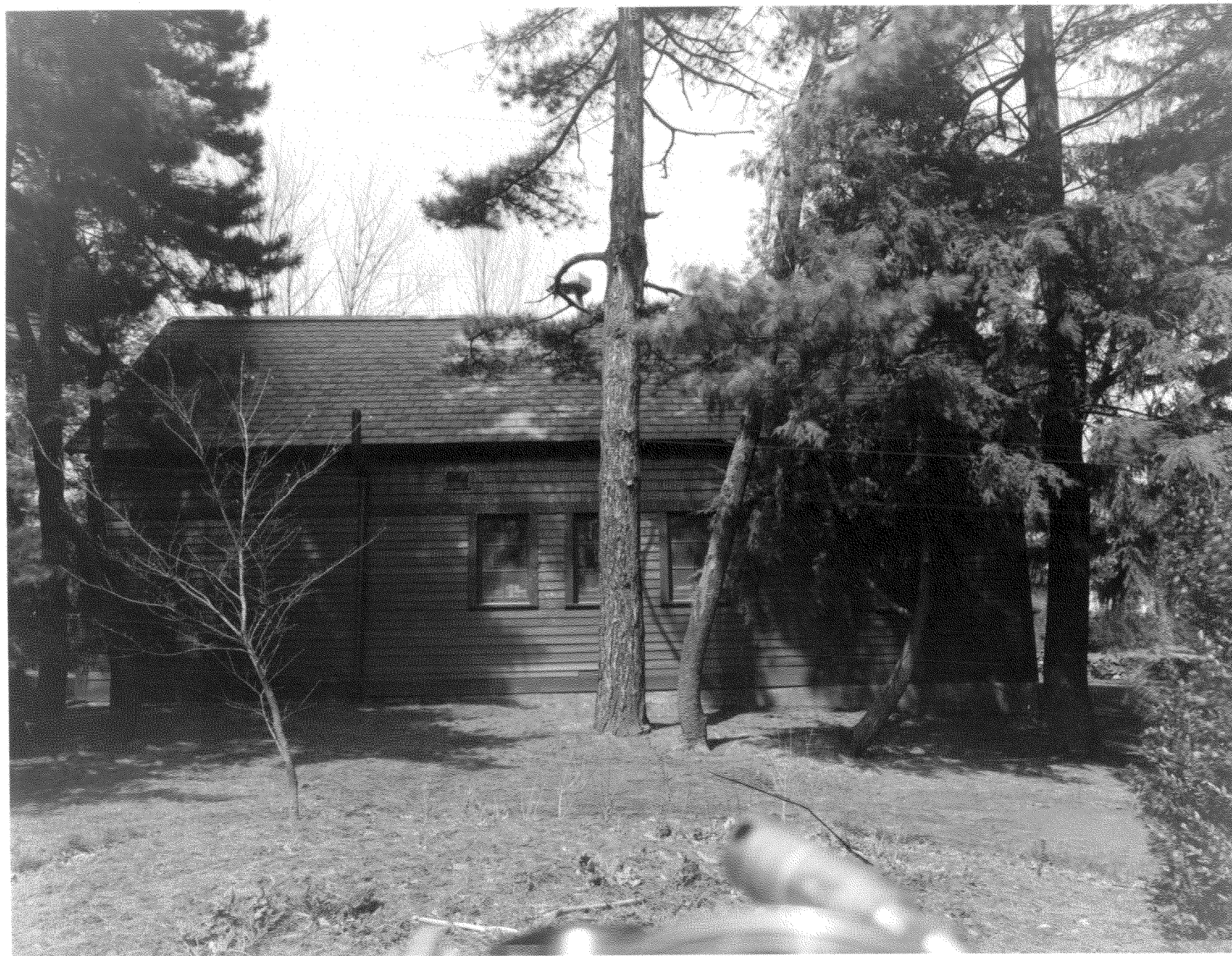


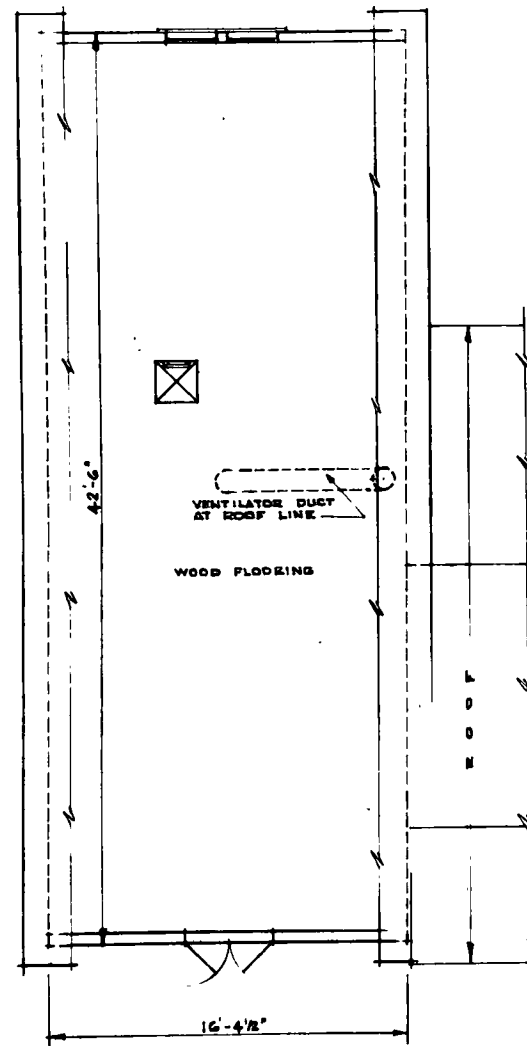
ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

The south side of the barn showing the three later windows in the cow stable. An earlier double hung window on the right is obscured by the trunks and shadows of the trees planted to screen the barn from view.

