historic resource study

FIRE ISLAND

THE WILLIAM FLOYD ESTATE

NATIONAL SEASHORE / NEW YORK

HISTORIC RESOURCE STUDY

THE WILLIAM FLOYD ESTATE

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

NEW YORK

Prepared by

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Preface

This Historic Resource Study on the William Floyd Estate, a unit of Fire Island National Seashore, was undertaken by request of the Assistant Director, Operations, Northeast Region. It covers the manor house, outbuildings, and the extensive grounds. As suggested in the request, the study is a sort of documented historical base map with some general input on family use and occupancy. Since the property has remained in the possession of the Floyd family since the seventeenth century, the study can be used as the Historical Data Section of a much needed Historic Structure Report.

In the preparation of this report, I have been largely dependent on the William Floyd Papers, a large collection of manuscripts donated by the Floyd family to the National Park Service. Though the William Floyd letters in the collection are very few, the receipts are numerous; most of the letters cover the period of the last three-quarters of the nineteenth century. Two delightful accounts by Mrs. Cornelia Floyd Nichols--"As Told by the Attic Letters" and "Letters to my Great-great-Granddaughter"--are excellent syntheses and interpretations of many of the letters and receipts of the Floyd Papers. Mrs. Nichols' accounts are indispensable sources of information for the social and economic history of the Mastic area, especially during the nineteenth century. In the humid attic of Floyd House still remain many letters and papers of the nineteenth century that should be part of the William Floyd Papers.

Other sources of information were obtained from the Library of Congress; New York Historical Society; Riverhead Free Library; Patchogue Public Library; Assessor's Office, town of Brookhaven; and Surrogate's Court, Riverhead. The Long Island Historical Society was most helpful in facilitating the reproduction of several maps from various Long Island atlases.

There are many other institutions in the United States that have research material on William Floyd, the extent and nature of which are not known by the writer of this report. These institutions include the New Jersey Historical Society; Connecticut State Library; Massachusetts Historical Society; Maine Historical Society; Chicago Historical Society; Henry E. Huntington Library of San Marino, California; Detroit Public Library; Marietta College, Ohio; Amherst College, Massachusetts; Haverford College Library, Pennsylvania;

Harvard University Library; Yale University Library; University of Pennsylvania; Williams Proctor Institute of Utica, New York; St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Illinois; St. John's Seminary of Camarillo, California; and the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

A number of persons have assisted in the completion of this report. Many, many thanks are due Mrs. Cornelia Floyd Nichols and Mrs. David Weld for their splendid cooperation and hospitality. Mrs. Weld was especially helpful in connection with the location and use of the outbuildings and in answering many questions about the house and the Floyd family; Peter Steele, Museum Curator of the New York City Group, was responsible for the photographic work. Thanks are also due Robert Dunnagan and Pat Crosland of the Fire Island National Seashore for their encouragement and interest in the preservation of the Floyd Estate; finally to June LoMonaco, of Fire Island National Seashore, for typing the manuscript.

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I. GENERAL WILLIAM FLOYD (1734-1821)

A. Biographical Sketch

General William Floyd, best known as one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from the colony of New York, was born at Mastic, Long Island, on December 17, 1734. Some general information about his long and distinguished public career is easily found in several biographical sources. What follows is a brief summary of the leading events of his life and how they were reflected in the history of the old Mastic House, his birthplace and residence.

Floyd was the great-grandson of one Richard Floyd who emigrated from Wales about 1654 or 1656 and settled at Setauket, the mother settlement of the town of Brookhaven, Long Island. His father, Nicoll Floyd, was a wealthy and respectable landowner of Suffolk County. Tabitha Smith, his mother, was the daughter of Col. William Smith, Lord of the Manor of St. George, on Long Island.[1]

Very little is known of Floyd's early life, but it was mainly spent in the circle of an extensive family connection which comprised the most distinguished families of the country. Mastic, the huge family estate where he lived, abounded with game of every variety and much of his time was devoted to hunting, an amusement to which he was passionately addicted all his life. His education, although liberal for the times, was chiefly confined to the useful branches of knowledge. He seems to have been mainly concerned with business.[2]

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1. Harold Donalson Eberlein, Manor Houses and Historic Homes of Long Island and Staten Island (Port Washington: Ira J. Friedman, 1928), pp. 107, 109; Frederic Gregory Mather, The Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut (New York, 1913), p. 339; Genealogical Chart of the Floyd Family, library of the Floyd House.

2. "William Floyd," Biography of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence (Philadelphia, 1828), II, typescript copy, hereafter cited as Biography.

Floyd's education was interrupted by the death of his father and mother in 1755 and he became responsible for managing the estate and the care of six younger sisters and a brother. During the years following Nicoll's death, he was apparently chiefly occupied at Mastic with the affairs of the large estate and its many self-sustaining activities. In 1760 he married Hannah Jones of Southampton. His family name gave him all the advantages of social position and influence he could desire and he soon became a man of distinction far beyond the borders of his own immediate neighborhood. Floyd House was noted as the perpetual gathering place for a wide number of acquaintances and the frequent scene of social activity. In the farming and managing of his estate, and in business matters generally, Floyd displayed a high degree of shrewdness and the mastery of practical details.[3]

As a leading member of the society in which he lived, and despite his many other interests, Floyd became a close student of public affairs. He followed current events in the New York newspapers, subscribing to the Gazette, the Mercury, and the News. His clear mind and sense of justice brought him prominence in the colonial cause against Great Britain. As a citizen of Brookhaven, Floyd took part in town affairs. In 1769 he was elected town trustee and was reelected to that office in 1770 and 1771.[4]

In the colonial militia, young Floyd rose to the rank of Colonel of the First Suffolk County Regiment during the Revolutionary War and after the war he became a Major General in the state militia. His military career, though useful, was uneventful with the exception of one occasion when he prevented some British forces from landing on Long Island.[5]

Floyd's temperamental qualities fitted him for public service and legislative affairs rather than for military matters. He served a short term in the Provincial Assembly

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3. Ibid.; Floyd Papers, Federal Hall.

4. Biography; Brookhaven Town Records, Book C.

5. Eberlein, op. cit., p. 111; William A. Maxwell, A Portrait of William Floyd, Long Islander (Long Island, 1950), pp. 17-18.

of New York and then became delegate to the First Continental Congress at Philadelphia in 1774. In the following year he was again elected a delegate to the Continental Congress and continued as a member until after that body adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. He and the other four delegates from New York voted for its adoption, but Floyd was the first New York man to sign the famous document.[6]

During the whole Revolutionary period, the British forces controlled virtually all of Long Island. While the property of Loyalists was more or less respected and protected, that of the Whigs suffered severely in many cases. Floyd's Mastic estate was taken over in 1777 by a company of horsemen during his attendance in Congress. Mrs. Floyd and the children--Nicoll, Mary, and Catherine--were driven from the Mastic home in haste and confusion and were taken by friends to Middletown, Connecticut. According to a family story, Mrs. Floyd had time only to bury the family silver before she fled across the Sound. Floyd's efforts to rescue his personal effects were fruitless. He was away from Long Island for about six years and scarcely realized what havoc was being wrought in his home until he came back with his family and saw with his own eyes what had taken place.[7]

In 1777 Floyd was appointed a senator in the newly created state of New York. He served in the Council of Safety, and generally presided over the Senate when the Governor left the chair. In 1778 he was again elected a delegate to the Continental Congress and from then on for many years was either a member of the National Assembly or a state senator. While he was a refugee, his wife, Hannah, died in 1781.

When the Floyds returned to Mastic in 1783, they found their estate despoiled of almost everything but the naked soil. What the British soldiers failed to strip, the Tories had carried off--household furniture, farming utensils, beds, bedding, and clothing. They found desolate fields, uprooted

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6. Biography; Eberlein, op. cit., p. 111; Maxwell, op. cit., pp. 18, 19.

7. Maxwell, op. cit., pp. 20-22; Eberlein, op. cit., p. 112.

trees, charred remains of fences, and a house that was uninhabitable. It would be some time before the house would again be suitable for a leading family. But eventually it was restored and refurnished and the house played host to many famous men, among them Jefferson, Madison, and Lafayette.[8]

In 1784 Floyd married Joanna Strong of Setauket, who bore him two daughters, Anna and Eliza. By 1785 the condition of the farm was improving. Floyd's son, Nicoll, was 22 years old and it has been inferred that the management of the Mastic estate was largely in his hands while his father was absent and occupied with the affairs of government.

In 1792 and 1800 Floyd was a Presidential Elector and in 1801 was elected a member of the convention to revise the constitution of the state of New York. He afterwards served repeatedly as Presidential Elector through 1820.

Late in life, Floyd withdrew from the old house in Mastic and left the administration of his estate to his children, while he himself undertook the pioneering and carving out of a new estate in upper New York. In 1784 he had bought a tract of land in Western, now Westernville, Oneida County. Finding himself more at leisure, he undertook the improvement of this land and in 1803 gave his home place at Mastic to his son, Nicoll. His remaining years of life were spent clearing and transforming the land into a number of cultivated fields. The western portion of the state of New York was at this time emerging from the wilderness.

Floyd enjoyed uninterrupted good health until a short time before his death on August 4, 1821. He is buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Westernville, next to his wife, Joanna. In 1895 their tombstones were removed to the family cemetery at Mastic.[9]

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8. Biography; Eberlein, op. cit., p. 112; Maxwell, op. cit., pp. 24-25; Benjamin Thompson, History of Long Island (Long Island, 1962), III, 364-365.

9. Thompson, op. cit., pp. 365-66; Biography; Eberlein, op. cit., p. 112; Mather, op. cit., pp. 342-43. For specific information about Floyd and his estate, see Cornelia Floyd Nichols, "As Told by the Attic Letters," 1952, I, 1-40, hereafter cited as "Attic Letters."

II. LAND USE

A. General Setting

The Floyd estate today is a 611-acre tract of meadow, fields, and woods located on Mastic Neck, the largest of six large necks of land which form the peninsula of Mastic, in southeast Long Island. Originally, the estate comprised several thousand acres of land. The origin of the name, Mastic, is not quite clear. Some believe the name formerly applied to the stream that forms the east boundary of the peninsula, and which is now called Forge River. According to Floyd family tradition, the Indian name for Mastic Neck was Massatuck, which signified "the opening of a small body of water into a larger one." Weganthotoc and Swift were also names applied to the Mastic River. Near the end of the eighteenth century the river received the present name, Forge River, when General Floyd's son, Nicoll, operated "an iron forge on or near the dam where the Montauk Highway now crosses it at West Moriches."[1]

In ancient times Long Island Indians lived on certain parts of the Neck. When the lands passed from Indian hands, and the days of plowing came, many arrowheads turned up and occasional stone axheads. At one time human bones, eroded by the tide, were discovered protruding from a sandbank southeast of Mastic. This find bore out the tradition that an Indian burial ground had been located here, giving Indian Point its name. Not far west of the Floyd house was a small clearing in the woods that was believed to have been made by the Indians. This cleared area was called "Pece-punk," which signified a sweating place. By using heating stones, the Indians achieved a sort of Turkish bath which they used to dispel illness. By the 1890's the clearing had become a field of long grass that yielded a load of hay every summer.[2]

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1. Cornelia Floyd Nichols, "Old Mastic House," Long Island Forum, III, No. 4 (April, 1940), 69; Osborn Shaw, "The Floyd Home at Mastic," Addresses Delivered On the Occasion of a Visit To The General William Floyd House . . . (Setauket, 1950), p. 6.

2. Cornelia Floyd Nichols, "Letters to my Great-great Granddaughter" (1934-40), I, 2-3, 15, hereafter cited as Cornelia, "Letters."

Mastic Neck projects so far southward into the East Bay that only a narrow strait varying in width from about one-quarter to three-quarters of a mile remains between its shore and the Great South Beach (Fire Island). Pattersquash Creek empties into the strait about midway of the ragged shore. East Connecticut, or Fire Place River (now Carman's River), is the westernmost boundary. Many of the necks and localities retain their aboriginal names, such as Poosepatuck, Sebonock, Necommack, Coosputus, Patterquos, Unchahoug, and Mattemoy.[3]

When the first Floyds settled at Mastic, they saw many of the land features that are found today. Bordering the shoreline were miles of salt meadow, cut here and there by creeks rising as fresh springs on higher ground, and broadening out as they reached the bay to receive the backwash from its brackish waters. This extensive meadow produced different kinds of grasses peculiar to such situations. In the nineteenth century, some of the creeks like "O'Dell's Creek, Home Creek, Lon's Creek and Second Neck Creek . . . served as boundaries between the properties of inheriting sons; aunts uncles and cousins lived each on their own neck of land."

