SMOKEHOUSES IN CENTRAL DELAWARE

Directed by

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Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering

College of Urban Affairs & Public Policy University of Delaware Newark, Delaware

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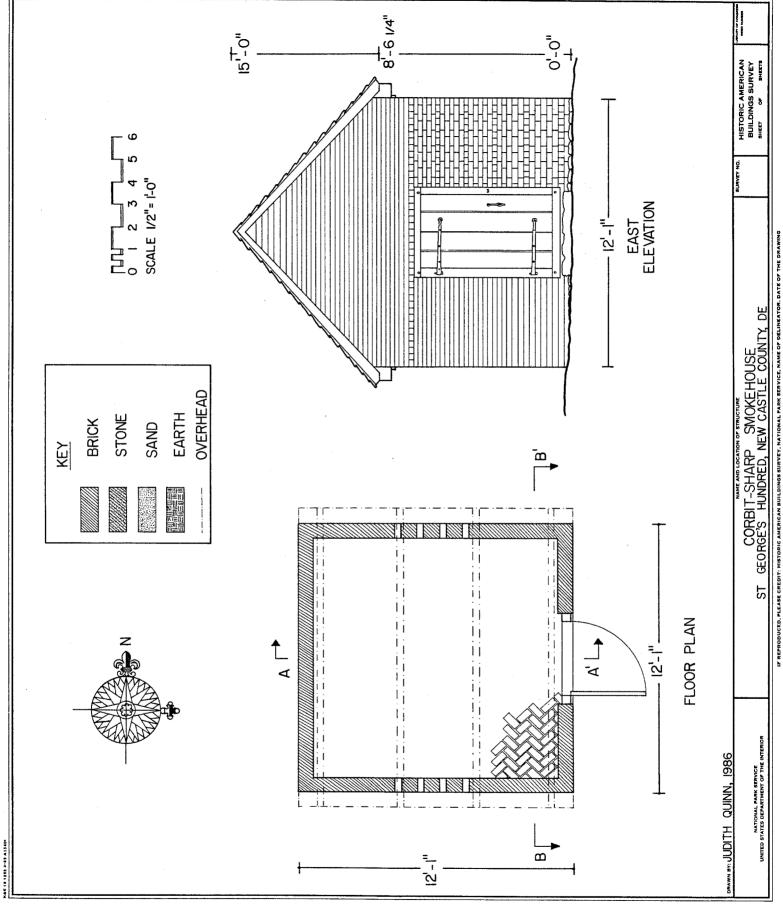
The smokehouses documented in the following portfolio of measured drawings were studied and recorded by students at the University of Delaware in the spring of 1986. The students participating in the course, Historic Preservation Studio (offered through the College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and the Museum Studies Program), come from a variety of academic backgrounds including history, art history, museum studies, urban affairs and public policy, and decorative arts. For all the students the intensive documentation of a historic structure was a new and demanding experience. These drawings represent the first efforts of students who had never undertaken an architectural drafting project. Today the original fieldnotes and finished 17 by 20 inch drawings which were inked on archival mylar are housed in the public collections of the Historic American Buildings Survey in the Library of Congress.

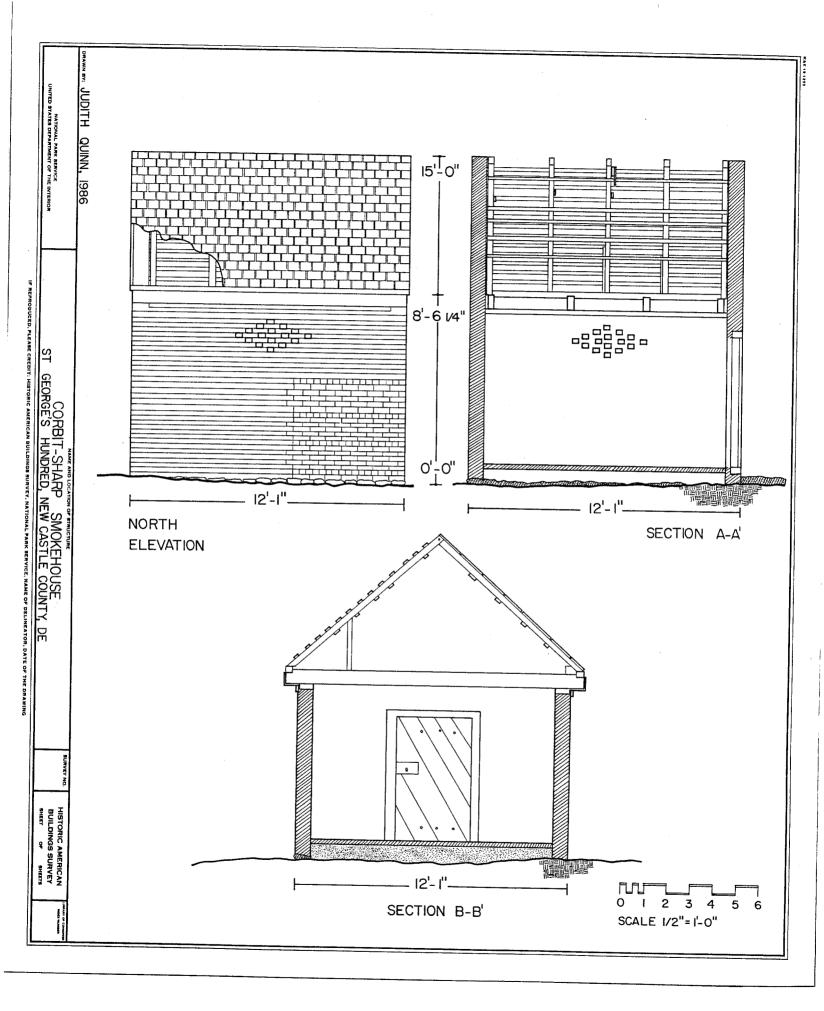
The smokehouse architectural recording project was conceived as a means for providing students with hands on training in the documentation of historic architecture. It was also designed as part of a broader long range effort to preserve on paper minor rural buildings endangered by the changing pattern of agriculture and country life in the Delaware Valley. Since the project began in 1982 well over one hundred buildings including barns, corn crib and granaries, stables, cart sheds, carriage houses, and other farm structures have been documented in drawings and with large format black and white photographs. The smokehouse project was the first recording project organized around a theme and classroom-studio experience.