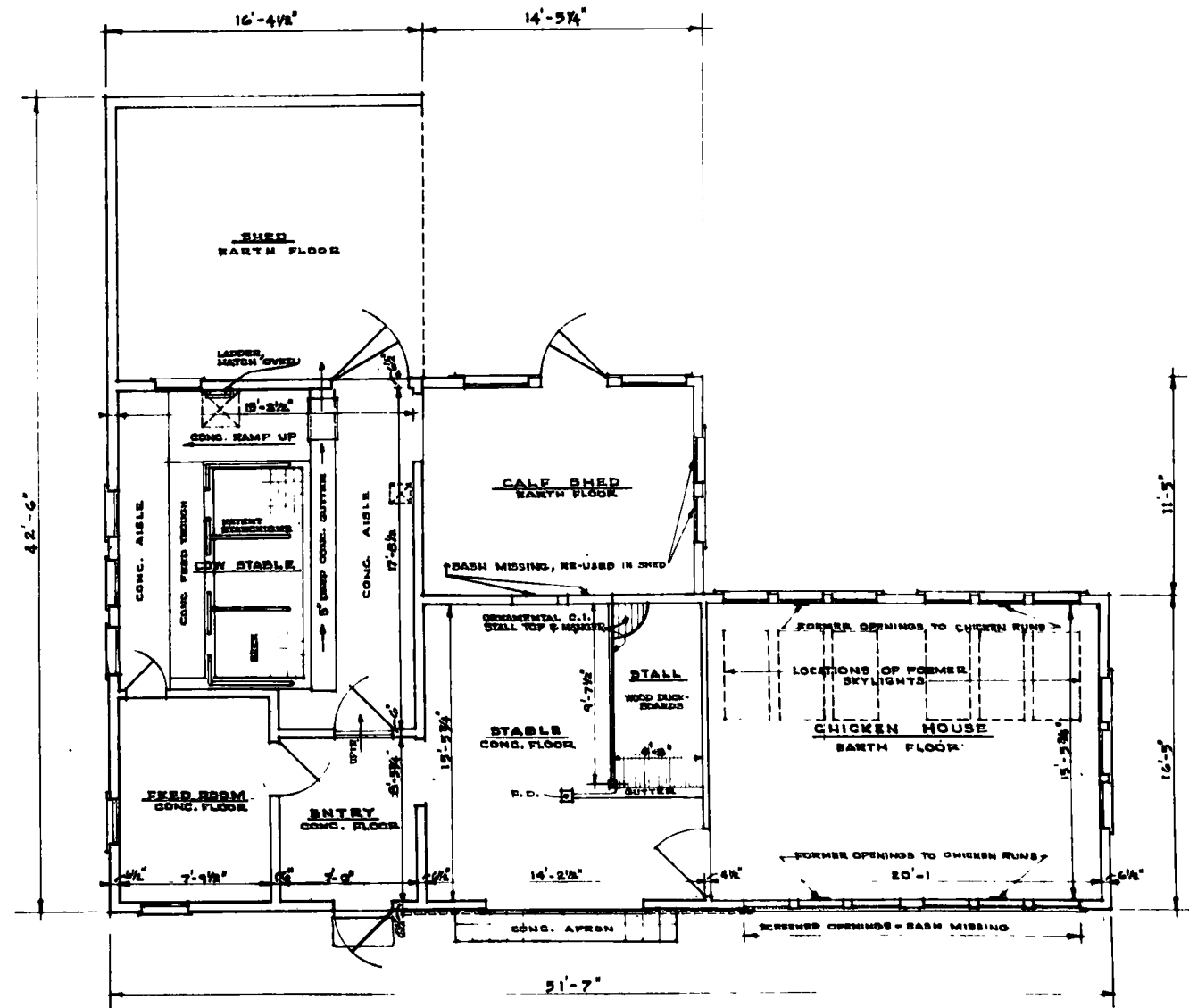
Photo: National Park Service
Gordie Whittington, April 1965

EODC Neg. No. 124.78





LOFT PLAN
SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"



FLOOR PLAN
SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"



ORIENTATION

PREPARED

DESIGNED

ACQUIRED

CHANGED

DATE

INITIAL

REVIEWED

REGION

NORTHEAST

POP. NO.

SHEET 1 OF 2

DRAWING NO.