Back of the salt meadow was the fertile part of the estate, and here the Floyds cleared the land and separated different lots for cultivation and pastures. To the north stretched acres and acres of woodland which they found fit only for cordwood and timber. There were many old oaks, tall hickories, pines, and many cedars, sassafras, wild fruits, and low growth bound into thickets by catbrier and grape vines to serve as cover for the abundant game.

As might be expected, the sea offered ample opportunities for fishing, contributing much in the way of food, and pleasure boating. But most important of all, the sea served as a vital highway for trade.[4]

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3. Thompson, op. cit., II, 333; Richard M. Bayles, Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Suffolk County (Port Washington, 1962), p. 276.

4. Cornelia, "Letters," I, 3-4; II, 1-48.

B. Roads, Hedges, Fields

Like many other parts of Long Island during colonial times, Mastic was a very isolated area. At first, in fact, the only access to the place was by sailing from New York, for there were no roads anywhere on Long Island. As the people in the North Shore settlements grew more worldly, there was travel from Old Man's (Mt. Sinai) to the south, and we read about the Granny Road, Wading River Hollow Road, and one from Coram to Drown Meadow (Port Jefferson).

There were three main highway routes established about the year 1733 through the length of the island, called North, Middle, and South Country (Route 27) Roads. Both the mail and the traveling public were carried and accommodated by stage lines or private carriages. The first post route was established in 1764 through the island and was called the circuit. Once every two weeks, the mail was carried on horseback eastward through the north part of the island, returning along the south shore.[5]

During the early days when settlers were widely separated, small business transactions, like barter trade, were evidently carried on over distances of many miles. A neighbor, 25 miles away or more, would be called upon to act as "go-between," receiving goods and payments and holding them until a suitable messenger was available to carry them further.

An important duty of the landed gentry was to maintain the public highway where it crossed their property. A section of the South Country Road passed by the Floyd property west of the Forge River, near the west end of the mill dam belonging to Nicoll Floyd. This road was to continue in use as long as Floyd, his heirs, and assignees should keep up a sufficient passage across the dam "for people to pass and repass with teams, carts, and carriages of all kinds, and no longer."[6]

From that portion of the South Country Road that ran through the northern part of the Floyd property, several dirt roads led south to Mastic land. These roads are shown

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5. Bayles, op. cit., p. 86; Cornelia, "Letters," II, 9-10.

6. Cornelia, "Letters," II, 2, 59.

in general survey maps of different periods, ranging from 1797 to 1915.[7] Since these survey maps seem to be quite inaccurate and too general, it is not possible to determine which Mastic roads used today follow eighteenth century alignment. A system of roads leading to the fields and pastures provided communication between the different parts of the estate. According to tradition, existing paths, roads, and trails in the neighborhood of the house, including the main entrance road, follow more or less late eighteenth and early nineteenth century alignment.

Some of the most striking features of the Mastic estate today are the extensive physical remnants of hedges and ditches that mark the original boundaries of the fields. Each field bears the old distinctive name by which it has been known ever since the place was first cultivated and the first plan was drawn up showing the position of the fields and their extent.[8]

Some farm fences on Long Island were made of timber, but the use of ditches and hedges as fencing was very common, especially at the Floyd estate. To mark boundary lines, or to keep cattle from straying onto a neighbor's property, slaves dug miles and miles of ditches and threw the earth on one side to act as a barrier. Such a boundary ditch separated the Floyd and Smith lands. When a tract of woodland was cleared for tilling or pasture, a border of trees a rod or two wide was left around the outer edge; then a ditch two or three feet wide and equally deep was dug through the edge of the trees and the earth thrown upon a mound along the hedge. Sometimes, after the ditch and mound had been formed, trees were felled lengthwise along the ditch so that the mound would be topped with a fence of living tree trunks. In this process, called "lopping," the trees were cut half through and then bent at a right angle. When young trees grew up on the mounds they could be lopped more easily. As the lopped trees continued to grow, their larger upright branches became trees which also were lopped. By these repeated loppings, a fence would be maintained for centuries until the original trunk grew to be three or four feet in diameter, and the upright sprouts developed into large trees,

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7. These survey maps are found in several Long Island Atlases, Long Island Historical Society.

8. See Illustrations 14 and 15.

still attached to the original trunks. Lopped-tree fences were found everywhere on the island. A lopped-tree hedge was certainly effective in preventing cattle and sheep from straying and was economical to maintain.[9]

Both the main farm roads and the fields and pastures, together with the extent of the forest, are clearly shown in a survey map of 1911 (Illustration 14). This is an excellent base map that illustrates the continuity of land use by different generations of the Floyd family. The map is so clear that it does not need any explanation.

C. The Farm as a Productive Unit

1. Eighteenth Century

Like those of many other large landowners on Long Island, the fortunes of the Floyds were founded in agriculture. When they first settled at Mastic, the Floyds brought cattle, sheep, hogs, and fowl, and established their agriculture in a general way around livestock and crop enterprises. Mastic soil is a light sandy loam interspersed by an occasional tract of comparatively sterile sand. This soil is of medium productivity, but because of its particular character, was easily tilled and lent itself to the growing of intertilled crops, such as potatoes, cauliflower, beans, corn, and other vegetable crops. Long Island farmers early learned the value of fertilizers on their soils, and adopted the Indian practice of using menhaden fish from the adjacent bays to make the land more productive.[10]

In colonial times, Staten Island, Long Island, and a narrow strip on both sides of the Hudson were devoted to agriculture. Wheat was the staple crop, but farmers also grew rye, barley, oats, corn, flax, and common grass that they cut for hay. Harvests were rarely large due to impoverished soil and poor cultivation. Herds of inferior stock

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9. Cornelia, "Letters," II, 10-11; Frank Overton, "Old Lopped-Tree Fences," Long Island Forum, VI, No. 3 (1943), 49-50.

10. Bayles, op. cit., pp. 79-81; "The Agriculture of Long Island," Long Island Forum, I, No. 3 (May, 1938), 13.

grazed over the pastures. Farmers relied on the same tools their forefathers had known in the Middle Ages--the harrow, cart, and plow. Workers on the William Floyd farm doubtlessly used scythes to cut the grass, harvested grain with a sickle, threshed it on the threshing floor with a flail, or beat it out by the hoofs of horses and oxen. They hauled the grain to a grist mill that Floyd had somewhere in Mastic, and generally took home the grist to make provisions for winter months.

During Floyd's time, a farm generally ranged in size from 100 to 150 acres, but it produced food, fuel, and clothing. Any surplus was shipped from the nearest landing market; the sea was the highway from Long Island to New York and New England. In this way the farmer was able to gain a small extra income, and enjoy a better lot than the man struggling in the back country or on the frontier.[11]

William Floyd left no statement of his total wealth, but he kept detailed records of his financial transactions, large or small. His wealth, of course, was far greater than the average farmer's. His father had built up a large estate which, under his management, continued to prosper. But his fortune never compared with that of those who lived in a princely style on the Hudson. Despite this, his numerous receipts reveal the Floyd estate as a productive unit.

The real extent of his farming activities is not reflected in Floyd's tax records. He paid a tax of £2 5s. 10d. in 1758. After 1758 the Manor of St. George paid the taxes, but the Floyds consequently paid their share to the Smiths, owners of the Manor. In 1795 Floyd's real estate was assessed at £4,500 and his personal estate at £1,000. In 1799 the assessed valuation of his house and land came to $14,000, while his personal property was valued at $3,278; his tax for this year was $17.27.[12]

Before the Revolution, Floyd's farm must have been self-sustaining as there are no bills for food that could be raised on the land, like cereals, vegetables, and meat.

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11. Maxwell, op. cit., pp. 11-12.

12. Town tax list, Suffolk County Historical Society.

The farm was reaching a point of earning income as well by marketing flaxseed, cattle, and cordwood.

After 1783 Floyd was mainly concerned with the rehabilitation of his estate. By 1785 the estate was paying by barter for many necessary articles that could not be produced or made on the farm like furnishings, household accessories, personal articles for the whole family, raw materials for home industries, exotic foods and drinks, and luxury items that showed signs of a high degree of refinement. In the house, farm produce was converted into marketable goods, such as cheese, butter, hams, lard, rum, and flaxseed.

By 1790 Mastic was a busy estate supporting many persons. There was plenty of stock on the farm. Hides of sheep, cows, and horses were cured and tanned and shoes made from them on the premises. One of the outbuildings was devoted to the cobbler and here he set up shop on his yearly visits and worked until all hands were supplied. Of special importance was the blacksmith; he fashioned hinges, fireplace irons, tools, implements, locks, and other kinds of iron commodities.[13]

Floyd employed free skilled labor in managing his estate, but he also depended on slaves as did other landowners. Most of the Indian labor came from Poosepatuck village, located about two miles north of the Floyd house, at the head of Poosepatuck Creek. These Indians intermarried with the colored slaves and formed the working population of Mastic. Today the mixed-breed descendants are still living at the Poosepatuck Indian Reservation.[14]

2. Summit and Decline of the Farm

After Nicoll Floyd (1762-1852), the only son of William, took over complete control of the farm in 1803, he lived continuously at Mastic and held responsible positions in the county, such as Surrogate and Collector of Revenues. It was

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13. Cornelia, "Letters," II, 12, 13, 33, 34, 38, 39; Floyd Papers; Maxwell, op. cit., p. 9; "Attic Letters," I.

14. Theodora DuBois, "Mastic Records," undated; Thompson, op. cit., II, 333; Bayles, op. cit., p. 227.

the duty of the Collector to issue permits for manufacturing. He also held an office which gave him work at the edge of the sea--Office of Wreck Master. Shipwrecks occurred quite often near Mastic and it was up to the Wreck Master to get to the spot rapidly and provide assistance, besides being responsible for salvage operations.

During Nicoll's time the Mastic farm reached its highest point of productivity; the farm developed gradually into a great estate that resembled a southern plantation, with many Indians and slaves working in the fields. He built a number of ships on a lot near Home Creek called "Great Boat Place," and was very active in trade with New York City. Trade was carried on chiefly by boats of shallow enough draft to navigate the many shoals of the Great South Bay. Schooners carried hams, lard, cider, eggs, butter, and plenty of cordwood, besides livestock. The house hummed with spinning of wool and linen, candle making, churning, and the making of sausages, lard and headcheese. Nicoll went less far afield than his father, contenting himself with local offices and shipping ventures, including whaling. "While everybody worked hard to make the Mastic estate a paying concern," wrote Mrs. Nichols, "I doubt if the Squire's [Nicoll's] resources would have provided a very good living had he not gone in for business ventures elsewhere."[15]

After the death of Nicoll in 1852, Mastic passed on to his son, John Gelston Floyd (1806-1881), who presumably grew up at the farm with three brothers and three sisters. A living was more easily and agreeably made out in the world than on the farm. John Gelston, Sr., became a lawyer, served three terms as representative in Congress, and was also a state senator. During his long absences the land was still farmed, but at an increasing loss. Fairly early in life he suffered a stroke and his last 20 years of gradually failing health as an invalid, "form a tragic period in the history of Old Mastic House."[16]

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15. Cornelia, "Letters," II, 62; "Attic Letters," II, 1-39; "Old Mastic House," p. 80; C. H. Ross, "Recollections," (March, 1913); "Mastic Records."

16. "Attic Letters," II, 43; "Old Mastic House," p. 80; "Attic Letters," II, 39-41; "Mastic Records."

After the death of John Gelston, there was a big task of rehabilitation to be done, for during the years of sickness he had reduced the land to a sad state and encumbered the house with mortgages. The 2,200 acres that were left were broken up and divided between heirs; to John Gelston, Jr., (1841-1903), went the old house and 687 acres. With the estate divided, John Gelston, Jr., found no inducement to continue farming his portion of land. It was during his tenure at Mastic that the place gradually ceased to be a working farm; the house became simply a summer vacation home and the woods a hunting ground.[17]

From 1876 to 1909, a farmer by the name of Charles H. Ross was caretaker of the house and farm. He operated in cattle and horses, repaired the buildings, maintained the grounds, and was an extraordinary gardener.[18]

In 1965, when the Floyd property became a detached unit of Fire Island National Seashore, the land was being used principally as a wildlife habitat where the family hunted and fished in accordance with New York State Laws. Mainly through good land use throughout nine generations of the family, the whole place was a rare and outstanding sanctuary of plant and animal life, supporting several species which had disappeared elsewhere on Long Island.[19]

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17. "Attic Letters," II, 43-45; William Floyd, "Memoirs"; In 1894, when stock raising was discontinued, the fields were rented to a farmer for $150. In the 1930's the place was rented as a game preserve.