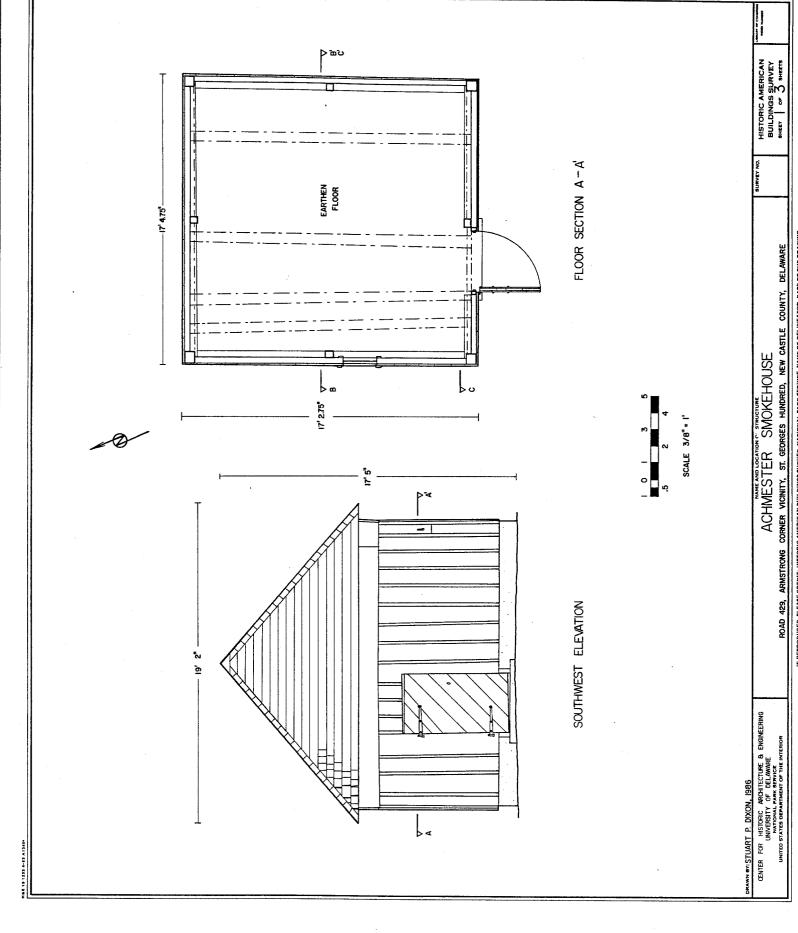
Why smokehouses? The most common outbuilding of the eighteenth and nineteenth-century rural landscapes of Delaware was the smokehouse. In the 1700s these were typically small buildings averaging between ten and twelve feet square. A few examples, such as the Corbit Smokehouse recorded in the portfolio, were of brick construction; most however were built of frame or log. Very few eighteenth-century smokehouses (or farm buildings of any sort) survive in central Delaware. There are however, numerous examples of such buildings dating from the first half of the nineteenth century. These later buildings reflect a variety of architectural styles and technologies including post-and-plank construction (Achmester, ca. 1820; Arnold, ca. 1830), frame (Hedgelawn, ca. 1855), stone (Granite Mansion, ca. 1860), and brick (Monterey, ca. 1855). While some of these buildings were stylish extensions of the house such as Monterey with its pierced sawnwork trim and copper sow weather vane, others were well built work structures exhibiting few concessions to ornament such as the Pratt Smokehouse which was later converted to a muskrat skinning shed. Some of the most interesting examples of these small buildings were erected in the mid 1800s and exhibit sometimes curious combinations of function as in the instance of the Oakland Smokehouse (ca. 1845) which contains areas for meat processing and storage and subterranean icehouse. Other multi-function examples either lost or not yet recorded include a combination smokehouse/woodshed/privy, skinning shed/workshop/smokehouse, and dairy/smokehouse/workshop.

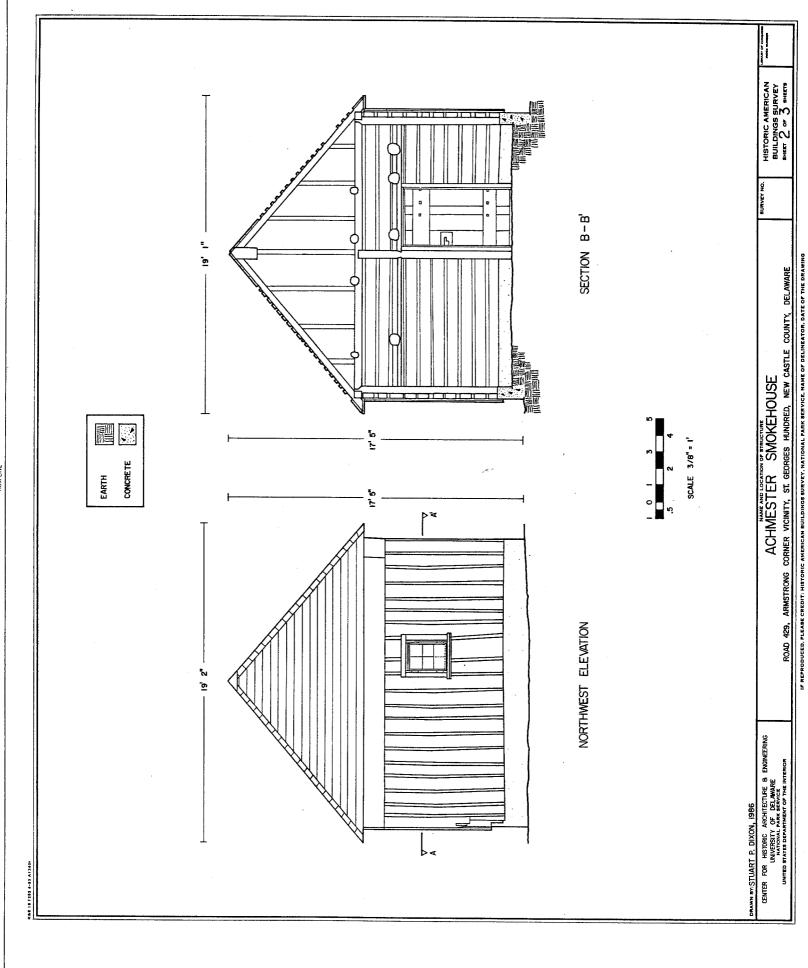
The purpose of this portfolio is to enhance the appreciation and preservation of these once common buildings. The practice of home meat preservation is an activity of the past. The smokehouses presented here now serve very different functions: two are associated with museums, most continue as storage buildings, and a few are now ruinous. For more information on the Delaware Agricultural Buildings Survey Project please contact the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware (302-451-2394).

The smokehouse project was directed by David L. Ames and Bernard L. Herman of the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering. Participating students were Susan Garfinkel, Penny Schaffer-Gioffre, Judith Quinn, Stuart Dixon, Rebecca Siders, Lauren Archibald, Margaret Mulrooney, Stacy Little, and Peter Norton. For their patience, courtesy, and hospitality, faculty and students alike extend their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the owners of these buildings.