DATE

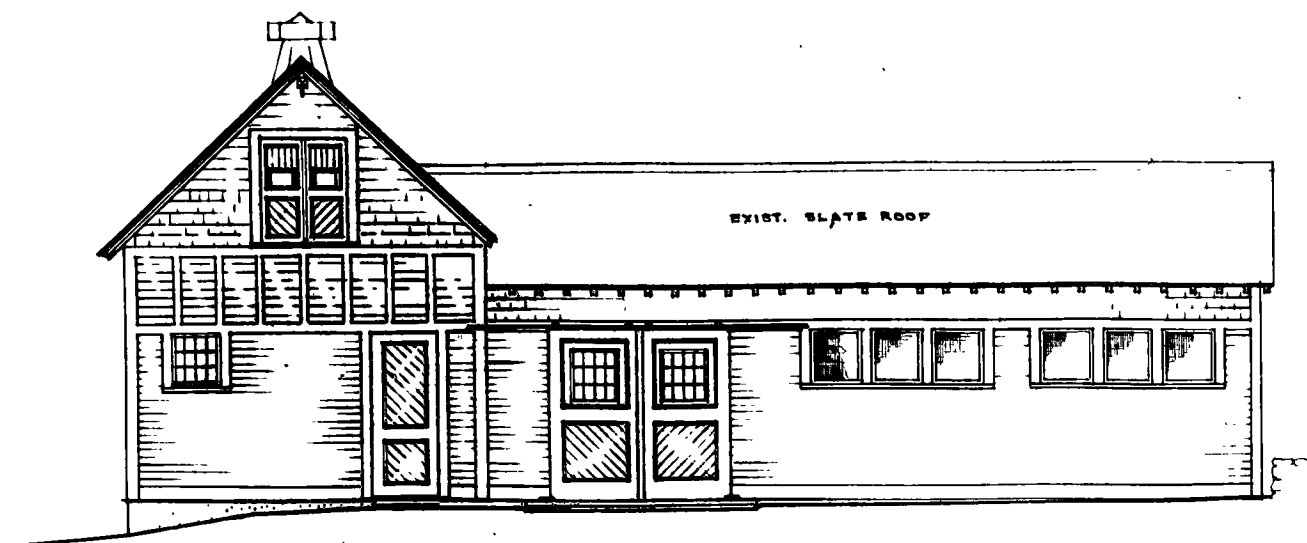
SCALE

DATE

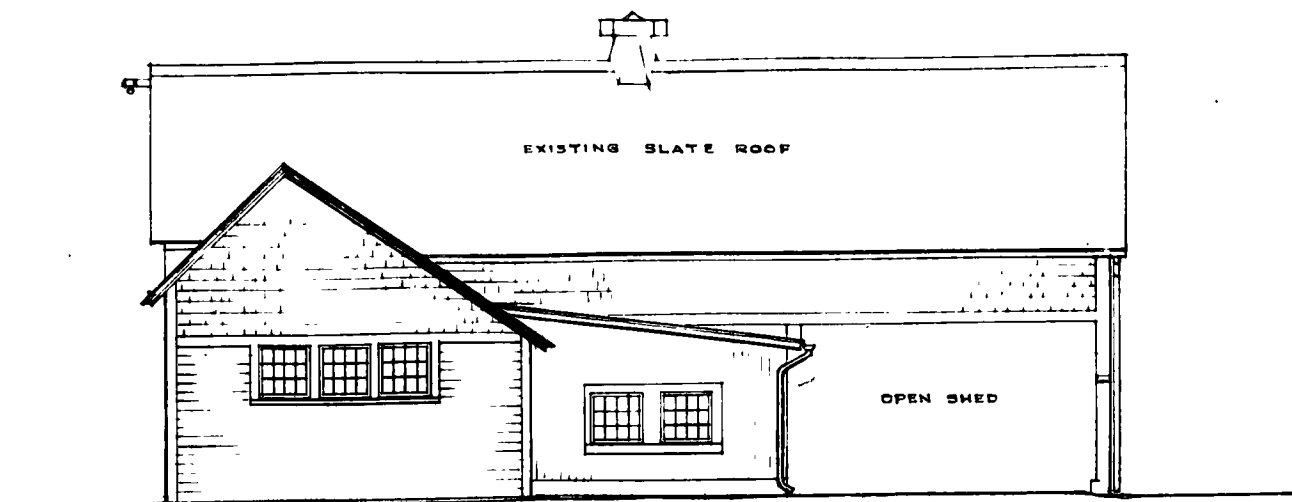
RECOMMENDED

APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
EASTERN
OFFICE
FLOOR PLANS
BARN AT GLENMONT, HOME OF THOMAS A. EDISON
EDISON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



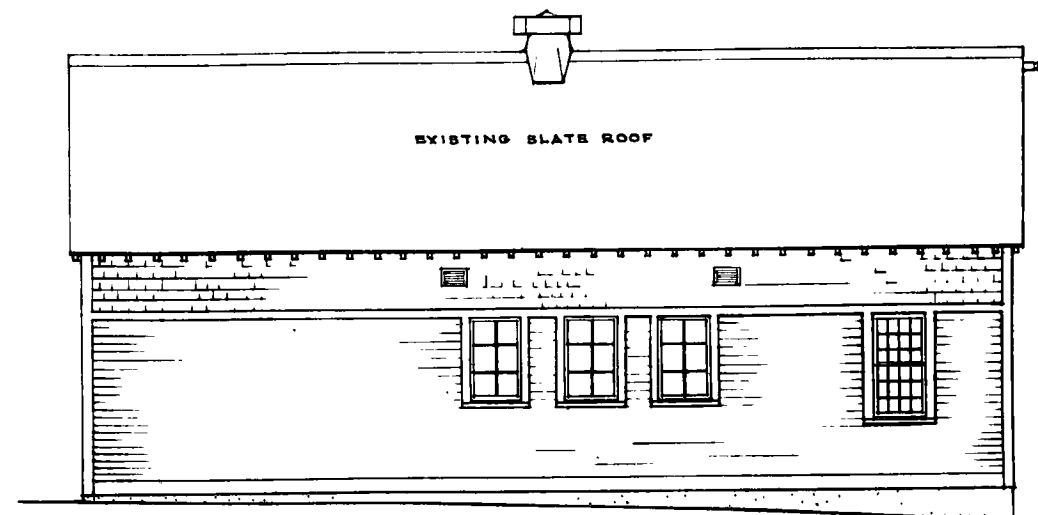
EAST ELEVATION
SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"



WEST ELEVATION
SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"



SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"

STATUS OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

EDISON

PARK

PA I

Barn at Glenmont

16

STRUCTURE/BUILDING #

PROJECT: Rehabilitation

CLASS

BB

MASTER PLAN

PCP

B-18

"Lump sum"
Program

PROGRAMMED

1965 F.Y.

SECTIONS:

Admin.

Called for 5/26/65

Due

Rec'd 6/3/65

His.

Called for 5/26/65

Due

Rec'd 6/3/65

Architecture

Called for _____

Due

Rec'd 5/21/65

Called for _____

Due

Rec'd _____

Called for _____

Due

Rec'd _____

DISTRIBUTED

Park

EODC

Region

WASO

6/8/65
7/6/65
7/27/65

REVIEWED

Park

EODC

Region

WASO

6/24/65 (rec. 7/1)
7/15/65
8/6/65

APPROVED:

Region

WASO

8/6/65



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-DCA

AUG 6 1965

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Assistant Director, Design and Construction

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Frame Barn
(Building #16), Edison NHS

The interested divisions have reviewed this subject report, received under cover of your memorandum of July 21, and concur in its recommendations. In view of the simple nature of the work proposed, we agree to waiving the Historic Structures Report, Part II for this project. However, Part III should be prepared by the Park staff with the assistance of EODC upon the completion of the work.

I have approved the Part I report this date.

J. E. N. Jensen
J. E. N. Jensen

cc:
Chief, EODC (2)
Supt., Edison

Northeast Region		Initial and Date
AUG 10 1965		
Reg. Director		
Asst. to Dir. (PA)		
Asst. to Dir. (Dev. L)		
Resource Studies Adv.		
Asst. Reg. Dir. Adm.		
Finance & Prop.		
Personnel		
Programs		
Asst. Reg. Dir. Oper.		
Interp. & VS		
Land & Water		
Maintenance		
Master Plan Coord.		
Res. Manage. & VP		
Asst. Reg. Dir. Co-Act		
Fed'l Agency Assis.		
NPS Studies		
State Assistance		

230-224
RMR

JUL 21 1965

Kelly
7/20
Posted
Gmf

Memorandum

To: Director
From: Regional Director, Northeast Region
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Frame Barn,
Building #16 (Glennville), Wilson MSS

It is recommended that you approve the subject report.

We also concur in the recommendation of Superintendent Melvin Weig and Chief, NHD, Robert Hall that the Historic Structures Report, Part II be waived for this project in view of the relatively simple nature of the work proposed. However, we do recommend that the park staff with the assistance of the NHD plan and prepare an Historic Structures Report, Part III, upon completion of the project.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Enclosure

cc:
Chief, NHD
Superintendent, Wilson

Mr. Whitcraft
Programs, Attn. Gene Monteleone

MHNelligan/ss
General /
Daily
Area

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT, PART I, FRAME BARN (BLDG. #16), "GLENMONT", EDISON NHS

Review Sheet

1. Mr. Golub

9 ok 7/6

2. Mr. Lukens

7-8-65 Good report. I recommend approval. I note that Architectural Data Section estimate is \$425.- less than "Construction Amount" on PCP BUT the PCP shows NOTHING for Architectural & Historical Research. Hopefully this \$425.- difference will cover cost of Hist. Struct. Reports including Part III Report with recommendations for future maintenance. JB Denkins

3. Mr. Barnes

oh B

4. Programs

Recommend approval
Chris
7/8/65

5. Master Plans

No comments - DWH 7/9/65
A very fine report, I recommend it. DWH 7/9/65

6. Dr. Nelligan

Recommend:



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
Philadelphia, Pa. - 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-H

June 22, 1965

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region
From: Chief Architect, EODC
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Frame Barn, Bldg. No. 16,
(Glenmont), Edison

The Administrative and Historical Data Sections of the subject report have been reviewed by the interested personnel of this office and are recommended by Chief Hall this date.