18. Ross, op. cit.; William Floyd, "Mastic as Remembered" (1927).

19. "Historic Preservation," National Trust for Historic Preservation, XVI, No. 4 (Washington, D.C., 1964), 152.

III. BUILDINGS

A. Old Mastic House

Surrounded by old forest growths, the birthplace and former residence of William Floyd lies on a remote part of Mastic Neck distant from the highway and approachable only by winding dirt roads. It faces south and looks across a broad open expanse of lawn. Apparently a waterfront location was not considered by the builder in choosing a site for the house. It stands nearly a mile back from the bay, probably placed there for protection from easterly storms. In this location the house owner was also in a more convenient place for developing and directing the many farming and household activities of the estate.

Floyd House today is a 20-room, two-story white frame structure built in several stages that span two centuries. Thus the building is a mixture of architectural styles characteristic of various periods of American history.

It is not known when the construction of the house was begun and the first structure completed. Perhaps the first part of the house was built about 1729, the date of the marriage of Nicoll Floyd and Tabitha Smith. It appears that the earliest structure, where William Floyd was born in 1734, was a cabin, or "salt box," that saw many changes, each generation adding or removing according to the needs of the family.

Regarding the construction and evolution of the house, Mrs. Nichols wrote in 1940:

> Its attic today bears witness to its infancy, for about midway there is a partition on which the original outside shingles still remain. The floor boards on one side are of extraordinary width, on the other of usual colonial size. So it appears that the beginning was the familiar square box in which the family lived while it, and the house grew. The main house must have been completed soon; its rafters bear the adze marks, peg fastenings and handwrought nails of an early period.[1]

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1. "Old Mastic House," p. 69. Illustrations 17-19 are floor plans of the house as it exists today.

Physical evidence is the best source of information about the evolution of the house. A local historian gives the following interpretation:

> The original east part of the house has every indication of having been built first; then at a later date, the middle section including the stairway and east side of the present unusually wide center hall were added. At another time, the west end of the house was added but even that part is very old and was built probably soon after the Revolution as the whole of the present house is shown in the background of Gen. Floyd's portrait hanging in the hall. The details of the window casings and the mouldings are quite different in the middle and west sections of the house and show that these two sections were not built at the same time. In the garrett, the west end of the old middle section has some of the original shingles left on the top of what was the west gable end of the house before the west sections were added. . . . I venture the opinion that when Gen. Floyd returned to this home at the end of the war, he found it in such very bad shape that he built the west section at the time he made the repairs to the middle and east sections. He was then a man of prominence and had a large acquaintance among the statesmen of his time, and the west section was undoubtedly added so that he could the better entertain guests in the style and elegance that was expected of a man of his wealth and rank.[2]

When General Floyd returned to Mastic in 1783, he became mainly concerned with the rehabilitation of his estate. Since the enemy had left the house in very bad shape and had carried off all farming tools, much household furniture, as well as cattle and horses, everything had to be built up again gradually. No doubt he made repairs and additions to the house in

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2. Shaw, op. cit., p. 8.

keeping with his prominent social position. Construction work must have been done quickly, for in March 1784, his daughter Mary's wedding was held and he provided sumptuous entertainment for a great number of invited guests. After Mary's wedding, Gen. Floyd married his second wife, Joanna Strong.[3]

In 1790 Floyd undertook extensive construction work in the house, according to receipts of purchases made. Moses, Rogers, and Company sent out an iron door knocker for the front Dutch door, in addition to 6 knob locks, 6 knob latches, 8 bolts, and 12 hinges. He also ordered lumber, shingles, glass, lead, sash line, sash weights, sheets of iron, paint, oil, and white and red lead. From George Lindsay of New York, he received one hearthstone, 8" x 4", and two sets of "chimney pieces." He also paid a bill for the transportation of a load of stone and other things, boards, and "hair to make mortar."[4]

In the portrait of William Floyd, painted by Ralph Earle several years after the Revolution, the present white house is clearly shown in the background with a wing painted brown at each end. The covered entrance porch was then smaller, just the width of the door.[5]

There is no information about when and why the west wing was removed. In the portrait, this wing has a chimney at the west end, and a front door and two windows. West of the wing, and attached to it, is a split rail fence which undoubtedly extended to the rear of the house where the complex of outbuildings was located. According to tradition, the wing was cut off in two sections, sometime during the nineteenth century, to form two small buildings: a workshop and a house for a slavewoman by the name of Aunt Hannah.

The east wing is shown with two dormers, and with two windows and a porch covering the entrance door on the east side; three windows and two doors are located on the south

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3. Cornelia, "Letters," II, 28; Benjamin Tallmadge, Memoirs of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge (1904), p. 157.

4. Floyd Papers.

5. See Illustration 13.

side of the wing. At the present time this wing has three dormers and only one door at the front. The first floor of the wing was at one time the kitchen and it had an enormous fireplace. Traditionally, the second floor was known as the spinning chamber.

Sometime, perhaps early in the nineteenth century, a 1½-story extension was added to the east wing to serve as kitchen, larder, and servant's quarters. In this "old kitchen" are still found a large open fireplace and brick oven so familiar in the South, and a built-in cauldron for boiling cloths. Before the addition of the east rear extension, the kitchen had been at one time on the west wing of the house, and later on the east wing.[6]

In 1897, a two-story rear extension was added to the center of the main block, with guest rooms and running water. The broad boards of the old floors throughout the house were replaced by shiny hardwood. There was "great activity of wrecking and renovation." The new water system consisted of a windmill located on top of a barn where there was a tank; pipes were driven from the tank to the house.[7]

The last recorded extension of the house was the addition around 1925 of a so-called "summer kitchen" (lean-to structure) to the rear of the west extension which is still in use.[8]

In general, the architectural interest and merit of the house has been summarized as follows:

> Although the General William Floyd House has few decorative details that in themselves give the structure great distinction, the building as a whole has many pleasing architectural features and provides a unique visual history of the continuous development of a rural eighteenth

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6. "Old Mastic House," p. 69.

7. Cornelia Floyd Nichols, taped interview, 1971; Floyd, "Memoirs," "Mastic As Remembered."

8. Mrs. Nichols, tape cited previously.

century manor house that has remained in the possession of the original family. The additions and alterations that have been made are, in general, easily identifiable, and indicate a marked respect and concern for the fabric as it existed up to that point. Only the original portion, which records indicate dates probably from the 1730's, cannot easily be identified. A limited investigation by a technician should reveal the exact dating of each portion of the structure.[9]

B. Outbuildings

It is impossible to determine the exact number of outbuildings and their uses during the days of William Floyd's ownership of the estate. No doubt some buildings were moved from one site to another. However, the location of the buildings and their uses during the days of Floyd were about the same as in the second half of the nineteenth century. During this latter century, there were at least 14 auxiliary buildings north of the house that formed a veritable settlement. Most of them were located within a high board fence which bound them roughly into a circle. A gate northeast of the fence gave access to the buildings and the house. Remains of this gate are found at the present time north of the house on the main entrance road.

Illustration 16 is a map of the immediate area of the Floyd House showing the location of 10 existing outbuildings and other structures that existed during the second half of the eighteenth century. Most of the latter buildings, according to tradition and internal evidence, were probably built originally during the years when William occupied the house.

The existing buildings are:

1. Caretaker's Workshop
2. Carriage House
3. Wood Shed
4. Corn Crib

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9. John C. Poppeliers, "Historic American Building Survey, General William Floyd House," 1964, p. 5.

5. Ice House
6. Storage Crib
7. Old Shop (formerly Grain House)
8. Barn
9. New Barn
10. Old Sheep Barn

Existing records do not provide information on the original construction dates of these 10 buildings. Nos. 1, 2, and 3 seem to have been built after 1911;[10] No. 5, added during the second half of the nineteenth century, is built on the location of an old blacksmith shop; Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10 are in part original structures or at least are built on the site of original structures erected perhaps during the first half of the eighteenth century.

The sites of the other historical buildings are:

A. Storage Crib
B. Hog Pen
C. Goose House
D. Unidentified buildings (ca. 1790)
E. Old Wagon House
F. Calf Barn
G. Unidentified
H. Barn Buildings
I. Sheep Shearing Sheds
J. Robinson Barn
K. Original Horse Barn
L. Smoke House
M. Overseer's (Manager's) House

There were, undoubtedly, other buildings in different parts of the farm. The slave cabins were located here and there within a mile from the "big house," on the fringes of the forest.[11]

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10. They are not shown on the Survey Map by Nicoll Floyd 2nd and W. E. Baker, Jr., 1911.

11. Information about the location of these buildings was obtained from the following sources: Ibid.; Conversation with Mrs. Weld and Mrs. Nichols; Tape recording of Mrs. Nichols (1971); and Ross, "Recollections."

IV. CHAIN OF TITLE

That section of the estate facing south, between the Floyd House and the bay, is part of a tract known as "The New Purchase Meadows." It was first purchased by the town of Brookhaven on July 20, 1657, from Wyandance (the Montauk Sachem), the Chief Sachem of the other Long Island Indians. This occurred a little more than two years after the first settlement of the town of Brookhaven was begun at Setauket. Because of some dispute, a second deed was negotiated with the Unkechaug Indians for these meadows which was signed on September 19, 1674. Soon afterward, the meadows were allotted, at which time Richard Floyd got three shares.

The upland section of the neck, where the house now stands, was part of the large tract of land bought on April 8, 1692, from the Sachem, Tobacus, and his chief tribesmen, by Col. William Smith, a native of Northamptonshire, England. Smith later became Chief Justice and President of Council of the Province of New York. This neck was included in Col. Smith's first patent of the Manor of St. George, dated October 8, 1693. Upon his death, Maj. William Smith, one of his sons, gained title to the south part of the Manor and Patentship and sold the whole of Mastic Neck to Richard Floyd II, on May 17, 1718.[1]

Mastic Neck descended to Nicoll Floyd (1705-1755) who undoubtedly built the oldest part of the present house and moved into it with his young wife. They became the parents of nine children, one of whom was William, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. According to the deed to the several-thousand-acre estate, the general boundary began at the mouth of Mastic River,

> thence along the said river to the head of the same, from thence due north to the middle of the Island, then due west, bears due east, from thence southerly on a straight line to the head of Pattersquash Creek, and from thence as the land of the said William Smith doth extend to the place where it first began. . . .[2]

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1. Shaw, op. cit., p. 7; Bayles, op. cit., p. 227; The Manor of St. George (Long Island, 1955), pp. 3-4.

2. Original deed is in the Floyd House.

The first Nicoll lived at Mastic and reared his nine children while attempting to make a living off the wilderness land. He was only 50 years old when he and his wife, Tabitha, died in a typhoid epidemic. Their gravestones, dated 1755, were the first to be placed in a lot (north of the orchard) that he had set aside as a burial place for his family. Several generations now lie beside them.[3]

Nicoll left all his lands "either in Brookhaven or in the Manor St. Georges at the North or South side of this Island" to his eldest son, William (signer of the Declaration); this included the family house and surrounding farmstead whose somewhat vague boundaries were:

> Eastward of a North line from the Sea which shall strike the mouth of Connecticut River and all the East of the River to its head at the Country Road (up Connecticut hollow) from thence what lies Northward as well Eastward to Coram along the Country Road and from Coram what lies East of the Town Path to Brookhaven Green entering into Town by Benjamin Strongs and Benjamin Brewsters and also one half of my rights on the South Beach (Fire Island) lying Westward of the said bounds. . . .

To his son, Charles, he left an equivalent amount of land west of Carman's River and including lands at Smithtown that "came by his Mother."[4]

When William Floyd moved his family to Westernville in 1803, his son, Nicoll, took over management of the Mastic estate. In 1821, when his father died, Nicoll inherited the bulk of property both in Westernville and Long Island. During his tenure, the farm was a highly productive enterprise.[5]

After the death of Nicoll in 1852, the Mastic estate passed on to John Gelston Floyd, one of the youngest sons. When John Gelston died in 1881, the 2,200 acres that remained of the farm were divided between his three surviving sons; his two daughters received certain acres bordering

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3. Cornelia, "Letters," II, 3.