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CORNER POSTS 7.5" x 8" INTERMEDIATE POSTS 5" x 5" WALL PLANKS 3.75" x 7.5" BEARING RAILS 2.5" x 5" JOISTS 6" LOG PLATES 5" x 5.5" CORNER RAFTERS 4" x 6" RAFTERS 3" x 5" WINDOW POSTS 1" x 3" LINTEL 1" x 3" DOOR POSTS 3" x 4" SIDING 1" x 12" BATTENS 1" x 12" BATTENS 1" x 14"	3" HEWN	5" HEWN	7.5" HEWN	S. HEWN	OG HEWN ENDS	5.5" HEWN	S" MILL SAWN	5" MILL SAWN	S" MILL SAWN			2" MILL SAWN	" MILL SAWN	4" MILL SAWN	MILL SAWN
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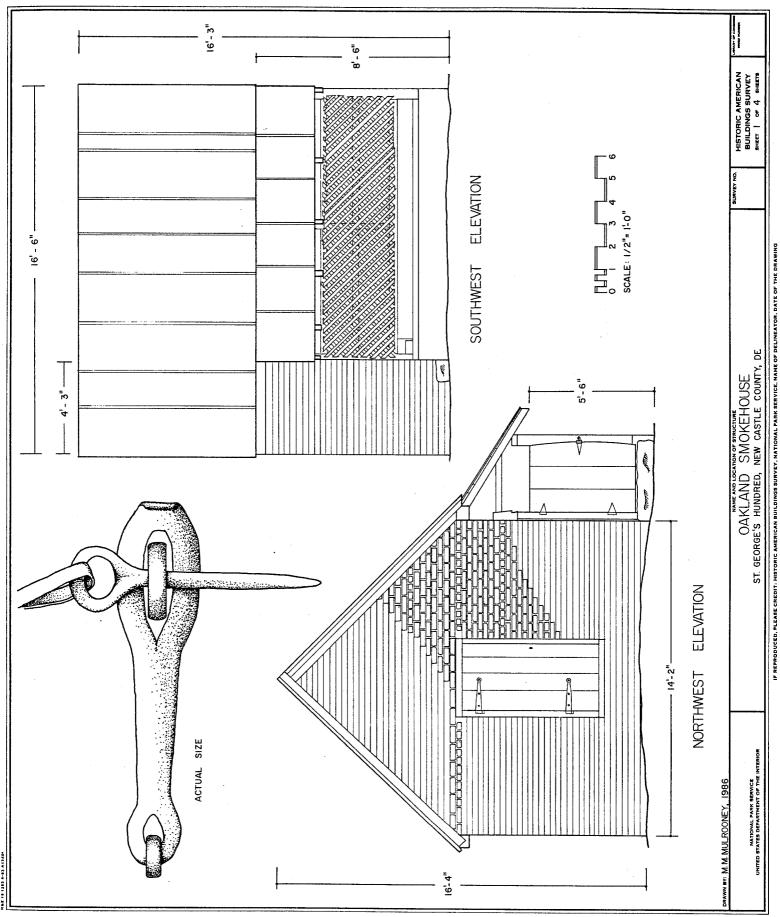
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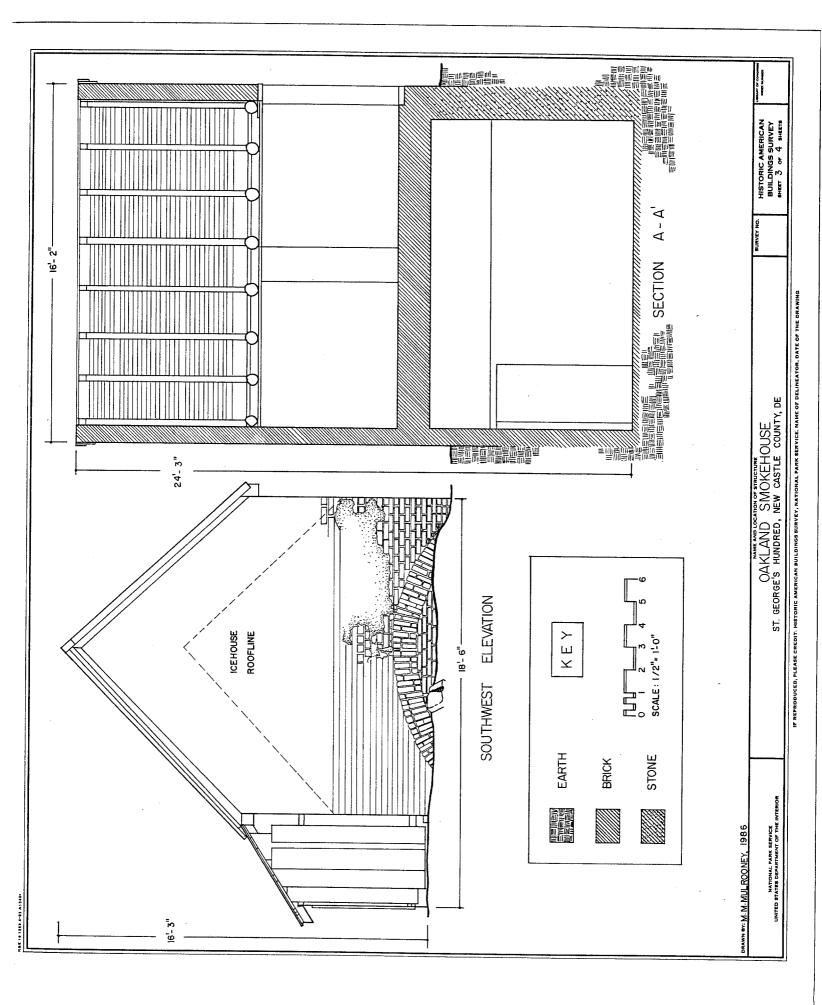
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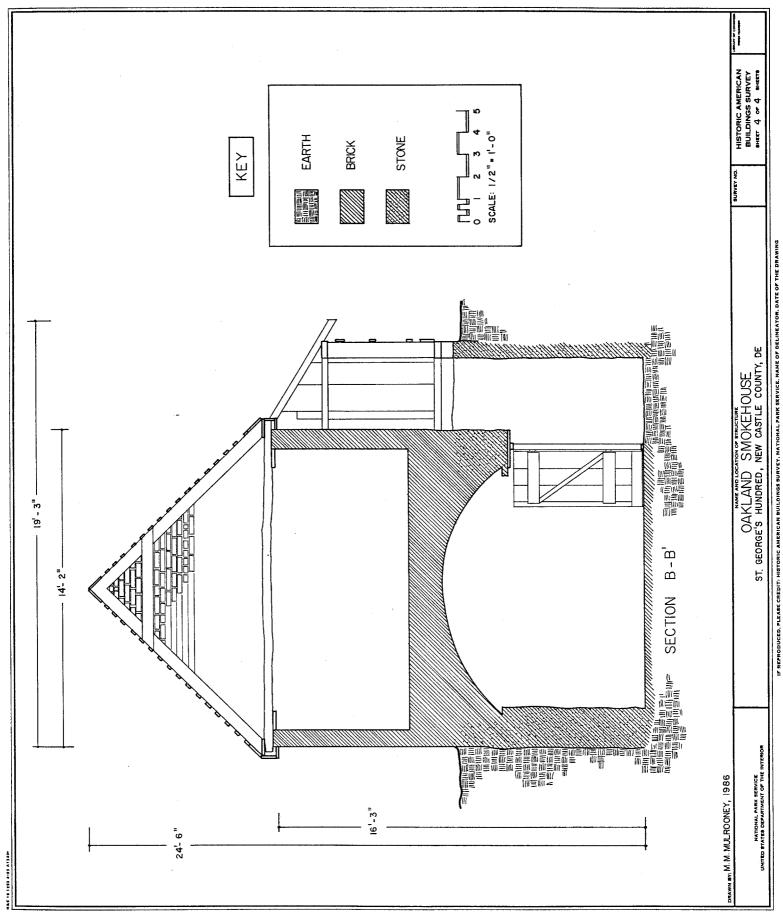
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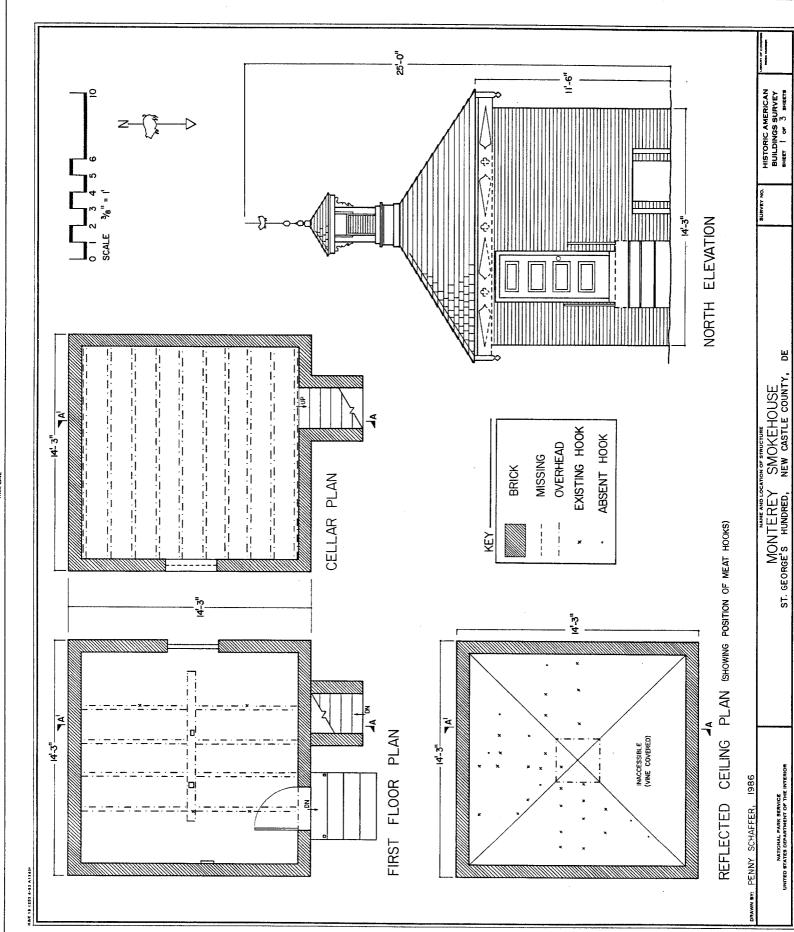
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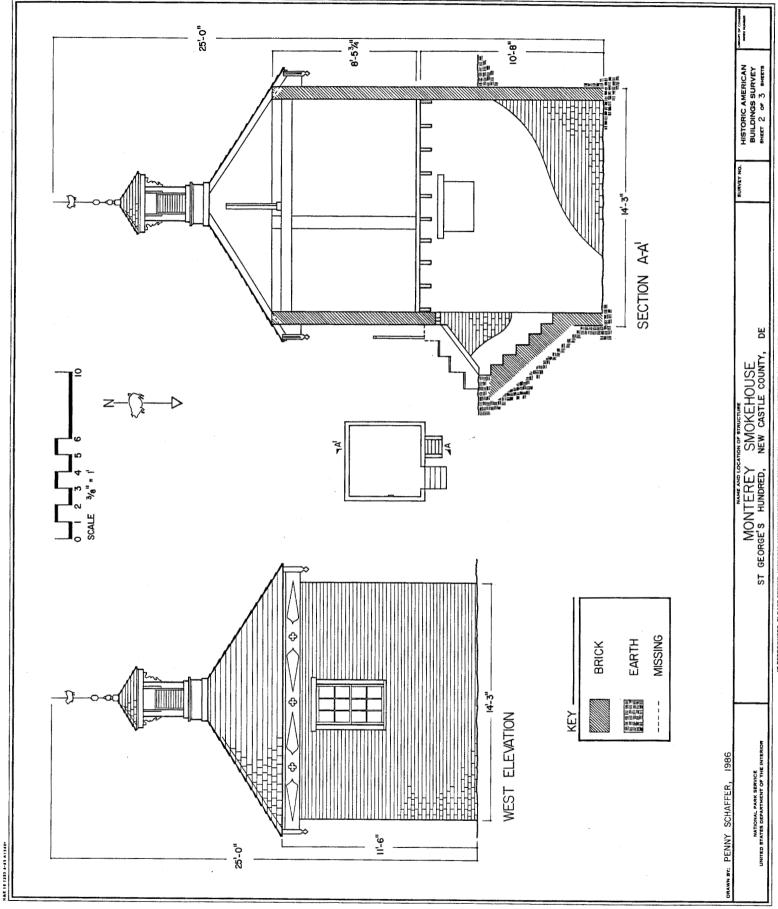
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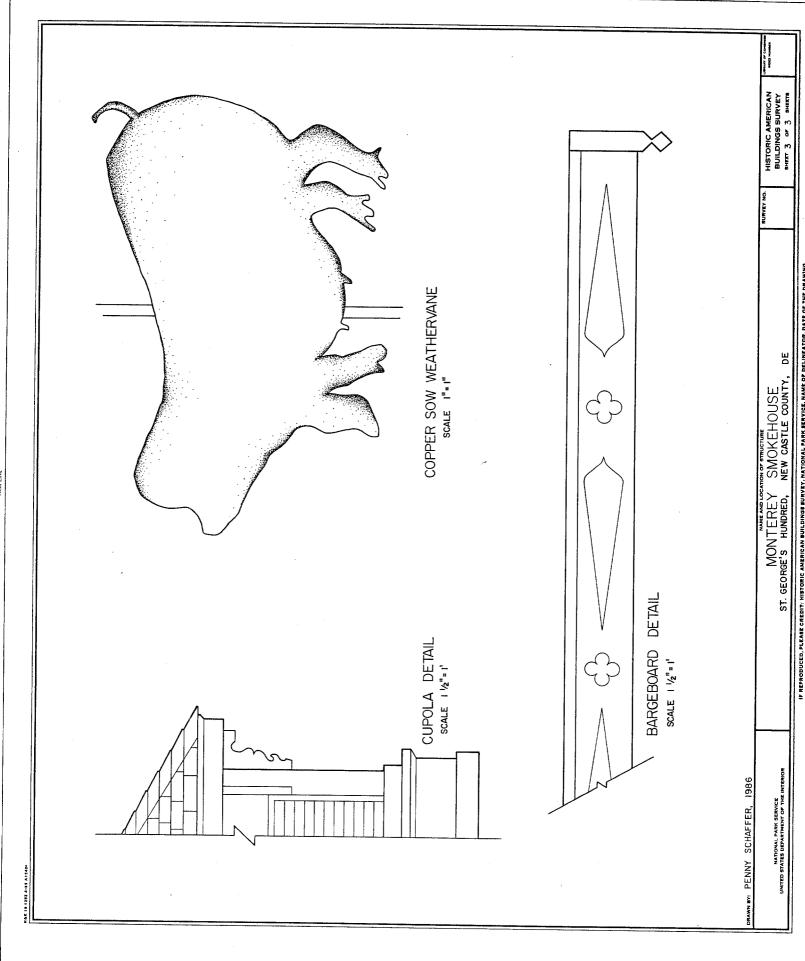