Robert E. Smith
Robert E. Smith

cc:
Assistant Director, Design & Construction
Superintendent, Edison

*Posted
mf*

Northeast Region	
JUN 23 1965	
Reg. Dir. Asst.	
Asst. Dir. (PA)	
Asst. Dir. (Dev. L)	
Asst. Dir. (Studies Adv.)	
Asst. Dir. (Adm.)	
Asst. Dir. (Prop.)	
Asst. Dir. (Spec. Inv.)	
Asst. Dir. (Oper.)	
Asst. Dir. (VS)	
Asst. Dir. (Water)	
Asst. Dir. (Cemeteries)	
Asst. Dir. (Film Coord.)	
Asst. Dir. (Spec. A VP)	
Asst. Dir. (Int. Co-Act)	
Asst. Dir. (Agency Assn.)	
Asst. Dir. (NPS Studies)	
Asst. Dir. (State Assistance)	

GMFranev 6/8

JUN 8 1965

H30-2NA
NER

*Willing
6/8*

*Posted
Gmf*

Memorandum

To: Chief, EODC
From: Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Frame Barn,
Building #16 (Glenmont), Edison MES

Enclosed are the Administrative and Historical Data Sections of
the above report.

Please combine these with the Architectural Data Section and furnish
your comments on the complete report at your earliest convenience.

George A. Palmer

Enclosure

cc:
Superintendent, Edison
Mr. Whitcraft

GMFranev ✓
General
Daily
Area



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Edison National Historic Site
P. O. Box 126
Orange, New Jersey 07051

H30-RHA
NER

June 2, 1965

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Administrative,
Historical, and Architectural Data, Building No. 16,
Frame Barn

As requested by subject memorandum from Acting Regional Director Palmer dated May 26, we submit herewith the original and two copies of the Administrative and Historical Data sections for the above report. Routing, title, and contents sheets have been provided for the report as a whole, to include the Architectural Data in final assembly.

Exhibits Specialist (Restoration) Whittington, Supervisory Historian Levy, and the writer have reviewed the Architectural Data section as prepared by Architect Souder, EODC, and it has our concurrence subject to comments thereon in the Administrative Data. Except for a few comparatively minor inconsistencies with the Historical Data, and as respects the need for additional roofing and electrical repairs not noted therein, Mr. Souder's recommendations are in line with our own thinking. We congratulate him for having produced such an excellent report, including the drawings and photographs, in the short time which he had available for that purpose.

We concur with the recommendation made by EODC, in their memorandum to the Regional Director of May 19, that a Part II is unnecessary with respect to this structure, and that the requirement therefor should be waived accordingly.

Melvin J. Weig
Melvin J. Weig
Superintendent

In duplicate

Enclosures

cc: Chief, EODC

Northeast Region		Initial and Date
JUN 3 1965		
Reg. Director		
Asst. to (PA)		
Asst. to (Rev. L)		
Rec. Mgmt. & Adv.		
Asst. Dir. Adm.		
Finance & Prop.		
Personnel		
Programs		
Asst. Dir. Oper.		
Interp. VS		
Land & Water		
Maintenance		
Master Plan Coord.		
Res. Mgmt. & VP		
Asst. Reg. Dir. Co-Act		
Fed'l Agency Assis.		
NPS Studies		
State Assistance		

*Posted
Inf*

Edison National Historic Site
P. O. Box 126
Orange, New Jersey 07051

H30-RHA
NER

June 2, 1965

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Administrative,
Historical, and Architectural Data, Building No. 16,
Frame Barn

As requested by subject memorandum from Acting Regional Director Palmer dated May 26, we submit herewith the original and two copies of the Administrative and Historical Data sections for the above report. Routing, title, and contents sheets have been provided for the report as a whole, to include the Architectural Data in final assembly.

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(Sgd.) Melvin J. Weig

Melvin J. Weig
Superintendent

In duplicate

Enclosures

cc: Chief, EODC

MAY 26 1965

Imfraney sps
MM
5/27
Posted
Gmf

H30-MHA
MER

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Edison

From: Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Barn at "Glenmont",
Edison MES

Enclosed is a copy of the Architectural Data Section for the Part I
Historic Structures Report for the Barn at "Glenmont".

Please prepare the Administrative and Historical Data Sections and
forward three copies to this office by June 11, 1965.

The NODC in their memorandum of May 19, copy enclosed, recommends that
Part II be waived. Please advise if you are in agreement.

George A. Palmer

Enclosures

cc:
Chief, NODC
Mr. Whitcraft

GMFraney
General ✓
Daily
Area



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
Philadelphia, Pa. - 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-H

May 19, 1965

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Chief Architect, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data
Section, Barn at Glenmont, Edison

Enclosed for distribution and review are three copies of the subject report. A copy has been retained by this office.

We suggest that the Part II, Historic Structures Report be waived. The Part I Report contains sufficient information for the proposed restoration work.

Robert E. Smith
Robert E. Smith

Enclosure

cc:
Assistant Director, Design and Construction
Superintendent, Edison

*Posted
Gmf*

Northeast Region		Initial and Date
MAY 20 1965		
☒	Reg. Director	
☒	Asst. to RD (PA)	
☒	Asst. to RD (Dev. L)	5/20
☒	Resource Studies Adv.	
☐	Asst Reg. Dir. Adm.	
☐	Finance & Prop.	
☐	Personnel	
☐	Programs	
☐	Asst. Dir. Dir.-Oper.	
☐	Inter. & VS	
☐	Land & Water	
☐	Maintenance	
☐	Facilities Plan Coord.	
☐	Rec. Mgmt. & VP	
☐	Asst Reg. Dir.-Co-Act	
☐	Fed'l Agency Assis.	
☐	NPS Studies	
☐	State Assistance	

APPROVAL SHEET

Recommended Melvin J. Weig Date 6/2/65
Superintendent

Recommended Robert G. Hall Date 6/22/65
Chief, EODC

Recommended Ronald F. Lee Date 7/15/65
Regional Director

Approved J. C. H. Jensen Date 8/6/65
Asst. Director Design & Construction

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT - PART I
FRAME BARN, BUILDING NO. 16, GLENMONT UNIT

Prepared by

Melvin J. Weig
Superintendent

Benjamin Levy
Supervisory Historian

Arthur Spiegler
Historian

and

Norman M. Souder
Architect

June 2, 1965

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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT - PART I
FRAME BARN, BUILDING NO. 16, GLENMONT UNIT

Administrative Data

Prepared by

Melvin J. Weig
Superintendent

June 2, 1965

Administrative Data

The Frame Barn, or simply the Barn, Building No. 16, dates from at least 1882, was later modified and moved from its original to present location about 1907-08, and served more or less continuously as a combined cow stable, chicken house, calf shed, pony or horse shed, and feed storage place during the lifetimes of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Alva Edison. It was thus part of the Glenmont Estate scene from very early days, as indicated and explained in the "Historical Data" section of this report.