4. See Appendix B for will of Nicoll Floyd.

5. See Appendix C for William Floyd's will; Cornelia "Letters," II, 49.

the Forge River. The old Mastic House and 687 adjacent acres went to the youngest son, John Gelston Floyd, Jr.[6]

In 1903 the children of John Gelston, Jr., (William, Rosalie, and Cornelia) took over the Mastic estate, including the house, 687 acres, and a small tract on Fire Island.[7]

In May 1924, Rosalie Delafield Floyd conveyed to her brother, William, and her sister, Cornelia Floyd Nichols, her share of the property devised to her by her father's will.[8] A few years later, William and Cornelia sold 76 acres of woodland southwest of Peespunk. With this sale, the estate was reduced to 611 acres, which is the present size of the farm.[9]

By deed of September 13, 1935, William Floyd conveyed his share of the property to the four children of Cornelia Floyd Nichols--William Floyd Nichols, Mary Blake Weld, John S. Nichols, and David Gelston Nichols.[10] On August 14, 1941, David Gelston conveyed his share of the property received from William Floyd in 1935 to William Floyd Nichols, Mary Blake, and John S. Nichols.[11]

In 1947 there was an exchange of a small lot owned by Mastic Acres, Inc., adjoining the Mastic property to the north. The Floyd interests had an ancient right-of-way over this lot onto the roads of this development. Mastic Acres, Inc., allowed someone to build a house on the lot. To avoid moving the house, there was an exchange of a similar lot.[12]

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6. Cornelia, "Letters," II, 96; Floyd, "Memoirs."

7. Suffolk County Surrogate's Court, Liber 43, p. 187.

8. Surrogate's Court, Liber 1097, p. 507.

9. Floyd, "Memoirs," "Mastic as Remembered."

10. Surrogate's Court, Liber 1832, p. 384.

11. Ibid., Liber 2185, p. 212.

12. Ibid., July 1 and 8, 1949, Liber 2965, pp. 398, 507, 2967.

On November 2, 1949, William Floyd Nichols, John S. Nichols, and Mary Blake conveyed their interest in about 34 acres of property, including the main house, to their mother, Cornelia Floyd Nichols, reserving a right-of-way over the conveyed tract to the roads of Mastic Acres, Inc.[13]

In March 1956, John S. Nichols conveyed to Mary Blake his remaining interest in the Mastic property. Three more deeds were recorded in March and April 1959, as follows: Cornelia Floyd Nichols conveyed to her children--William, John, and Mary--the remaining interest in the property exclusive of the 34-acre tract described in the 1949 conveyance to her by three of her children; John sold to Mary his interest in the property just received by him from his mother, Cornelia (March 30, 1959); William sold to Mary his interest in the property other than the interest he had just received from Cornelia.[14]

To summarize the confused succession of deeds, the situation was as follows in 1959: By a series of conveyances, the 611-acre mainland tract was divided so that Cornelia owned about 34 acres on which the main house is located at the north end of the tract, with access to roads of Mastic Acre Unit 2, Inc., and thence to public roads. The remaining 577 acres were owned as tenants in common, one-sixth by William and five-sixths by Mary. These two family members, by reason of their ownership, had a right-of-way over the 34 acres to outside lands.

In 1965, the owners of the 611-acre estate--Mrs. Floyd Nichols, and her children, William Floyd Nichols and Mary Blake Weld--decided to offer the estate to the federal government as a means of preserving it. The estimated value of the estate was well in excess of $1,000,000. Under the terms of the gift, the donors would be allowed to retain use of the property for up to 25 years. Still used as a summer home by Mrs. Nichols, the house is what we may call a living museum. It contains furnishings, a library, and family memorabilia that reflect the continuous family occupancy since the early eighteenth century.

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13. Ibid., Liber 3018, p. 459.

14. Ibid., Liber 4606, p. 147; Liber 4620, pp. 267, 467.

Appendices

Appendix A

Genealogical Chart of the Floyd Family

Nicoll Floyd, b. Aug. 27, 1705, m. Tabitha Smith, d. March 8, 1755
- Ruth, b. Feb. 2, 1731-2, m. Nathaniel Woodhull
- William, b. Dec. 17, 1734, m. Hannah Jones and Joanna Strong, d. 1821
- Tabitha, b. 1735-6, m. Daniel Smith
- Nicoll, b. Dec. 25, 1736, died in infancy
- Charles, b. 1738-9, m. Miss Thomas
- Charity, b. 1739-40, m. Ezra L'Hommedieu
- Mary, b. 1743, m. Edmund Smith
- Catharine, b. 1746, m. Thomas Thomas
- Anna, b. 1748, m. Hugh Smith

Children of William Floyd, Signer of the Declaration
- Nicoll, 1762-1852, age 89, m. Phebe Gelston
- Mary QUYRVQIPT, 1764-1805, m. Benjamin Tallmadge
- Catharine, 1767-1832, m. Dr. Clarkson

Children of first wife
- Anna, 1786 m. Clinton (son of the Governor) and Abr. Varick
- Eliza, 1789-20, m. James Platt

Children of Nicoll Floyd
- William, 1790-1885, lived at Western
- Kitty, 1792-1800, drowned
- Augustus, 1795-1878. Unmarried, deaf, Yale graduate, lawyer
- Mary, 1789-1887, m. John Lawrence Ireland
- David Gelston, 1802-1893, m. Lydia Smith. Built Brecknock Point, Greenport.
- Catharine, 1804-1854, unmarried
- John Gelston, 1806-1881, m. Sarah Kirkland. "The Judge"
- Julia, 1808-1879, m. Dr. Delafield, his second wife

Children of John Gelston Floyd
- Nicoll, 1831-1897, m. Cornelia Augusta DuBois, "Antella". Taupeonk
- Katherine, 1835-1886, m. Wm. B. Dana. "Moss Lots"
- Sarah Kirkland, refused to give age, m. Herbert B. Turner
- John Gelston, Jr., 1841-1903, m. Julia Floyd DuBois; 2nd Janet Montgomery
- Augustus, 1845-90, m. Emma R. C. Cooper, John Wood's Neck, Mastic
- Richard Thornton, 1851-1863, age 12

Children of John Gelston, Jr.
William, 1871- , m. Elizabeth Wells, 2nd Louise Adams Grout
Rosalie Delafield, unmarried, b. 1877
Cornelia DuBois, 1882- , m. John Treadwell Nichols

Children of Cornelia Floyd Nichols
William Floyd, 1911- , m. Catherine Gay, 1942
Mary Blake, 1913- , m. David Weld, 1936
John Slocum, 1914- , m. Jarvis Gilbert, 1943
David Gelston, 1916- , m. Monique Le Braz Robert Dec. 1938, d. Aug. 1942, m. Esther Gleason, 1944

Appendix B

Will of the first Nicoll Floyd (1705-1755)

(Floyd Papers, NPS, New York District)

In the Name of God Amen. I Nicoll Floyd of the Manor of St. George in the County of Suffolk in the Province of New York calling to mind my own Mortality and having my usual desarning and understanding (God be praised) do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament in the manner and form following first. I order all my just debts to be well and truly paid and then as touching such Worldly Good as it hath pleased God to bestow on me, I will and order that the same be disposed of in the following manner. First, I give devise and bequethe unto my eldest son William Floyd and to his heirs and Assigns forever all my Lands Tenements and Hereditaments either in Brookhaven or in the Manor at St. George at the North or South Side of this Island which lyeth Eastward of a North line from the Sea which shall strike the Mouth of Connecticut River and all the East of the River to its head at the Country Road (up Connecticut hallow) from thence what lies Northward as well as Eastward to Coram along the Country Road and from Coram what lies East of the Town Path to Brookhaven Green entering into Town by Benjamin Strongs and Benjamin Brewsters and also one half of my rights on the South Beach lying Westward of the said bounds and also all my stock that shall be on my Farm at South where I now live at the time of my decease and not otherwise by me disposed of either cattle sheep, hoggs or horses and all my farming Utensils Smiths Tools with all my Whaling Tackling with all my Indians for that design with all my Negro or Indian Servants on the Farm at South Whether male or female that shall not be otherwise disposed of by me in after Clauses of this my last Will and Testamentor Verbally before my decease also all my household furniture that shall be in my house at the time of my decease and not otherwise disposed of by me. And also one equal half of all my money and bonds that shall be left when my Just debts are paid and Legacys discharged that I shall in this will make to my several daughters. Item to my son Charles Floyd, I give devise bequethe and to his heirs and Assigns forever all my Land Tenements and Hereditaments either in Brookhaven or Smith Town at the North or South side of this Island lying Westward of a North line from the Sea which shall Strike the Mouth of

Connecticut River and all West of that River to its head at the Country Road (up Connecticut Hallow) from thence all South of the Country Road to Coram from Coram all West of the Town Path to Brookhaven Green entering into Town by Benjamin Strongs and Benjamin Brewster (excepting the half of my right on the South Beach giving to my son William) which said line River and Path shall be the Boundaries betwixt my two sons William and Charles their heirs and Assigns forever or as far as any right to any lands either East or West of said bounds shall decend from me also to my son Charles I give my smallest Desk at my house at South and one hundred pounds to be paid by my son Charles out of Williams own part after the Division between them now as part of the Lands at Smith Town. I intend by this last devise for my Son Charles came by his Mother and after my decease will descend to my Son William now in case after my decease my Son William should refuse (which I desire he would not) to Give to his Brother Charles to his heirs and Assigns a clear and absolute Deed of Sale for all his right title and Interest for all his Lands that came by his Mother within the Township of Smith Town in such cases or on such Refusal I order this my last Will and Testament that my youngest Son Charles shall have all my Lands and Moveables as in the first place was devised to William (of any kind) and William shall have all in this Will devised to Charles (in exchange) I further give to my son Charles all my Cattle, Sheep, Hoggs and Horses on my Farm at Smith Town with all my servants there (belonging to the place) whether Negro or Indian Male or Female that shall be on the place at the time of my decease and not otherwise disposed of by me and all Farming Utensils and all the Furniture belonging to the House there and also one equal half of my money and bonds that shall be left after my just debts are paid and the Legacys discharged that I shall make to my Six Daughters Item I give to each of my Daughters (to Witt) Ruth, Tabitha, Charity, Mary, Catharine, and Anne to each of them a negro girl, a bed and reasonable Furniture for the same if not appointed to them by me before my death them such as shall be appointed for them by my executors hereafter names. Also to each of my six daughters, I give the Sum of Six hundred pounds and fifty at my decease to be paid to each of them as they shall come to twenty one years of age or as much sooner as they shall Marry which first shall happen. In case any of my daughters shall die before the time of payment (which is their Marriage or the years of twenty one) the surviving Daughters to Divide there Deceased Sister's part equally. /Here follows provision for inheritance by the children of any deceased child./

The Legacies I have made my Daughter is to be taken out of my money and bonds as they shall rise and no one child to have the advantage of the other, either Son or daughter in that respect my Will is that my executors keep all my money at Interest that belongs to my Young Children until they arrive at time of payment at which time each one is to have its part with the advance (excepting what shall be made use of for their bringing up) my Executors using their Descision in respect of Security in putting out the money for use of my Children. I further will that my two sons William and Charles bear in equal proportion out of their own proper Estates the charge that may arise out of Law Suits wherein my estate is concerned either at Smith Town or at Occomcomack. [He appoints his two sons, his "cozen William Nicoll" and his friend William Smith as executors.]

Appendix C

Will of William Floyd (1734-1821)

(Floyd Papers, NPS, New York District)

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN:

I, William Floyd of the town of Western, in the County of Oneida, and State of New York, being in health of body and sound mind, do make, publish and declare this as my last will and testament in manner following to wit:

I give and bequeath unto my wife Joanna and her two daughters Anna and Elizabeth and to their heirs and assigns, all my right, title, and interest and property to three certain lots of land lying in the town of Deerfield, in the County of Oneida, known and distinguished as lots number three, four and five, in subdivision of lot No. One in the Sodaquanda Patent as divided by my direction by lines running across said great lot; also four certain lots of land lying in the town of Floyd in Fondas Patent being lots number thirty-nine, fifty-two, fifty-three and seventy-one, with all the rents, issues and profits that may arise thereon after my decease, to have and to hold all singular the said lots unto my said wife, and her two daughters, and to their heirs and assigns forever, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of them and their heirs and assigns forever.