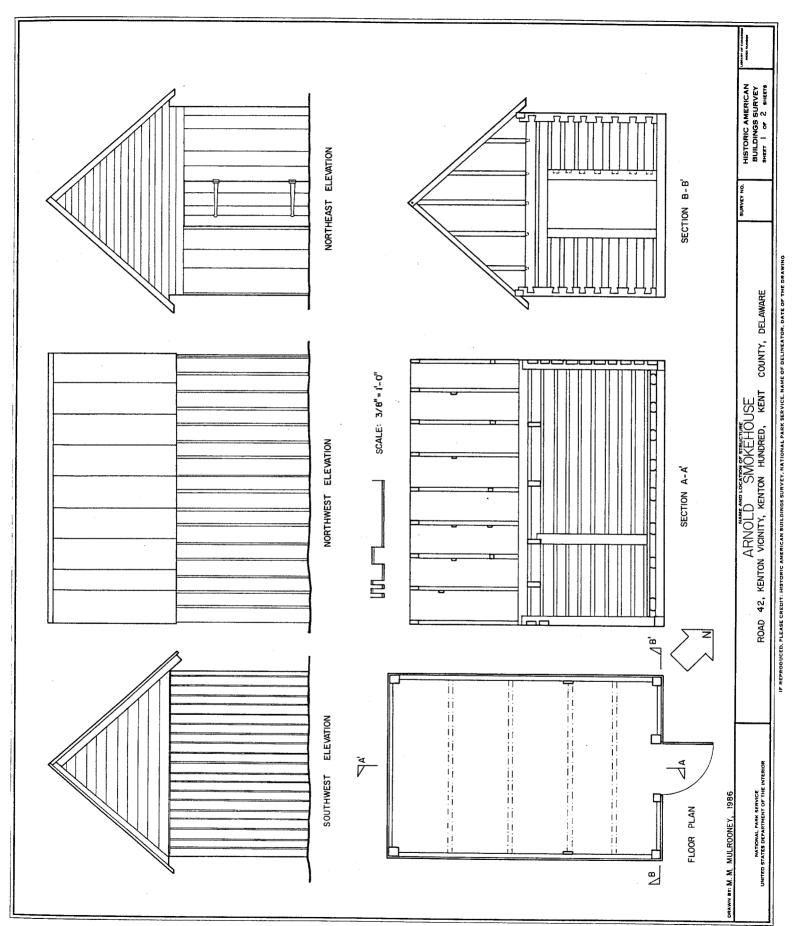




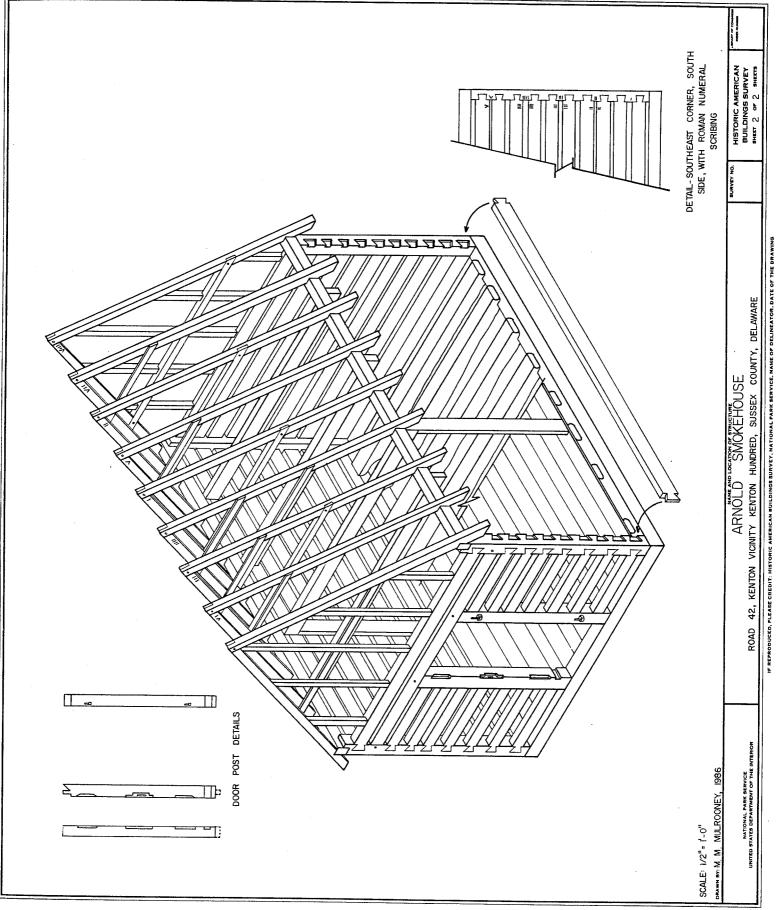


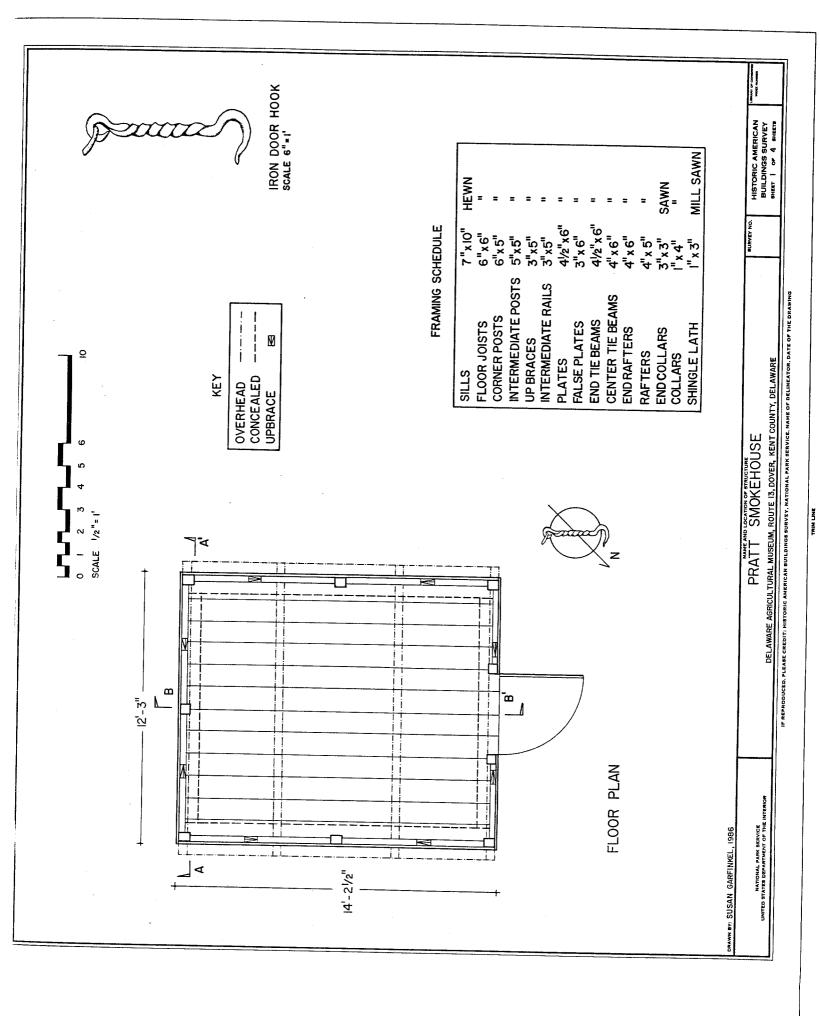
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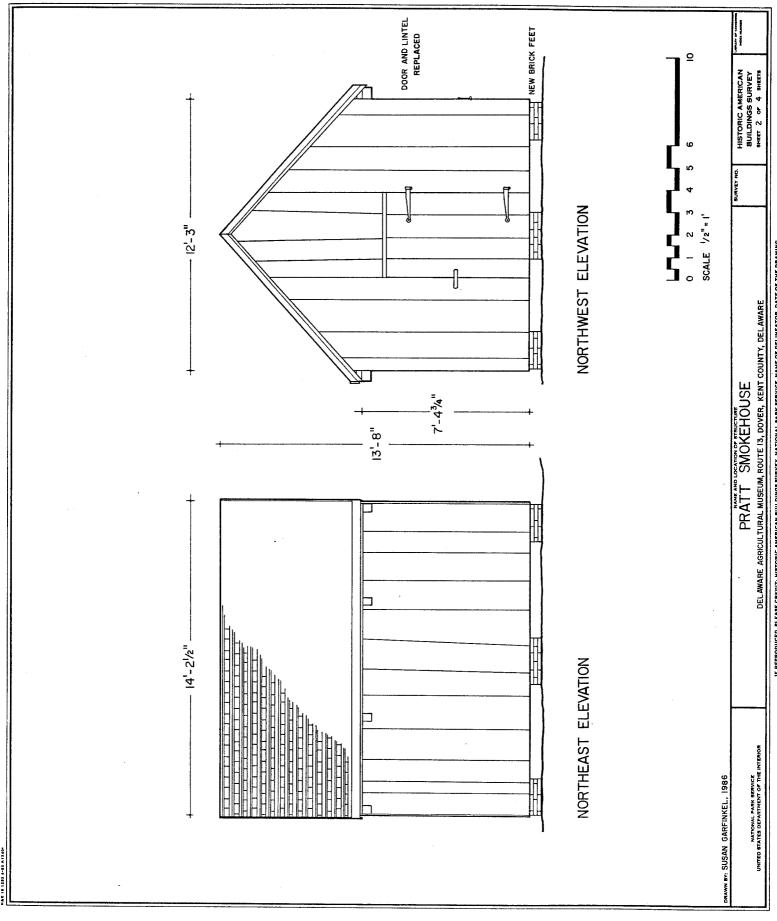