In the "Architectural Data" which follows are some statements or additions with respect to past known facts about the Frame Barn which contradict others in the "Historical Data" section, probably because the latter was not available to Architect Souder when he prepared the former. This is simply noted here for future reference. Everything definitely known about the Frame Barn at this time is included in the "Historical Data," which will be supplemented as any additional information and facts come to light.

Present condition of the building and need for rehabilitation are considered at some length in the "Architectural Data." Deterioration is such as to call for more than ordinary routine repairs, and certain structural deficiencies, such as the lack of suitable foundation under parts of the building, must be corrected to facilitate efficient future maintenance. This work has been programmed under PCP No. B-18, approved July 6, 1964, at estimated construction cost of \$10,100, and total cost of \$12,200. This estimate includes several items not specifically listed in the "Architectural Data" section, among which are major roofing repairs and rehabilitation of the electrical system, which it is believed should be accomplished at the same time as the rest of the work therein outlined.

To the extent presently possible, the interior of the Frame Barn should also be restored to good maintenance condition, although complete rehabilitation and refurnishing in keeping with the historic scene will have to wait upon further research, as indicated in Chapter 3 of the Edison Master Plan. The principal object now should be to place the entire structure and related fixed equipment in such sound state of repair as to facilitate its future preservation for the visiting public as one among several important features of the Glenmont landscape scene. Putting animals back into the building is not recommended, however, even as a

long range proposition, partly because of the additional work that would involve, but also for the reason that it would probably ill accord with existing sanitary codes and regulations for the West Orange residential area. The structure can eventually be opened for visitors, and its historic use interpreted for their benefit, without the actual necessity of going that far.

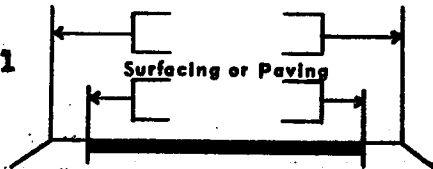
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

1965 F. Y. PROGRAM

1. Statement of requirements, proposed work and construction data, justification, etc. (Use additional sheets as necessary.)

Rehabilitation of Frame Barn, Building No. 16. One and one-half story wood construction with slate roof over main portion and tar paper roof on shed section, 1270 sq. ft. Minor slate roofing repairs several years ago, exterior painting done and several new doors fabricated in 1963, all with regular area maintenance funds.

Length _____ Miles _____
Finished width shoulder to shoulder

Proposed work: Concrete foundation to be installed under portion now resting on ground; reinforce and repair framing, replacing all rotted sills and other members; replace deteriorated siding, doors and windows, frames, other trim, etc., as needed; repair existing concrete or stone foundations where still sound; perform major roofing repairs and replacement; and rehabilitate existing electrical system to extent possible.

Justification: This structure is one of the major outbuildings at the Glenmont Unit, and during the historical period of Edison residence was used for cows, horses, chickens, etc. It should be restored and rehabilitated in that character as part of the Glenmont scene interpreted to the public. Unless this major work is accomplished

2. Land Status (If Govt.-owned, what agency), Water Rights, Research, Etc. (over)

Government-owned, National Park Service

PCP Data Prepared by (Name, Title & Date) F. L. Petrillo 4/22/64 Architect		4. Cross-reference PCP's to this Project: None PCP numbers of previously completed portions: None		6. CLASS C ESTIMATE Construction..... \$ 10,100 Plans, Surveys, & Supervision..... 1,480 Contingencies..... 620 SUB TOTAL 12,200 Exhibits, Audio-Visual Installations, etc..... None GRAND TOTAL \$ 12,200	
Melvin J. Weig 5/20/64 Superintendent		5. Construction by: Day Labor ☒ Contract ☒ Work supervised by: Park ☒ Reg. ☐ Design Office ☒			
7. DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES		8. Recommended by Park Office (Signature, title, date) (Sgd.) Melvin J. Weig Melvin J. Weig, Superintendent May 28, 1964			
No. To		9. Approved by Regional Office (Signature, title, date) (Sgd.) M. B. Christensen July 6, 1964			
1 Director 2 Regional Director, NERO 2 Chief, EODC 2 Supt., Edison		10. Reviewed by D&C Field Office (Signature, Title, Date) Vincent N. Mauro, Project Control Officer, EODC, 7/28/64			
11. Location within Area or Termini Glenmont Unit, northeast of Honeysuckle Lane		12. Master Plan No. NH3-EDI-3009C		13. Bldg. or Rt. # and Sec. Building No. 16, Frame Barn	
14. Region North-east		15. Park Edison National Historic Site		17. PCP Index No. B-18	
Project Rehabilitation of Frame Barn, Building No. 16		Essex (County) New Jersey (State)		18. P. S. & S. by BPR ☐ NPS ☒	

ESTIMATE

Item

Quantity

Cost

Foundation repairs, and jacking up portion of structure and pouring new foundation where none presently exists

Framing reinforcing and repairs

wood trim, windows, doors, and siding repairs

Major roofing repairs and replacement

Rehabilitation of existing electrical system

NOTE: Construction estimate prepared by F. L. Petrillo, Architect, NERC, after area visit on 4/16-17/64.

Justification (continued): soon, repairs later on will be more costly on account of advancing deterioration.

REYD 2014

EXPIRES: 12/31/2011

2018-19-24

CONFIDENTIAL

11592

rehabilitated buildings:

1. The number of divisions is

1,501,661:

1022-151605-5 CB, 3 10-11-12

6218716

Estimate Totals

Construction.....	\$ 10,100
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Plans, Surveys, and

Supervision.....	\$ 1.480
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466
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Contingencies.....	\$ 620
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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

SUB. TOTAL	\$ 12.20
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Exhibits. Aud.-Vis.

Installations, Etc..... \$ None

SECRET

GRAND TOTAL \$ 12.200

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

3105

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

FRAME BARN, BUILDING NO. 16, GLENMONT UNIT

Historical Data

Prepared By

Benjamin Levy
Supervisory Historian

Arthur Spiegler
Historian

December, 1964

Historical Data

The Frame Barn, Building No. 16, Glenmont Unit, Edison National Historic Site, West Orange, New Jersey, is a one-story wood-frame structure with loft, on a poured concrete foundation. Roughly L-shaped, it lies directly east of the Greenhouse, Building No. 14, on the north side of Honeysuckle Lane (Exhibits 1, 2, and 3), and covers about 1,450 square feet, including open shed space. The interior is divided into several sections: cow stable, horse stall, chicken house, wagon shed, hayloft, and a few rooms for implements, tools, and storage (Exhibits 4, 5, and 6). At Glenmont, the estate of America's most famous and prolific inventor, Thomas A. Edison kept a varied collection of familiar barnyard animals, not so much for provender, but more for the rustic atmosphere with which they enhanced his surroundings, and for fresh eggs and milk which his family enjoyed.