Also in addition to what I have already given them, two beds, such as they may choose with bed-steads and good proportion of furniture for the same; also two carpets which they may choose also the looking glasses and other furniture which she had when I married her, also one set of tea cups and saucers, half dozen silver table spoons, half dozen teaspoons, also one half of the bed linen and table linen that I may have at the time of my decease, also a female servant Jamima and one named Phillis, also one thousand dollars out of the obligations which I may be possessed of at the time of my death and also a privilege for my said wife and her niece, Nancy Strong, to live in a part of my house and to be furnished with all such necessary provision as is raised on the farm for them, and one servant girl. All the above bequest and devise to my said wife and to her two daughters is upon condition that my said wife relinquish and quit her right of dower in my estate, but if she should refuse to quit her right as dower in my estate, then the whole devise and bequest to my said wife and her two daughters to be null and void.

I have by deed conveyed to my son-in-law Benjamin Talmadge, the land which I mean as the legacy intended for my daughter Mary, his first wife. As to my daughter Catharine since she was married to Mr. Clarkson, I have given them considerable sums, money and many things to keep house with, and also a tract of land, which, if they had kept it, would now be worth about seven thousand dollars, but all is spent and gone, I therefore conclude that she is not capable of taking care of property and I think it not prudent to leave any at her disposal, but I do hereby enjoy it upon my son Nicoll to give her seventy dollars a year after my decease during her life.

I give and bequeath unto the two daughters of my daughter Catherine and her son Samuel equally between them a certain lot of land in the town of Deerfield, being lot No. One in the subdivision lately made of a great lot No. one in the Sodaquanda Patent, or the proceed of said lot if I should sell it; as to her other son William Nicoll, I have given him what I intend.

I do charge my whole estate for the payment and discharge of the above legacies and bequests and after all my just debts and legacies are paid and discharged, then I do give and bequeath unto my son Nicoll and to his heirs and assigns all the remainder and residue of my estate both real and personal and of what kind soever or wheresoever it may lay or howsoever it may appertain unto me, whether in my actual possession or not with all the rents, issues and profits that may arise thereon, to have and to hold the said remainder and residue to the only proper use benefit and behoof of him, my said son Nicoll and to his heirs and assigns forever.

I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my son Nicoll and my friends George Huntington and George Brayton executors to this my last will and testament, hoping that they will see it executed in all things according to the true intent and meaning therefore.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal on this first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen. (1817)

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the above-named William Floyd as and for his last will and testament, in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses thereto, in the presence and at the request of the testator and in the presence of each other.

Calvin Church
Seth Church
Josiah Church, Junior.

William Floyd L.S.

I, William Floyd, of the town of Western in the County of Oneida, in the State of New York, do make and constitute this as a Codicil to my Will--By this, I do give and bequeath to my executor in trust for my three grandsons, William Floyd Platt, James Augustus Platt and Robert Platt, and to their heirs and assigns all the property which I have by my will given to their Mother, Elizabeth Platt to be equally divided and paid to them or the survivors or survivor of them when they shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years also one thousand dollars in good obligations and, I do empower my executor to sell and dispose of any or all the land that may fall to their share at their discretion, and to give good sufficient titles for the same and also my two building lots at Plattsburg. I do give and bequeath unto my wife Joanna in addition to what is given her in my Will and on the same condition as is therein mentioned the sum of one thousand dollars to be paid in good obligations. And whereas, my wife's niece Nancy Strong has lived in my family for many years and assisted in taking care of the family, and at present has very much the care of the whole family, and as a partial compensation for those services, and the assistance which she gives us in our old age, I do give and bequeath unto her in addition to the privilege given her in my will of living in my house and to be furnished with all the necessary provisions. I do give and bequeath unto her, the said Nancy Strong, the sum of one thousand dollars, to be paid her soon as may be after my decease.

I do give and bequeath unto my son-in-law Benjamin Talmadge, the sum of one thousand dollars, in addition to what I have already given him to be paid to him in good obligations.

I do give and bequeath to my daughter Catharine Clarkson, in addition to what I have already given her, a lot of land in Deerfield No. 1 as surveyed by Joshua Northrop and also one thousand dollars, to be paid in good obligations.

And I do hereby appoint my grandson William Floyd an executor in addition to the others appointed by my will hoping they will consider this codicil as part of my will and see it executed accordingly.

Signed, sealed and declared to be a Codicil to my will in the presence of Witnesses who sign their names this nineteenth day of April, 1821.

I do give and bequeath to my daughter Anna Varick, in addition to what I have given her in my will, the sum of one thousand dollars, to be paid her in obligations, April 19, 1821.

Calvin Church
Seth Church
Josiah Church

William Floyd L.S.

STATE OF NEW YORK
County of Oneida, Surrogate's Office.

I ALFRED J. DUTCHER, Clerk of the Surrogate's Court of the said County of Oneida, do hereby certify that I have compared the annexed copy of Will and Codicil (without Proofs) admitted to Probate August 24, 1821, Estate of William Floyd, dec'd and the endorsements thereupon with the original thereof, on file in this office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at the City of Utica, this 25th day of February, 1916.

Seal

A. J. DUTCHER, Clerk.

Appendix D

Mastic Recollections

By Charles H. Ross - 1913

(Floyd Papers, NPS, New York District)

I commenced work for Judge Floyd, April 10, 1876. He lived alone in the old house. There was a colored family in the kitchen, Elijah Carmen and Charity, his wife and five children. Charity did the cooking. Elijah did chores around the house and helped on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Nicoll Floyd came out here in the summer, and Charity cooked for them and used the old brick oven to bake the goodies in. I remember one time Mrs. Floyd wanted me to take her down to the grove at Lanes Neck. She had a clothes basket full of good things and dishes; she was going to have dinner down there and wanted me to send for her about six o'clock. I sent one of the colored boys with a blind horse and a farm wagon. The boy came up to the barn. I asked him where Mrs. Floyd was. He told me that she was coming. He said that the wheel struck a stump and Mrs. Floyd jumped out and so did he and the horse ran away. I went down and found the horse fast between two trees and dishes scattered and broken along the road for about forty rods.

When I came on the farm, there was about eighty head of cattle and three hundred sheep. I pastured the first summer, down in the pasture for outsiders, sixty-four cattle and eighteen colts. Where can you find a colt around here now? At that time there was no heater in the old house; I think there was one or two stoves and a Franklin in the dining room; one in the east room, never had any coal; all wood. The old wood pile was just northeast from the kitchen door, and just to the south of that stood the smoke house where I used to smoke up the hams, chops and shoulders. The first fall after I came here I killed eighteen hogs; they would weigh from two hundred to three hundred pounds each. That was quite a pile of pork and a share of it went up north; you would see the darkies come down quite often, and every time they went home they would have a pail or package. I soon put a stop to that, or tried to. I used oxen mostly; there were six yoke of working oxen and some young steers. Three old horses. There was no water at the barns; there was a well down at the sheep yard. Had to water the horses at the house; the well was about fifteen feet from the kitchen door with a house over it and buckets; there was a well at the west of the house that was not used. I had to drive the cattle down to the pond east of the house; when it was frozen over, had to cut holes along the shore; no other way to water them. I filled

the ice house two years off that pond. It does not look like it now. There was no brush then to speak of. Sidney Hawkins told me that in 1861 he was here at that time and there was one hundred and thirty head of cattle and five hundred sheep and just before he came here, that there was a barn down at the lower end of the great boat place. I pastured the horses on the lawn. It was fenced all around. There was no ice house, only the one down on Mrs. Nicoll Floyd's place. The Judge had a brother William Floyd, that came to see him the second winter after I came. He was about 80 years old and quite spry at that. He told me one day that "John wants to sit by the fire all the time". He said "I want to be out." He built some quail traps out of corn stalks after the cattle had stripped off the leaves, but I never knew him to get any quail. He set them with the figure four, something like this:
The barns had no red paint on them when I came down here. What they called the horse barn stood just south of Robinson's barn. That went down just before I came here. The barn that we use for horses now had a shed from the northwest to southeast corner that was to keep oxen in. The barn floor was overhead and the horses were kept under that; went under it on the east side; sometimes water would be four or five inches deep in there. They had to dig it out after the old horse barn went down so that they could get the horses under the floor. The sheep barn, the Merrifield house, stood just about where the green trees are or north side of garden at each side of that, east and west, was a long shed each about one hundred feet enclosed. We used the barn part to shear the sheep in and to keep hay in winter. Had to cart a load or two in every week or so as it was so small. The sheep yard was just south of sheds and barn where garden is, the old well on west side of hedge. The old blacksmith shop stood where the ice house now stands and just to the east of that was the goose house. Old Charlotte Hawkins, a colored woman, use to come down and pick those geese alive for the feathers. The turkeys used to roast on the black walnut trees by the ice house, from 15 to 25 of them. The shed just south of the horse barn was the shop. They told me it was a kitchen on the west end of the house and moved just east of the wagon house for a shop. Just to the east of that was the shed where Mr. William Floyd keeps his auto now, and to the east of that stood the shop that I now use; it was the grain house. The two cribs by the shop stood to the east of that. They were all in a row; to the east of them was the hog pen. When I came down here there was a house at Peesepunk. About 45 years ago there was a man lived there. His name was Owen Hart; he had three daughters.
I remember them well, one of them married a man at Patchogue,

the other two are dead. I have seen Mr. Hart with four or five hundred sheep many a time. He was the sheperd. About sixty years ago there was a school house on neighborhood road, about 60 rods to the east of Miss Emma Lawrence's gate on the south side of the road. It was moved to the Robert's and burnt down. Then the teachers had to teach in some of the houses. I can remember when there was great pines where Mr. Dana's house now stands, and all in to the west, and all up our west road was large pines on each side of the road. They used to call it Mrs. Floyd's sun shade. After Mrs. Floyd died, the Judge had it cut off. There was three cordwood landings, one to the north of Peesepattuck, one on the point north of Mr. Dana's house on the point along the creek, one to the east of Mr. Augustus Floyd's house. I have seen cordwood on them all. They used to cast the cordwood from these landings in the water and put it on to sailboats that would carry from 8 to 10 cords and they would take it out as far as E. Smith's house and put it on large boats and they would take it up the North River and sell it at the brick yards. The first winter I came to Mastic I had about 200 cords cut; that was about the last that was cut. There was not a boat of any kind on the place; had no use for boats. I have worked on this farm thirty-three years; I have worked for Mr. John G. Floyd, for Mr. John G. Floyd Jr. and for Mr. William Floyd, and never had on unkind word from one of them. I think that is the most remarkable part of what I have written.

(signed) C. H. Ross

March, 1913

Appendix E

Historic American Building Survey, General William Floyd House, HABS No. NY-5427. Report prepared by John C. Poppeliers, Architectural Historian, National Park Service, December 1964.

Part II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: Although the General William Floyd House has few decorative details that in themselves give the structure great distinction, the building as a whole has many pleasing architectural features that provide a unique visual history of the continuous development of a rural eighteenth-century manor house that has remained in the possession of the original family. The additions and alterations that have been made are, in general, easily identifiable, and indicate a marked respect and concern for the fabric as it existed up to that point. Only the original portion, which records indicate dates probably from the 1730's, cannot easily be identified. A limited investigation by a technician should reveal the exact dating of each portion of the structure.

2. Condition of fabric: A survey of the General William Floyd House indicated that the structure is generally in good condition and is well maintained. It is now used only as a summer residence, but a caretaker and his family live in the east wing. A number of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century conveniences, such as plumbing, were obviously installed or added to serve for seasonal rather than permanent residence, and are unsatisfactory both aesthetically and practically.

B. Detailed Description of Exterior

1. Number of stories: The two-story main block has a one-and-a-half story side (east) wing and two rear wings of one-and-a-half and two stories.

2. Number of bays: Main block -- seven-bay front. Side (east) wing -- three-bay front. The side elevations and rear wings are too irregular to describe in terms of bays.

3. Layout: The main block is rectangular (approximately 59' -5" X 30' -3½). The side (east) wing is also rectangular (approximately 27' -0" X 28' -9"). Two prominent rectangular wings project from the north (rear) side -- the one-and-a- half story wing projects from the east (side) wing, and the two-story wing projects from the center of the main block. Both of these wings have had a number of later additions that partially obscure their general massing and considerably impair the architectural unity of the east and north elevations.