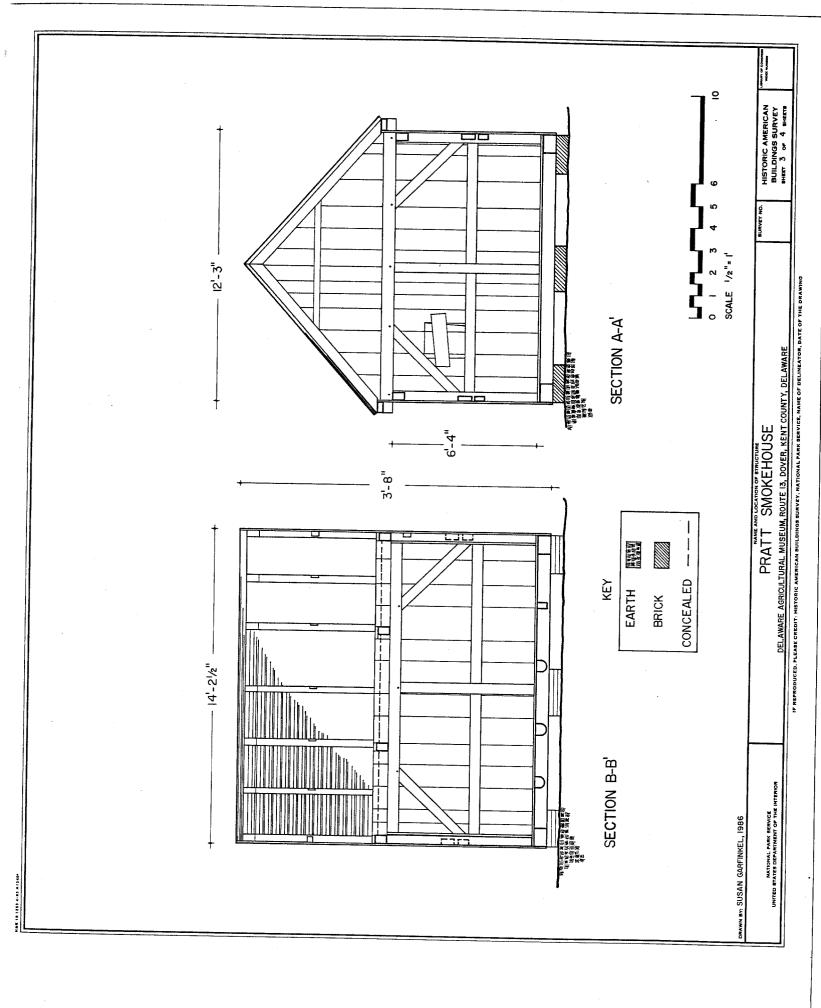
TRIM LINE

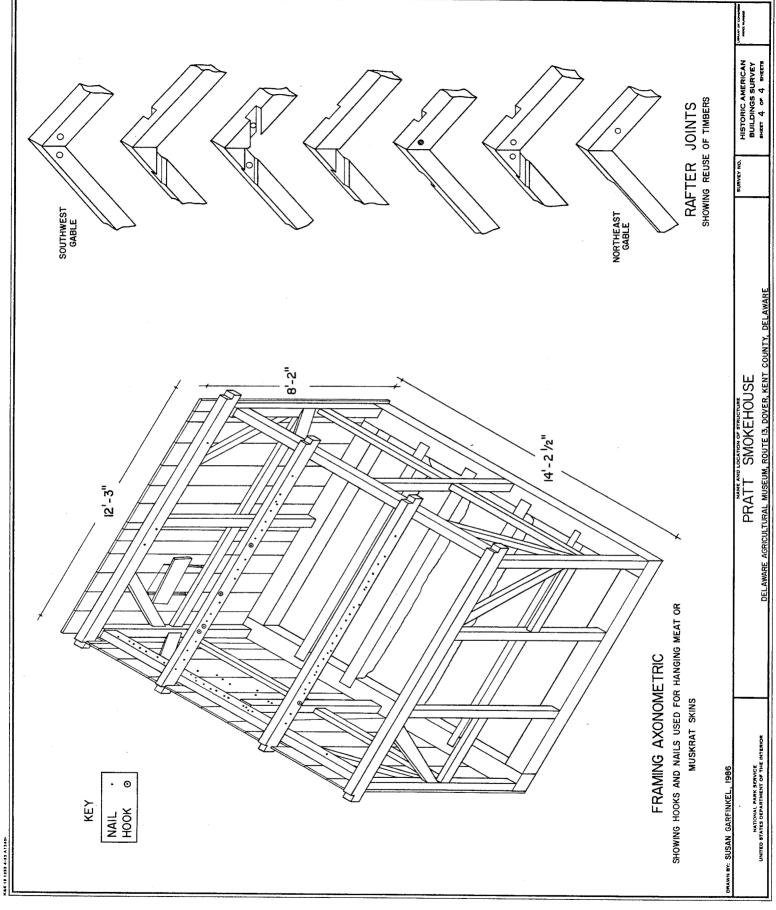




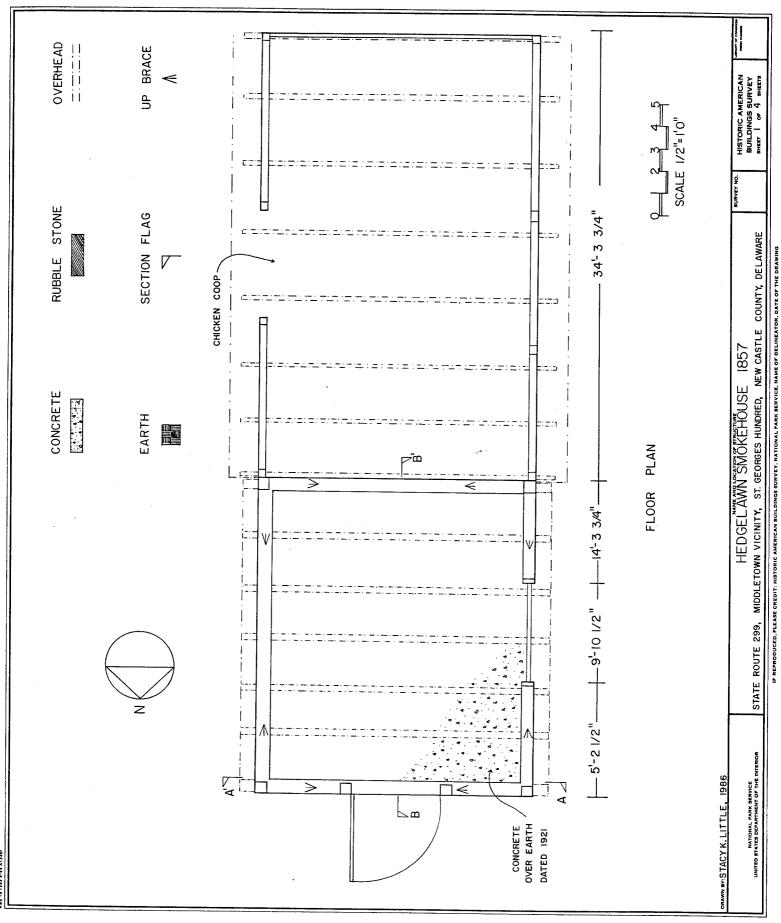


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