Prior to 1886, when Edison purchased Glenmont, the estate was owned by Henry C. Pedder, who built and furnished the Home in 1880. A map of the Pedder estate dated 1882 shows a chicken yard and cow stables, east of a large barn (no longer standing), on the south side of Honeysuckle Lane. This early chicken yard and cow stables site is now occupied by the concrete Garage built in 1907 (Exhibits 7 and 1), Building No. 15. There is evidence that the present Frame Barn, Building No. 16, is for the most part the same structure identified on this 1882 map as the chicken yard and cow stables. Charles Edison, son of Thomas A. Edison, contacted by telephone August 20, 1964, said his father had the old barn moved to the other side of Honeysuckle Lane because it stood on land he wanted for the concrete Garage. Charles Edison's recollection is confirmed by the similarity in size and shape of the present Frame Barn and the original cow stables and chicken yard on the 1882 map.

A significant configuration of the 1882 structure is the recess in the east wall where it meets the inside corner (Exhibit 7). This feature is obscured in the present structure because an addition was fitted into this recess about a year before Thomas Edison died in 1931 (Exhibit 2).¹ Without this addition the shapes of both structures are identical, as nearly as can be determined from existing maps. Unfortunately, no historical plans or photographs prior to 1908 have been found of the old barn that give a picture of its early appearance.

The window openings in the roof of the chicken house further identify the present Frame Barn as one and the same building as

the barn on the 1882 map. These window openings are boarded over (Exhibit 6), the reason probably being that the present western to northwestern exposure was impractical. The preferred orientation would have been one with an eastern to southern exposure imparting solar warmth from the early morning sunshine to this otherwise unheated structure. This would be the case if the present Frame Barn were rotated approximately 180° resulting, interestingly enough, in the same orientation as the cow stables and chicken yard on the 1882 map (Exhibit 7). The impractical direction toward which the window openings in the roof of the present Frame Barn face, therefore, strongly reinforces the traditional story that the old barn was moved across Honeysuckle Lane and relocated, with different orientation and some minor alterations, on its present site.

A careful investigation of the documents in the archives at Edison National Historic Site produced only meager and indefinite information about the Frame Barn, at least for the year 1907 when Mr. Edison built his concrete Garage, Building No. 15, on the location of the large barn shown on the 1882 map of the Pedder estate. A letter, dated November 9, 1907, from a carpenter, Mr. Adolph Vogel, to Mrs. Thomas Edison, contains an estimate for work on the "Cow Barn and Henery [sic] for the sum of Two Hundred and Twenty Dollars" (Exhibits 8a and 8b). Whether or not this work was carried out for Mrs. Edison could not definitely be established. However, it is hardly likely that Mrs. Edison would have contemplated renovation of the Frame Barn shortly before it was moved to make way for the concrete Garage. Mr. Vogel's estimate makes sense for a barn in a new location because carpenter work may have been necessary in 1907, either to repair any damage incurred when the building was moved, or to adapt it to its new location. The date of Mr. Vogel's estimate is significant because Mr. Edison constructed the concrete Garage that year on land formerly occupied by the original chicken yard and cow stables.

In summation, the Frame Barn was apparently part of the Pedder estate in 1882 before Thomas A. Edison purchased it for his home in 1886, and he seems to have moved it across Honeysuckle Road in 1907 to its present location and made an addition to the structure about a year before his death in 1931.

The foregoing history of the Frame Barn, though largely circumstantial, rests upon strongly consistent evidence, to wit: the map of the Pedder estate; the recollection of Charles Edison; the size and shape of the building; the structure's orientation;

and Adolph Vogel's estimate for carpenter work. Finally, Mr. C. Thore Hallstrom, Gardener, provided much basic history of the Frame Barn derived from his many years of association with Glenmont and the Edison family.

Thomas A. Edison, although the world's most famous inventor, honored and lauded by millions of people both great and small for his contributions to man's progress, still had an interest in the homely and simple pleasures of husbandry in a small barn on his Glenmont Estate. The Frame Barn at Glenmont preserves this aspect of Edison's personality and character for the inspiration of future generations.

NOTES

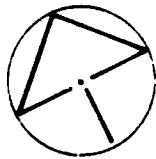
1. C. Thore Hallstrom, Gardener at Glenmont for the past 28 years, said the addition to the Frame Barn is on the ground instead of a firm foundation causing it to pull away from its attachment as the ground beneath keeps settling. Consequently, water and dampness seep in at this joint causing the wood to rot.
2. The "Historical Data" section of the Historic Structures Report, Glenmont, Concrete Garage, Building No. 15 (Weig, Levy, and Spiegler, 1964) gives 1908 as the date of construction but recent research corrects this to 1907. Supplement "Historical Data" is being prepared to document this.

EXHIBIT 1

Section of corrected Historical Base
Map, Glenmont Unit, showing the Frame
Barn, Building No. 16, along with
various other structures, as they
were at the time of Thomas A. Edison's
death in 1931.

• EXPLANATORY NOTE •

THIS MAP SHOWS HISTORIC AND OTHER BUILDINGS OR PHYSICAL
FEATURES, WITHIN BOTH PRESENT AND PROPOSED SITE BOUNDARIES,
WHICH ON THE BASIS OF KNOWN EVIDENCE WERE IN EXISTENCE AT
THE TIME OF THOMAS ALVA EDISON'S DEATH ON OCTOBER 18, 1931.