4. Foundations: The foundations of the supposedly newer (west) section of the main block are of fieldstone (approximately 5½' height exposed in the basement) with later brick "infilling" and brick piers. The east section of this block and the east (side) wing are evidently of similar construction. The foundations of the rear wings also were not accessible; evidently, however, these wings do not have full basements.

5. Wall Construction and structural system: The entire structure is of wooden frame construction with clapboarding (and occasionally shingling) painted white. Main block: The clapboarding of the front facade of the main block is approximately 4 5/8" to the weather; that of the west side of the main block 8 3/4" to 9 1/4" to the weather (while under the shed roof of the one-story side (west) porch there is matched siding); the rear of the main block has narrow clapboarding from 4 3/8" to 4 1/2" to the weather; and the small exposed portions of the east side (to which the smaller east wing is attached) has shingling. The use of shingling here is of particular note since in the central portion of the attic of the main block there is a partition that is still partially covered also with shingling (facing west). This would indicate that the eastern portion of the main block is earlier -- though how much earlier is yet to be ascertained -- than the western. Visually the exterior of the main block does not indicate the difference in construction dates.

6. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: The one-story screened front porch (20' - 4" front by 10' - 1/2"), which leads to the central hall, has a flat roof that is slightly pitched. The four, square wooden columns

sit on rather crudely made 2' - 5" high plinths; the capitels, too, are crudely made. The relatively narrow wooden flooring is of uniform width. This porch is of later date than the rest of the main facade. The one-story porch on the west side of the main block has a shed roof and four, narrow, square partially chambered, wooden posts. The flooring is of narrow, uniform (3/4") widths boards. As has been previously discussed, matched siding is used on the main structure under this porch. Also under this porch, two, seldom-used, six-paneled wooden doors give access to the interior. A similar one-story, shed-roofed porch -- apparently of a fairly recent twentieth century date -- has been built on the east side of the east wing. This porch gives access to the caretaker's apartment, which is located in the end section of the wing.

Before the "Dutch door" entry at the south (front) side of the east wing, there is a monolithic stone stoop, which has low, vertically tooled sides.

A small covered, wooden entry porch on the east side of the "kitchen" wing (the rear wing which extends northward from the east wing) has a low-pitched shed roof, waist-high "railing" with vertical siding, and open, diagonal lattice-work above this.

Access to the basement of the main block is through a bulkhead situated at the rear (north) of the western half of this block and is adjacent to the two-story rear wing. The five descending stairs are of concrete, and are approximately 4' in length. The bulkhead is covered by two wooden doors.

7. Chimneys: The main block has two large brick rectangular chimneys at the gable ridge. An older, narrower, brick chimney -- also rectangular in plan -- is situated at the eastern end of the gable ridge of the east wing. Each of the rear wings has a rectangular brick chimney that appears to be contemporary with the main section's chimneys rather than with that of the east wing.

8. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors:

(1) Main block: The double architrave of the main (south) entry and the six high raised panels and the moldings of the "Dutch door" indicate a probable date in the mid-eighteenth century. The door itself may have been moved from another location. It appears that the lower rail was cut to fit this location. The two exterior doors on the western elevation originally may have been interior doors. In the background of the Ralph Earl portrait (c. 1790) of William Floyd (which now--1964--hangs in the house) the house is shown in the background and indicates that a side wing at one time existed on the west side of the main block. This side wing balanced the extant east wing. The asymmetric placing of these two doors and the one side window on the western elevation would also indicate that a smaller one-story wing at one time stood here, and that in order to give access to that wing from both side rooms of the main block, the doors would have to be placed in these positions. The doors themselves appear to be nineteenth century and "overly delicate" for exterior doors. They are six paneled and wooden.

(2) Side (east) wing: The upper section of the "Dutch door" in the south (front) side of the east wing is also eighteenth century, as is the hardware; i.e. latch, knocker, and escutcheon. The lower section of the door is obviously a later replacement. Over the door is a three-light transom. A pulley device (with a wooden exterior weight housing) is attached to the simple screen door. The door in the eastern side is a later (twentieth century) wooden addition.

(3) Rear (northeast) kitchen wing: The "old kitchen" wing has two exterior doors on the eastern side, one of which gives direct access to the exterior and is fabricated of narrow vertical boarding and has four lights. The exterior of the other door is protected

by the small, pitched-roofed porch. According to the present owners (1964), it is thought that this wing may have originally been the west wing (shown in the Ralph Earl portrait).

(4) Rear (north) wing: Frequently called the "new Kitchen wing" (built c. 1880, with northern (rear) additions c. 1920), the doors are wooden and consistent with the construction dates.

b. Windows and shutters:

(1) Main block: The basement windows of the main block generally have eight-light single wooden sash that are hinged at the top and awing inward. A number of these also have small segmental brick retaining walls on the exterior.

The first-floor south (front) windows each have twelve-over-twelve light double-hung wooden sash. Those two windows that are on either side of the main entry and under the porch roof have two louvered shutters each. The remaining four windows each have two three-paneled wooden shutters.

The seven second-floor south (front) windows each have twelve-over-twelve light double-hung wooden sash, and each has two louvered wooden shutters.

The single window on the first floor of the east side has nine-over-nine light-double wooden sash with one, wide, six-paneled, wooden shutter, which rests against the south front of the one-and-a-half story east wing when it is open (since the frame of this window is flush with the smaller wing). The single, centered attic window on the east side of the main block has four-over-four light double-hung wooden sash and no shutters.

The single first-floor window of the west side of the main block has twelve-over-twelve light double-hung wooden sash and two, simple, two-paneled wooden shutters. The second-story window directly above this last one has also twelve-over-twelve light double-hung wooden sash; the two wooden shutters, however, are louvered. The other second-story window on the west side is narrower and has nine-over-nine light double-hung wooden sash and no shutters. The two, narrow, shutterless, attic windows--similar to the single one on the east side--have four-over-four light double-hung wooden sash and are symmetrically placed.

In general, the rear (north) windows of the main block also have twelve-over-twelve light double-hung wooden sash; however, each has only a single wooden shutter.

(2) Side (east) wing: The three windows on the south (front) side of this early wing have two-over-four light double-hung wooden sash, and each has two, two-paneled, wooden shutters. A similar window with similar shutters is on the west side. Another smaller (approximately square) six-light window is also on the west elevation. This window is probably a twentieth-century addition--as are the porch and door to the caretaker's apartment on this elevation.

The three dormers on the south side (front) of the east wing have six-light casement windows; each of these has two louvered wooden shutters. The two east side windows are similar and also have louvered shutters. These five, attic-story windows are fitted with two-section, wooden frame sections.

(3) Rear (northeast) kitchen wing: The five first-story windows on the east side of this wing are irregularly placed, and have six-over-six light double-hung wooden sash and no shutters. There are three, small, shutterless windows with three-over-three light double-hung wooden sash on the second-floor

level of this side. These are similar to a window at the same level on the west side of the wing. The east elevation also has one dormer with a four-light wooden sash. (The two dormers on the west side of the gable roof of this wing are also similar).

The low one-story shed that encases the rear (north) and west sides of the wing has several small windows of at least two different sizes. They generally have six-light sash. The north gable end has a single, centrally located window with a wooden sash.

(4) Rear (north) wing: The 1880's wing with its twentieth-century rear additions was not noted so thoroughly by the recorder during his visit. His investigation was oriented toward a general architectural and historical evaluation and toward an appraisal of the earlier sections of the house. It was also felt that generally the main features of this wing--such as the two-over-two light double-hung wooden sash in the 1880's addition--are still consistent with the construction dates. This wing has been used in recent years as the owner's summer living quarters.

9. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The roofs of the main block, east side wing, northeast kitchen wing, and the 1880's section of the north wing are all gable. The shed on the kitchen wing, the 1920's sections of the north wing, and the open porches have low, single-pitched roofs. The entire structure was covered c. 1962 with new wooden shingles.

b. Cornices: The deep projecting cornices of the main block and the front side wing (all with unusually long returns) are each composed of a wide plain bed mold, two-part undecorated corona, and two-part undecorated crown mold. The raking cornice of the main block is similar

and the overhang is also extremely deep. These cornices are obviously later, nineteenth-century replacements of the original and are an awkward intrusion into the general harmony of the eighteenth-century facade. The cornices of the remaining portions of the structure--if, in fact, they can be referred to as cornices--are plain wooden boards.

c. Dormers: There are three frame dormers with simple wooden triangular pediments on the south (front) roof of the east wing. The sides of these dormers have clapboarding and their gable roofs are covered with wooden shingles with which the entire roof was covered c. 1962. These three dormers probably are nineteenth-century additions--but a firm date of construction could only be ascertained by a detailed investigation of the fabric itself. The northeast kitchen wing has three frame dormers with low pitched roofs.

C. Detailed Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The main block is essentially central-hall in plan; this hall, however, is approximately 14'-4" wide and is, in effect, a large living room. To the east of the central hall are three rooms (one in front, two small ones in the rear), and to the west there are two. The second floor follows a modified, yet similar, pattern. At the north end of the central hall, there is a "Dutch" door that gives access to the one-and-a-half story north wing. Access to the one-and-a-half story east wing is through the front southeast living room, and access to the northeast "old kitchen" wing is through the main block's northeast pantry.

2. Stairways: The single-run, main stairway is at the east side of the main block's central hall. It has fourteen risers with two simple, square newel posts. The line of the handrail and balusters is thought to be the western extent of the older (eastern) section of the main block.

There are also smaller stairways in the wings. These, however, were not noted in detail in this survey. (The one in the east wing leads to an area known as the "spinning chamber." In the late

nineteenth or early twentieth century a bathroom, the pipes of which are partially exterior, was installed in this section).

3. Flooring: The flooring of the first floor of the main block is now of uniform (3-3/8" width) boarding, running north-south (the exception is the southwest first-floor parlor with its even narrower (2" wide) board flooring); however, investigation of the flooring from the basement indicates that under this narrow boarding are older random-width boards running east-west. The flooring of the northeast kitchen wing is similar to this older section.

   The narrow-board flooring in the 1880's north wing again is consistent with its date of construction. Sections of the east wing were not accessible at the time of this recording.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: In general, the wall and ceiling finish is plaster on wooden lath. Many of the rooms, particularly in the main block, have been covered with floral-pattern wallpaper. The wallpaper that is now visible is from the twentieth century.

5. Doorways and doors, decorative features and trim: A description and approximate dating of each of the major doorways can be found under exterior data. The moldings of the architraves, window frames and sash, and chair rails of the interior of the main block indicate generally an eighteenth-century date. Interestingly, another "Dutch" door opposite the main entry leads into the 1880's rear wing.

   Though none of these details is an unusual example of fine eighteenth century woodwork, collectively they are probably the most extensive surviving architectural indication of eighteenth-century manorial life on Long Island.

   Most of the fireplace mantels, both in the main block and in the two earlier wings, are simple wooden eighteenth-century mantels. The exception to this is a mid-nineteenth century marble mantelpiece in the large (approximately 16'-5" X 17'-6") southwest first-floor parlor. The furnishings in this room also date from the mid-nineteenth century.

Though a discussion of the furnishings of the house is not at this point entirely apropos, it is important to note in any discussion of the Floyd House that it has several pieces of fine furniture. A group in the den of the main block (northwest corner, first floor) consists of a particularly fine New York table (c. 1690-1720), an American fancy Sheridan chair (c. 1825), and a Windsor chair that is perhaps of English make. In another room of the main block there are a New York Chippendale secretary (c. 1760-80) and an American country Chippendale chair (c. 1770). These pieces, in addition to the Earl portrait of William Floyd (c. 1790) and a Charles William Peale portrait of David Gelston, were noted cursorily.

6. Notable hardware: Some of the exterior wrought-iron hardware, such as the latch, hinges, knocker, and escutcheon of the front door of the east wing, are from the eighteenth century. A more thorough technical investigation of other exterior hardware (e.g., the HL hinges on the two doors on the west elevation of the main block) would be necessary to determine their precise provenance. The general impression of the interior hardware (main block) is that it is from the eighteenth century. The hardware in the 1880's wing is contemporary with its construction. This wing, with its 1920's additions, also has a modern kitchen and bathroom with twentieth-century fixtures and hardware of no particular note.

7. Lighting: Modern, electric lighting.

8. Heating: Most of the rooms in the main block and the two older wings were originally heated by fireplaces. Of particular note still is the brick fireplace complex in the old kitchen wing. The main hearth has a 5' high opening with brick side ovens. Accessible from the western shed addition to this northeast wing, and part of this same complex, is a built-in laundry kettle and hearth.