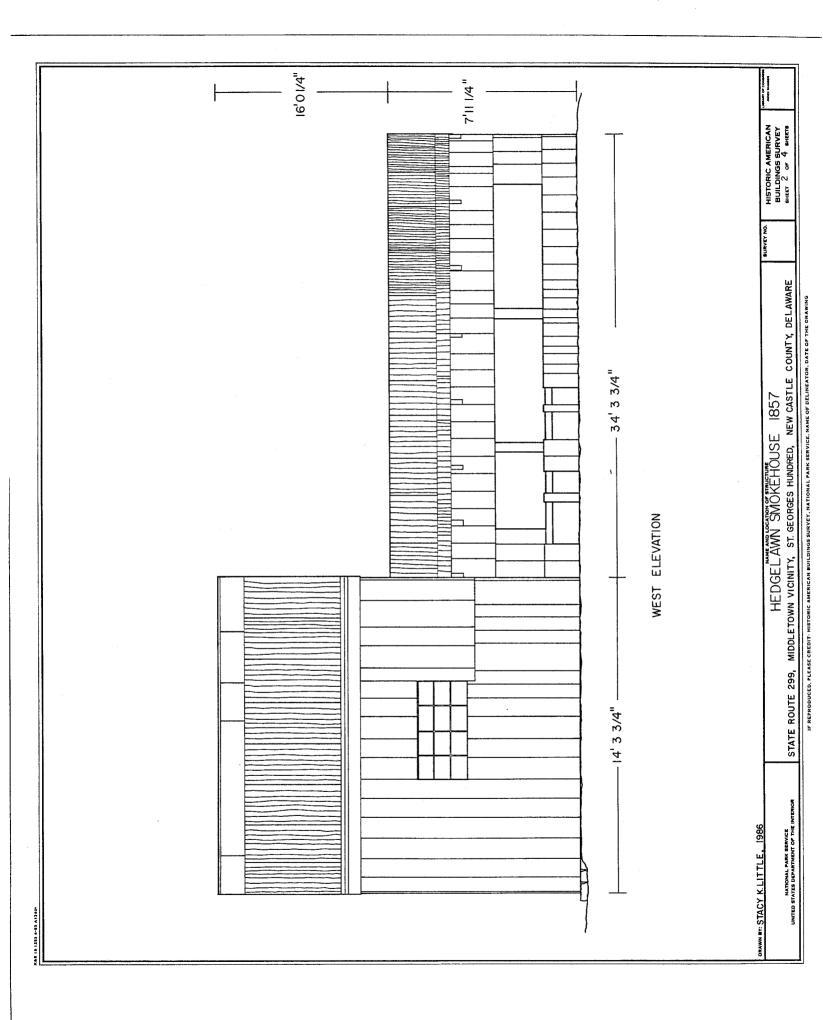


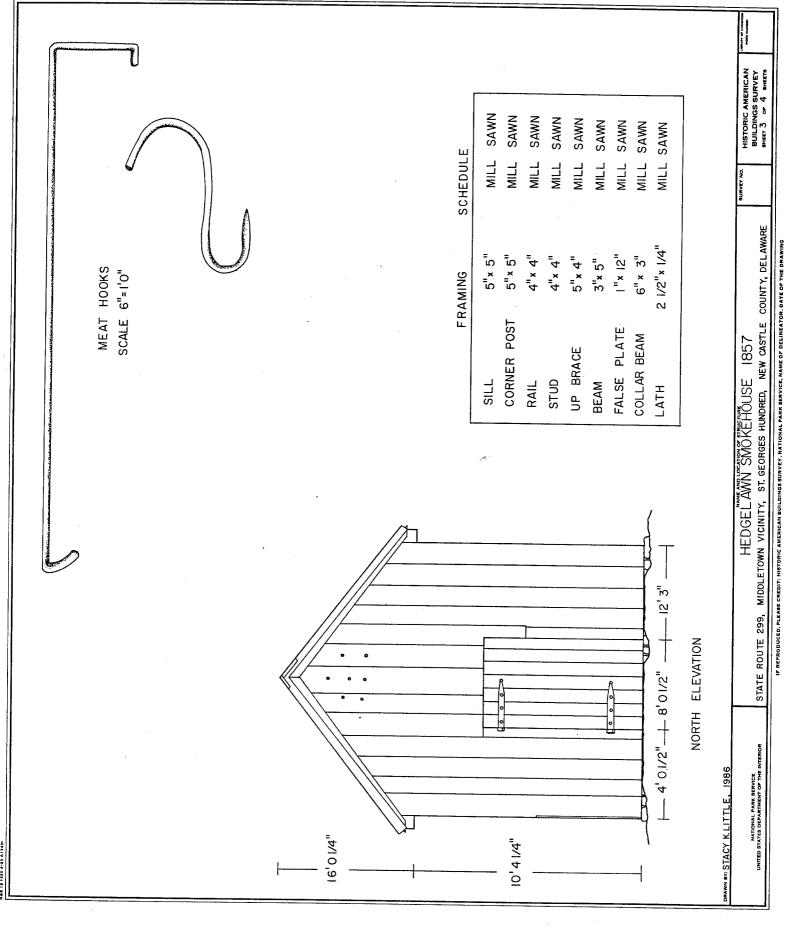
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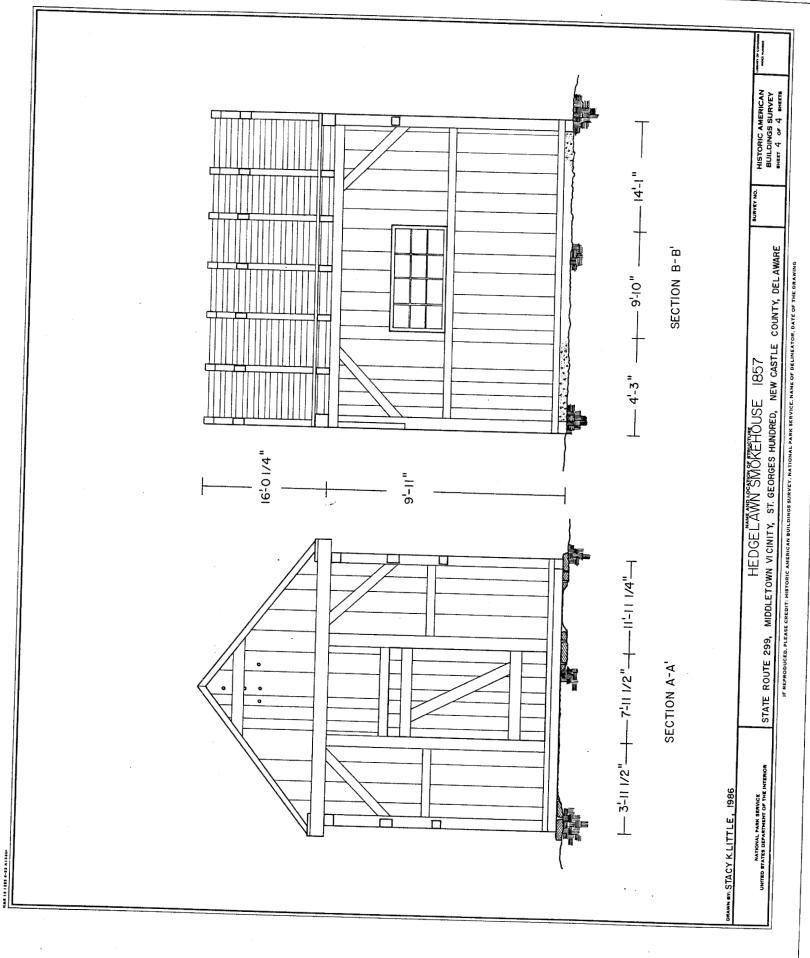