ORIENTATION

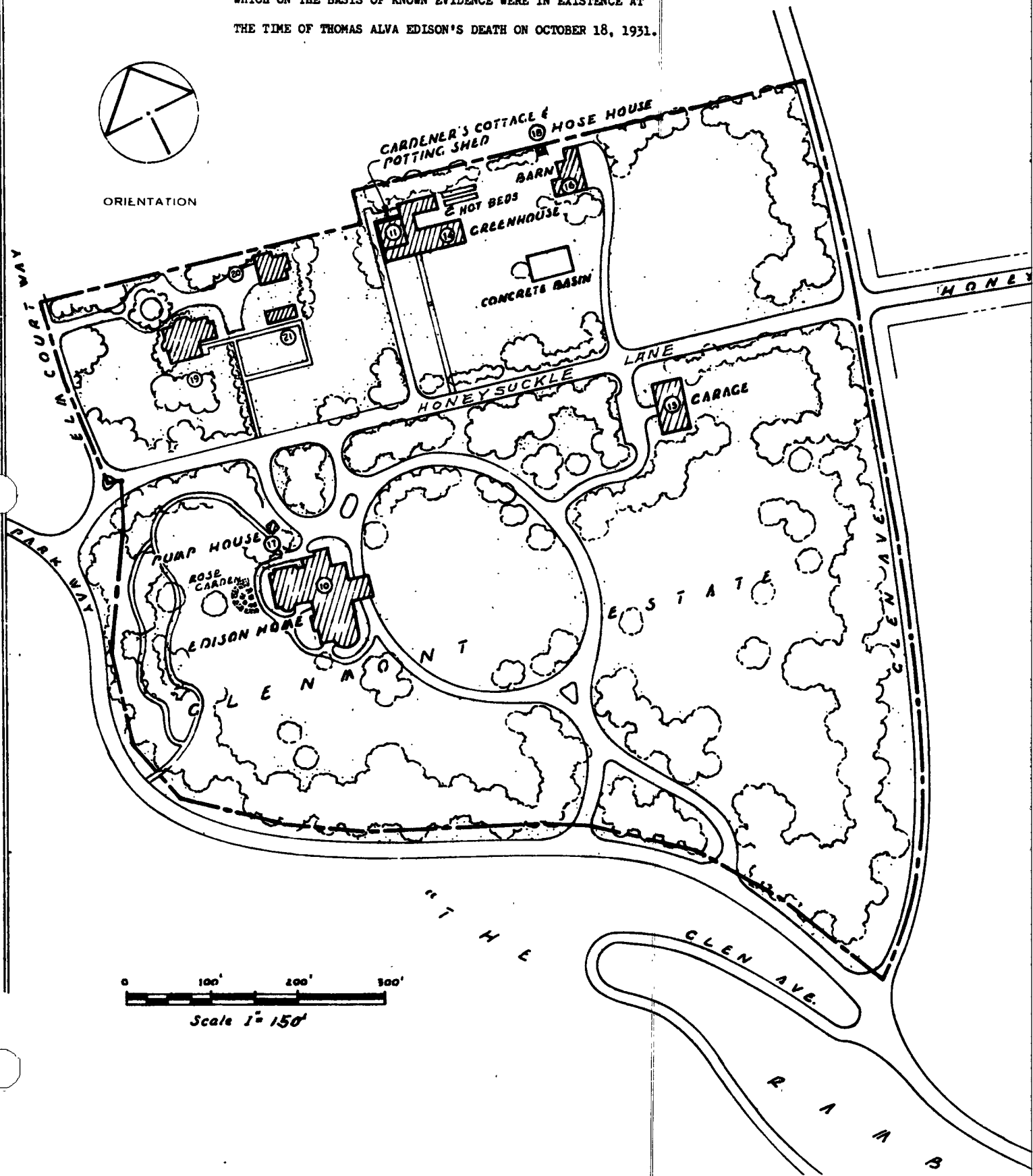


EXHIBIT 2

Photograph of west side of present
Frame Barn, Building No. 16, showing
addition in the "L" inside corner,
made about one year prior to Edison's
death in 1931. Wagon shed is at
right rear. Taken December 8, 1964.
Negative No. O-1448.

EXHIBIT 3

Photograph of southeast corner of
present Frame Barn, Building No. 16.
Taken December 8, 1964. Negative
No. O-1447.

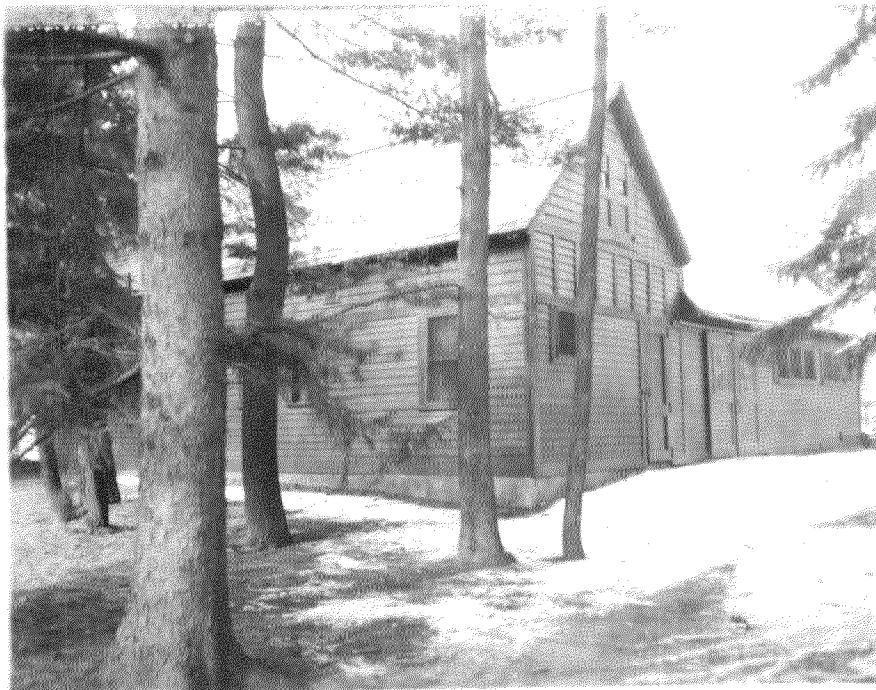
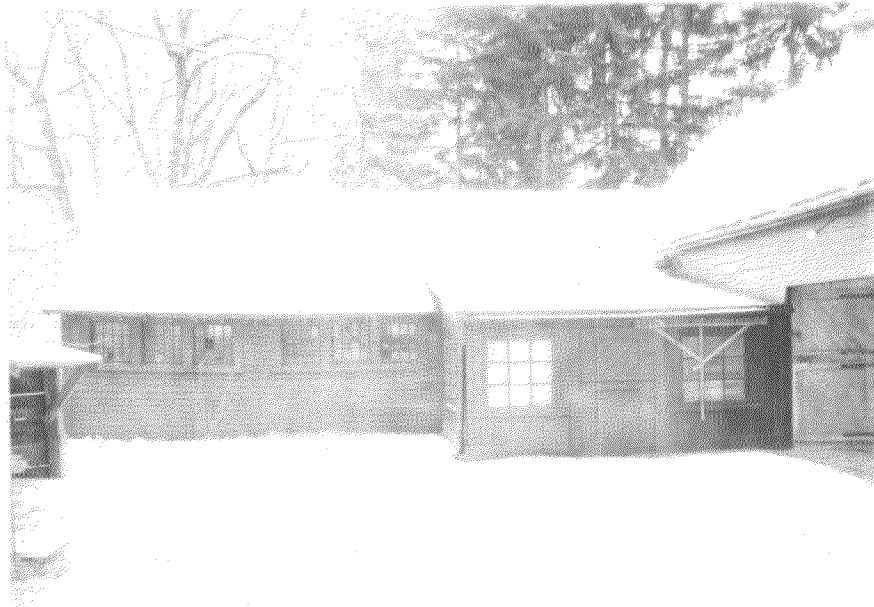


EXHIBIT 4

Photograph of present Frame Barn,
Building No. 16, interior, showing
horse stall. Taken December 8,
1964. Negative No. O-1451.