   Most of the structure can now be heated by a "pipeless" coal furnace. The caretaker's apartment in the east wing obviously has a separate heating unit.

D. The main structure faces south toward Narrow Bay, Fire Island, and the Atlantic. Most of the property of over six hundred acres is now wooded, except for the open area that fronts the house and the large open "pathway" that leads to open water. To the west of the house there are indications of a former formal garden--probably nineteenth century. Random-placed bushes and trees of various sizes surround the house. Access to the main house is from the north by dirt roads. To the north of the main house--and separated from it by a vertical board fence approximately 5' to 6' high--are the remains of an extensive manor or farm community. The outbuildings that remain are of frame construction, and include: a carriage barn, a tool house, two corn cribs, a wood shed, three small barns or carriage sheds. All of these are covered with shingled roofs and, with one exception, painted red. The roof of an icehouse is also visible. The remains of the foundations of larger barns are also visible.

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Survey Maps

"A map of the town of Brookhaven made in October and November, 1797, by Isaac Hulse, surveyor, from an actual survey under the direction of William Phillips, Supervisor," Floyd Papers.

Survey maps dated 1829, 1836, 1873, 1888, 1902, 1906, and 1915 found in eight Atlases in the Long Island Historical Society.

Illustrations

Illustration 1

Mastic House, 1910. Wedding of Cornelia Floyd.

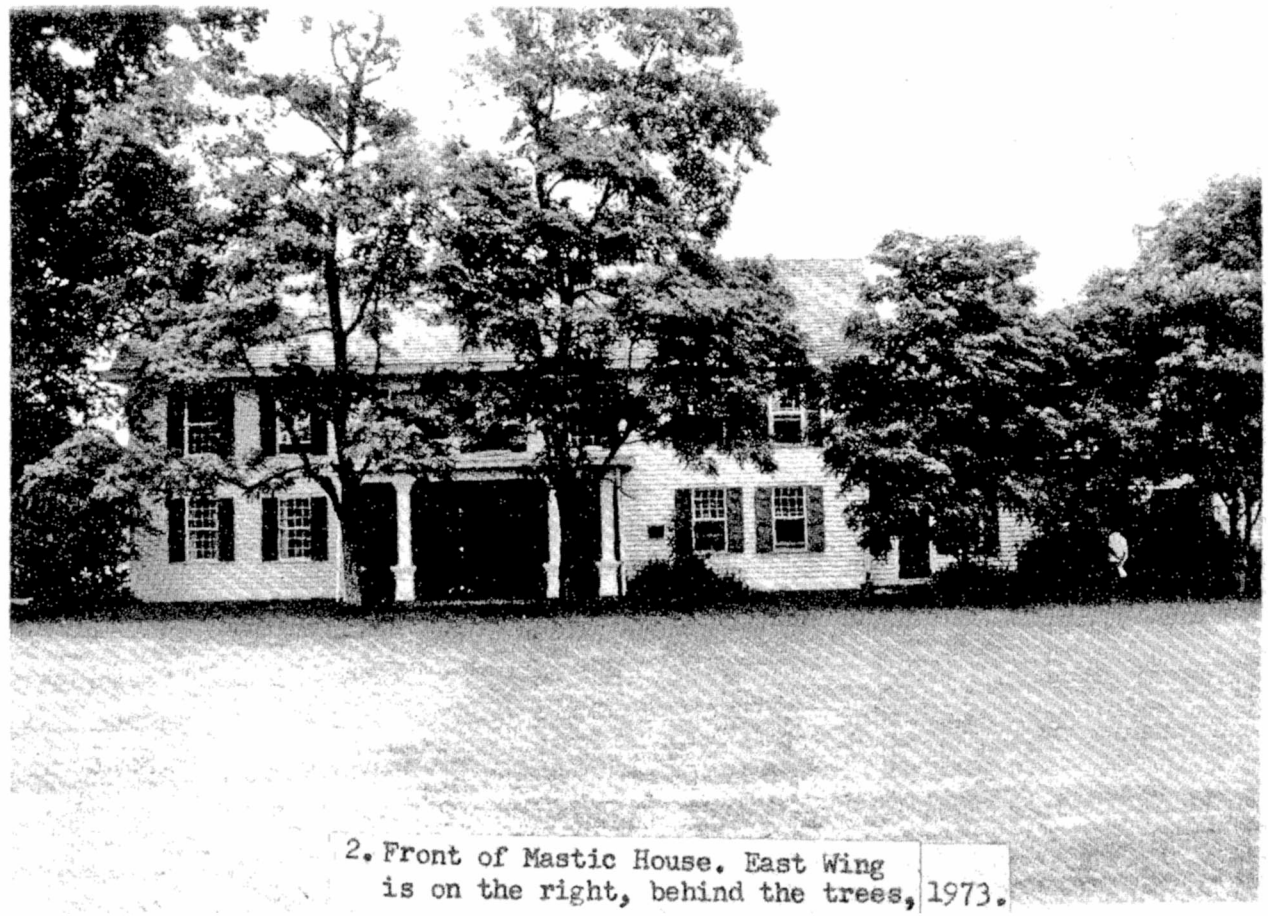
Floyd Papers.



1. Mastic House in 1910. Wedding of Cornelia Floyd. Floyd Papers.

Illustration 2

Front of Mastic House, 1973. East wing is on the right, behind the trees.



2. Front of Mastic House. East Wing is on the right, behind the trees, 1973.

Illustration 3

Floyd House at Westernville, 1889.

Floyd Papers.



3. Floyd House at Westernville, 1889.
Floyd Papers.

Illustration 4

Floyd House at Westernville, 1970.
Note wing on the left.

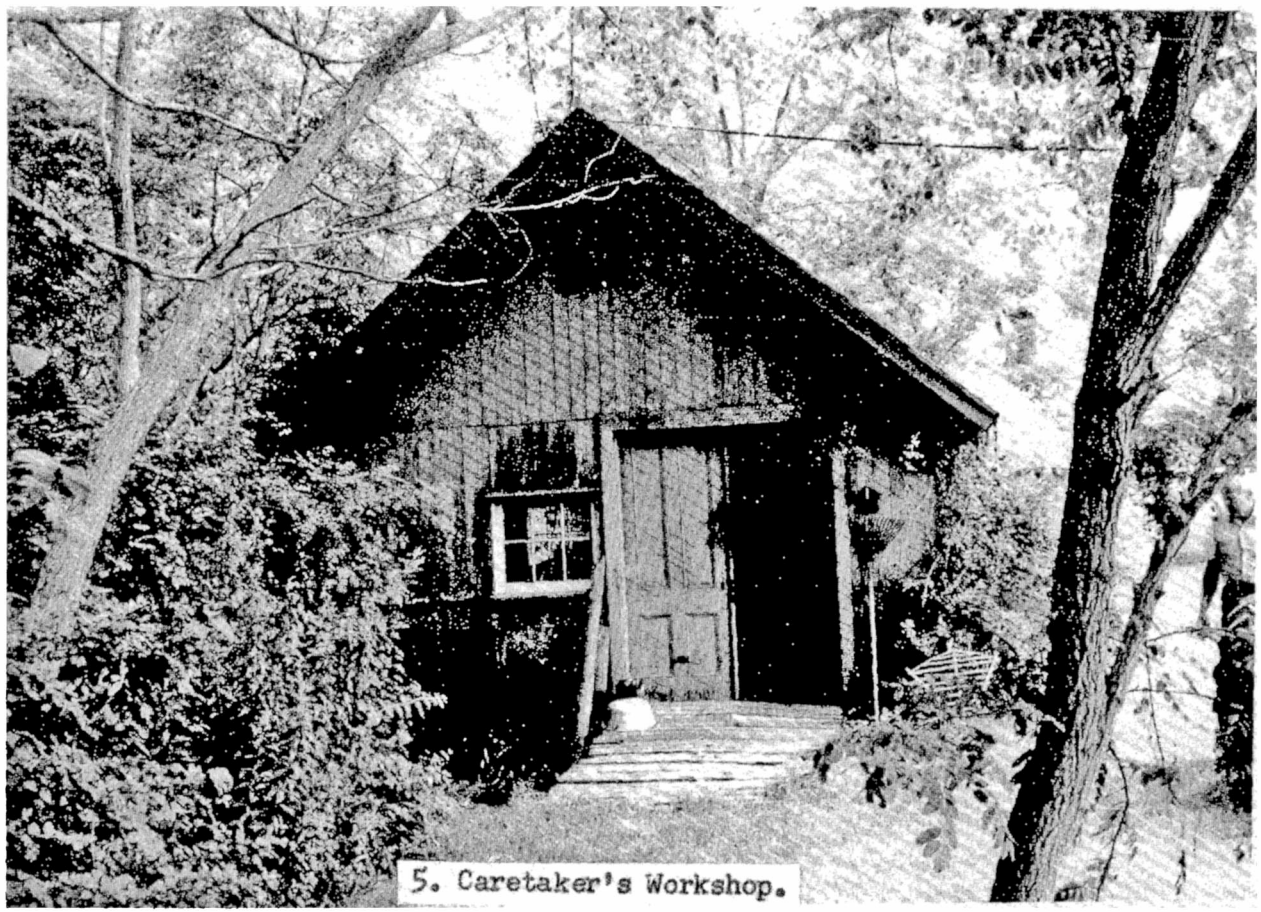
HABS photo.



4. Floyd House at Westernville. Note Wing on the left. HABS photo, 1970.

Illustration 5

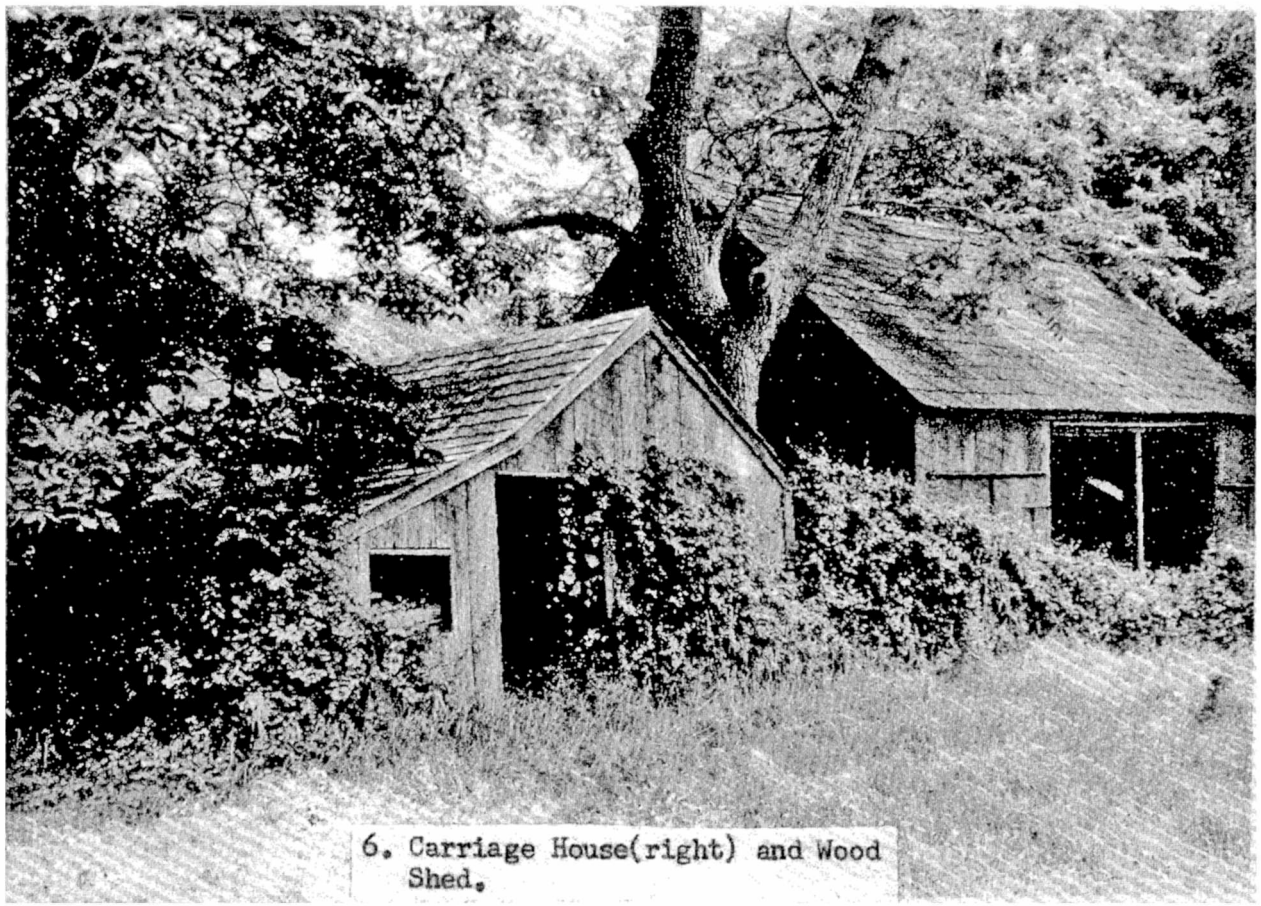
Caretaker's Workshop.