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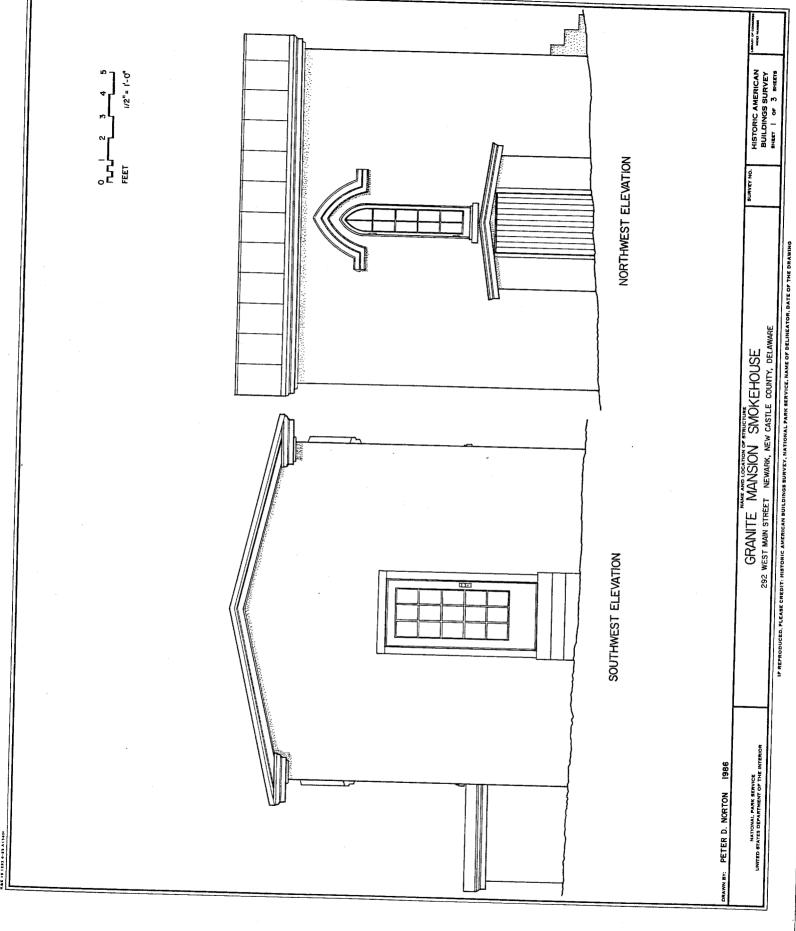
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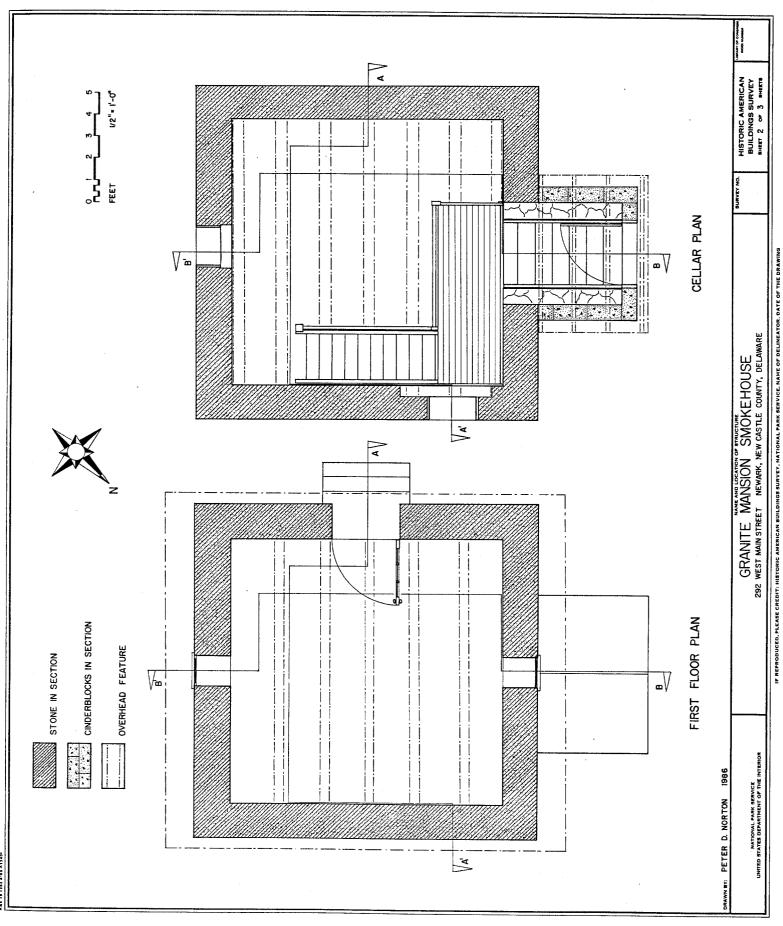






TRIM LINE





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