EXHIBIT 5

Photograph of present Frame Barn,
Building No. 16, interior, showing
cow stables. Taken December 8,
1964. Negative No. O-1449.



EXHIBIT 6

Photograph of present Frame Barn,
Building No. 16, interior, showing
portion of ceiling of chicken house.

Taken December 8, 1964. Negative

No. O-1450.



EXHIBIT 7

Portion of the present Glenmont property as shown on drawing entitled "Residence and Grounds Belonging to H. C. Pedder, Esq., Llewellyn Park, Orange, N. J., 1882, Mead & Taylor, Engineers." This is a machine copy (scale and compass bearings added) made from a tracing of the original found at the Edison Home in 1962. The building designated "Chicken Yard & Cow Stables" appears to be the same as the present Frame Barn, Building No. 16, moved across Honey-suckle Lane in 1907, when Thomas A. Edison erected his concrete Garage, Building No. 15, at that location. The large "Barn" shown to the west is no longer standing.

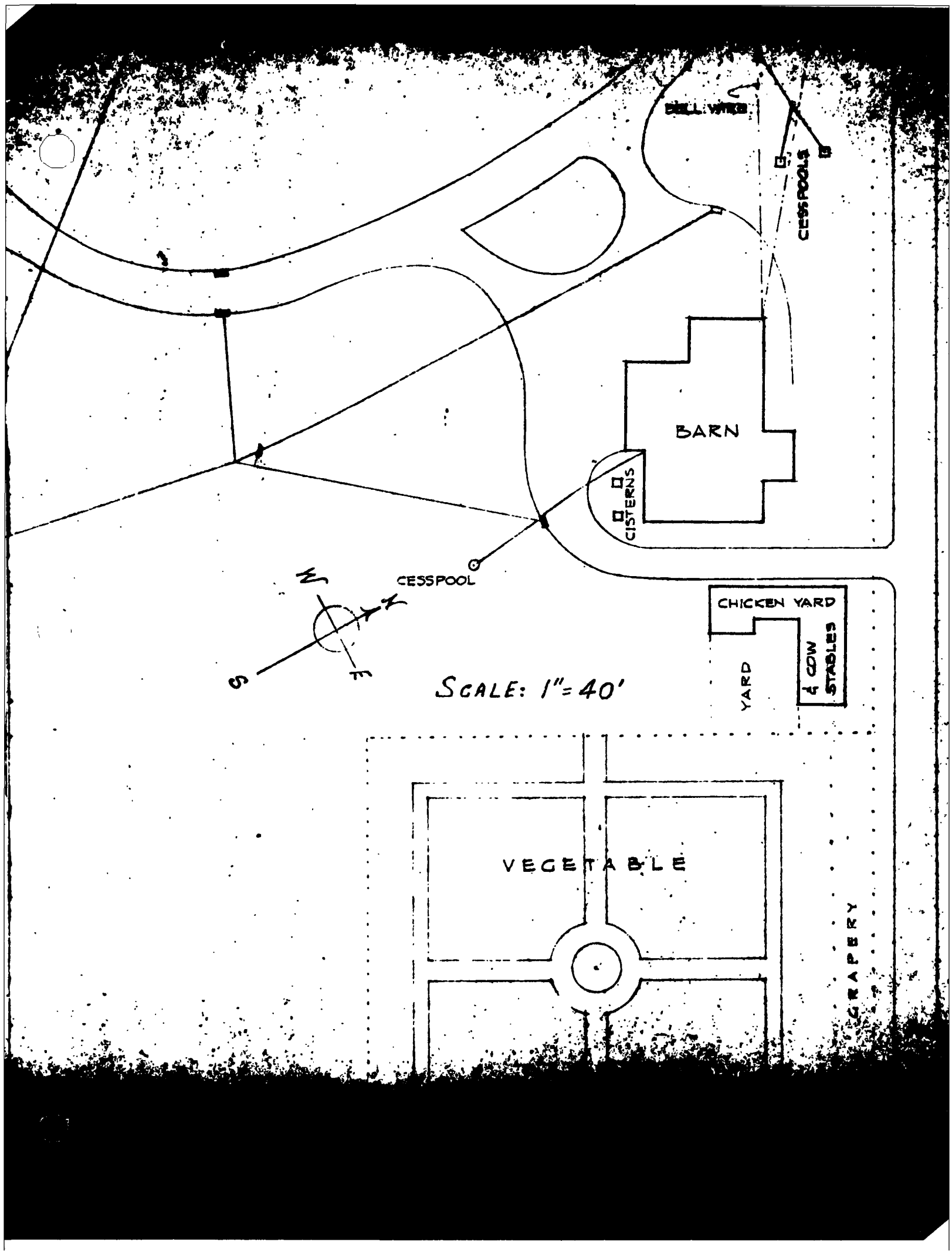


EXHIBIT 8

Photostat of letter from Adolph
Vogel, Carpenter, to Mrs. Thomas A.
Edison containing estimate for
work on "Cow Barn and Henery [sic]"
written November 9, 1907.

ADOLPH VOGEL

CARPENTER
&
BUILDER

WEST ORANGE, N.J.,

190

COR. PARK & ASHLAND AVES.

Telephone Connection

4x4. Chestnut sleepers asphalted, 2" Yellow Pine floor and 2" partitions, iron bases 15" for 6" turned YP posts. Cattle stanchions, etc to make a clean Stable.

I do not like to make suggestions but there are several things that should be done, both for looks and wear.

By cutting 1 sash in each pair of doors will not look right from the road, better place 1 sash in each door and nail the doors tight and let the inside sealing go it being the east side very little cold will come from that quarter, or else take off the doors and weather board up the side so that it won't look patched.

Some work on the roof should be done over, also several other things on the outside.

I remain

Yours Very Truly
Adolph Vogel.

ADOLPH VOGEL

 CARPENTER
 &
 BUILDER

WEST ORANGE, N.J., Nov 9 1907

COR. PARK & ASHLAND AVES.

Telephone Connection

Mrs P A Edison.

Dear Madam: I will complete the following Carpenter work for the Cow Barn and Henery for the sum of Two Hundred and Twenty Dollars, (\$220.⁰⁰) This being the work as shown to me by Frank.

To fasten the 3 pair of doors on the east side and place 3 Sash, in same and oil the inside opening of the doors.

To cut off the side facing the north and finishing the opening (rear extension)

To take down the 3 board partitions in hen house - and make wire 1" mesh partitions doors etc.

To replace 3 rotten sills and work in connection with same

To build 3 Cow Stalls same to have