5. Caretaker's Workshop.

Illustration 6

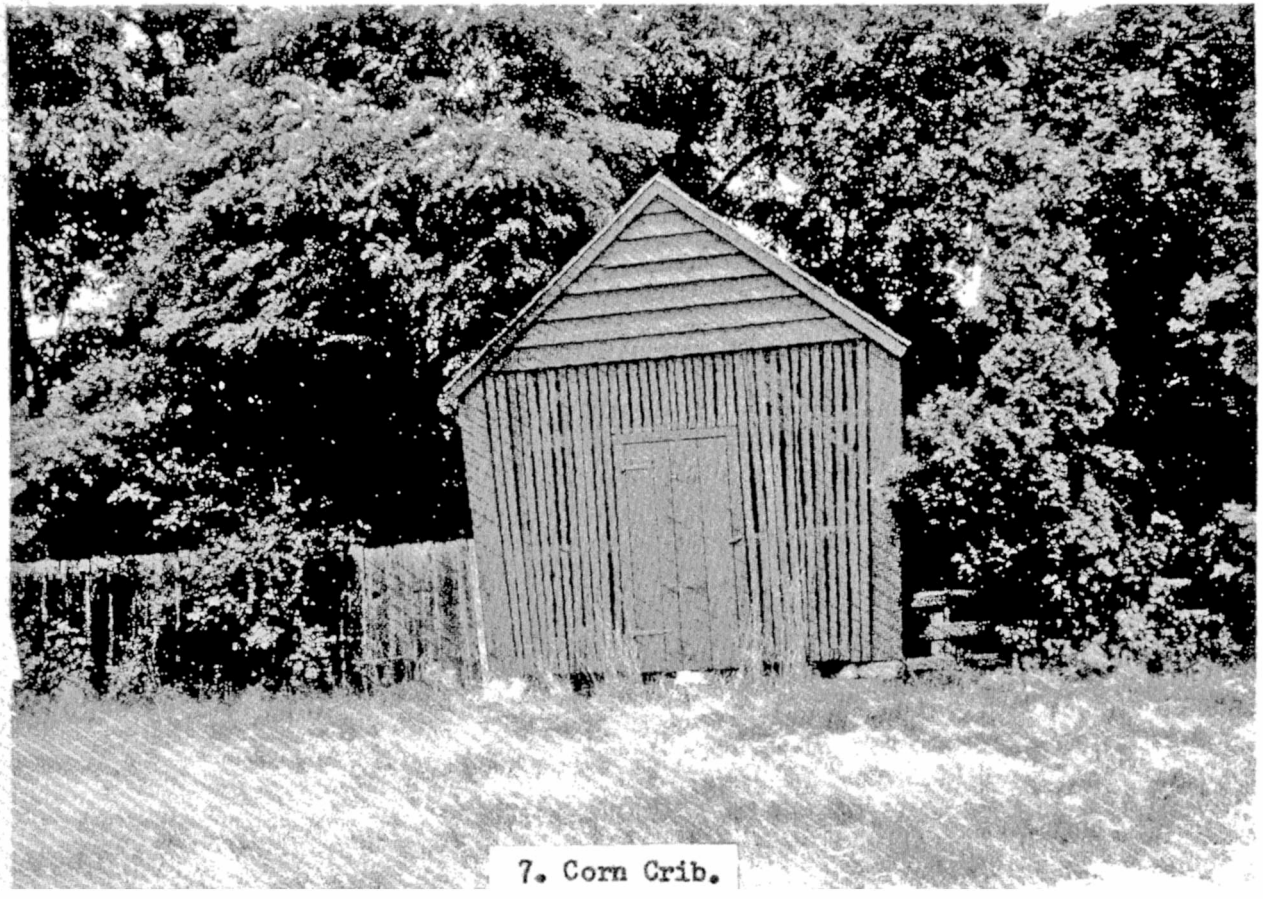
Carriage House (right) and Wood Shed.



6. Carriage House(right) and Wood Shed.

Illustration 7

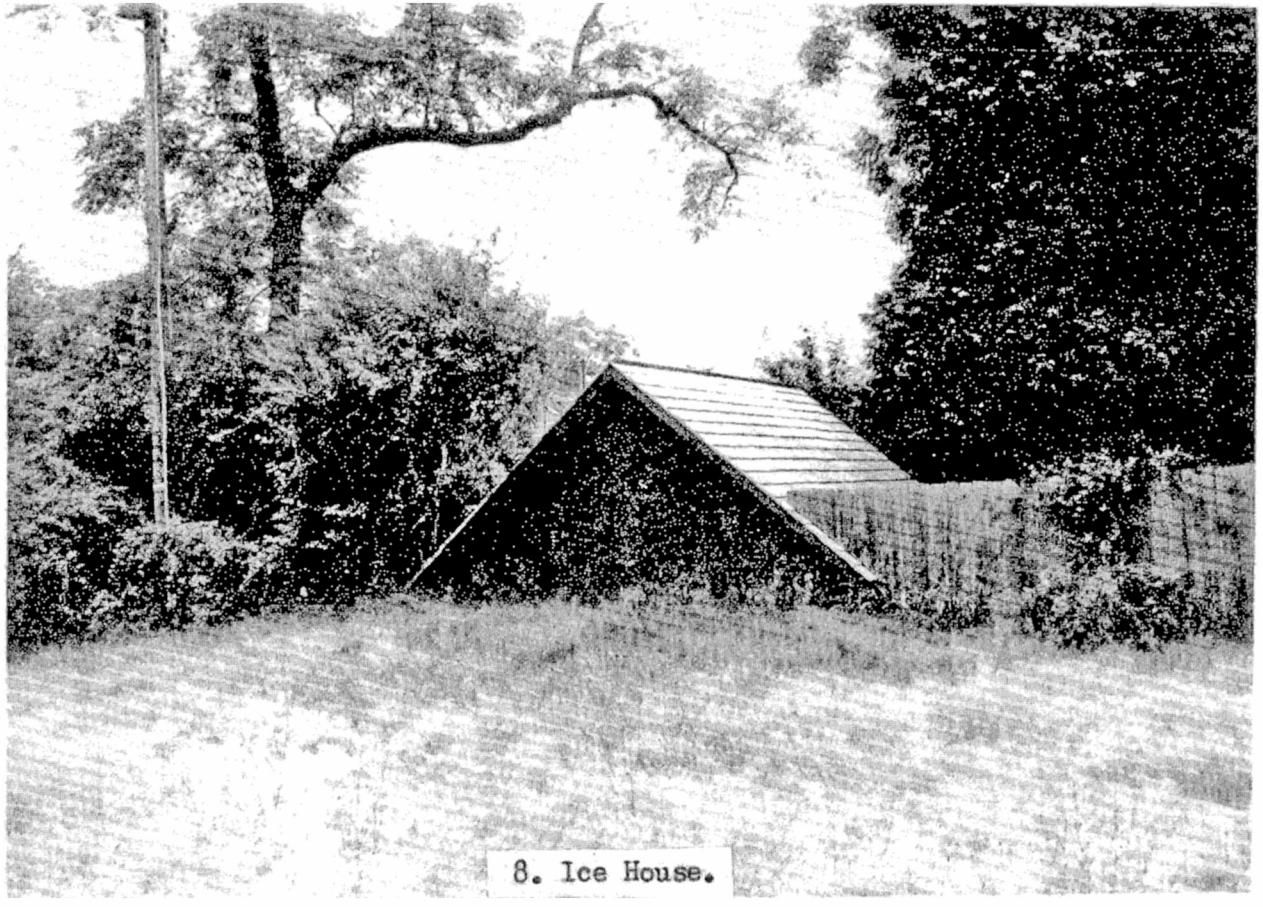
Corn Crib.



7. Corn Crib.

Illustration 8

Ice House.



8. Ice House.

Illustration 9

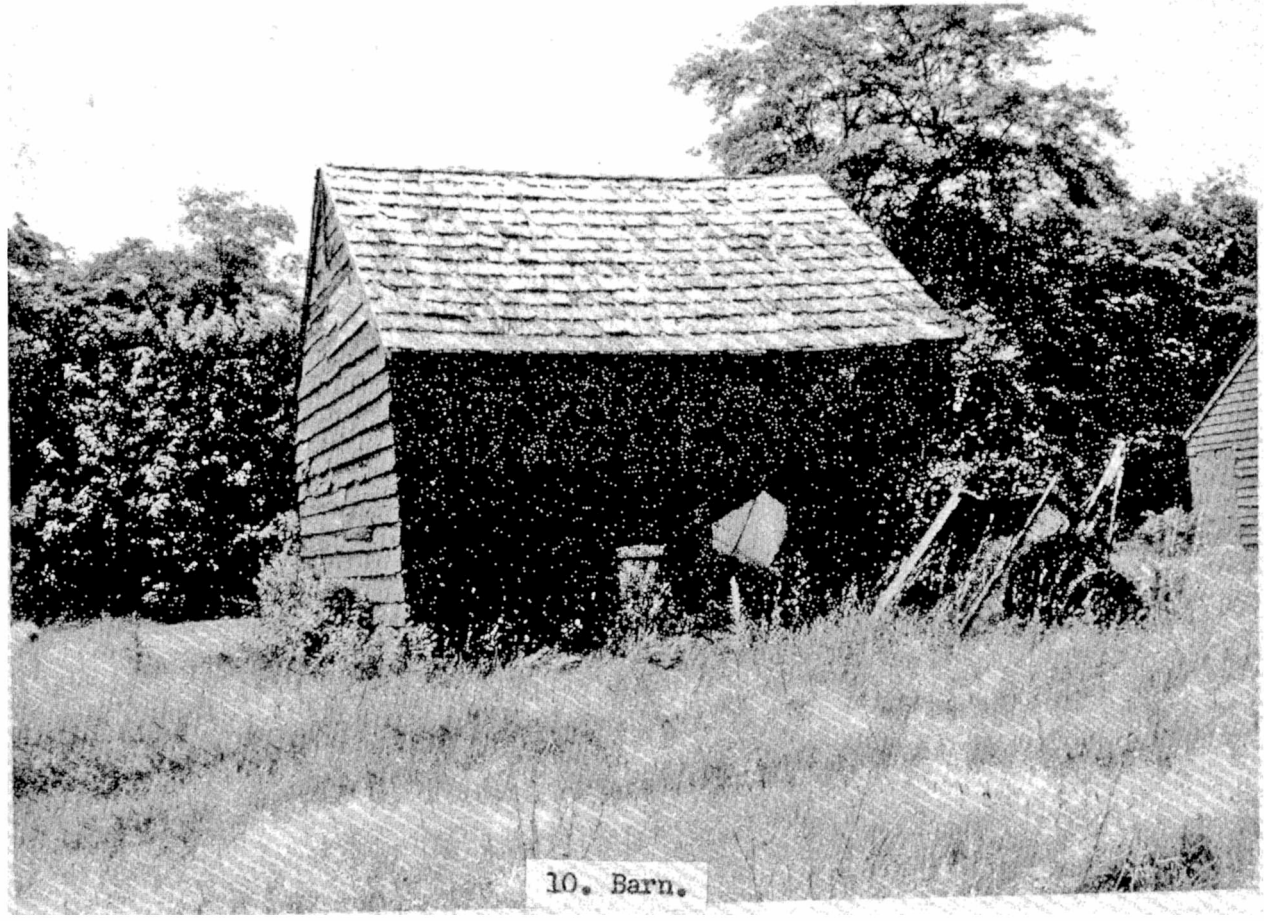
Storage Crib (left) and Old Shop.



9. Storage Crib(left) and Old Shop.

Illustration 10

Barn.



10. Barn.

Illustration 11

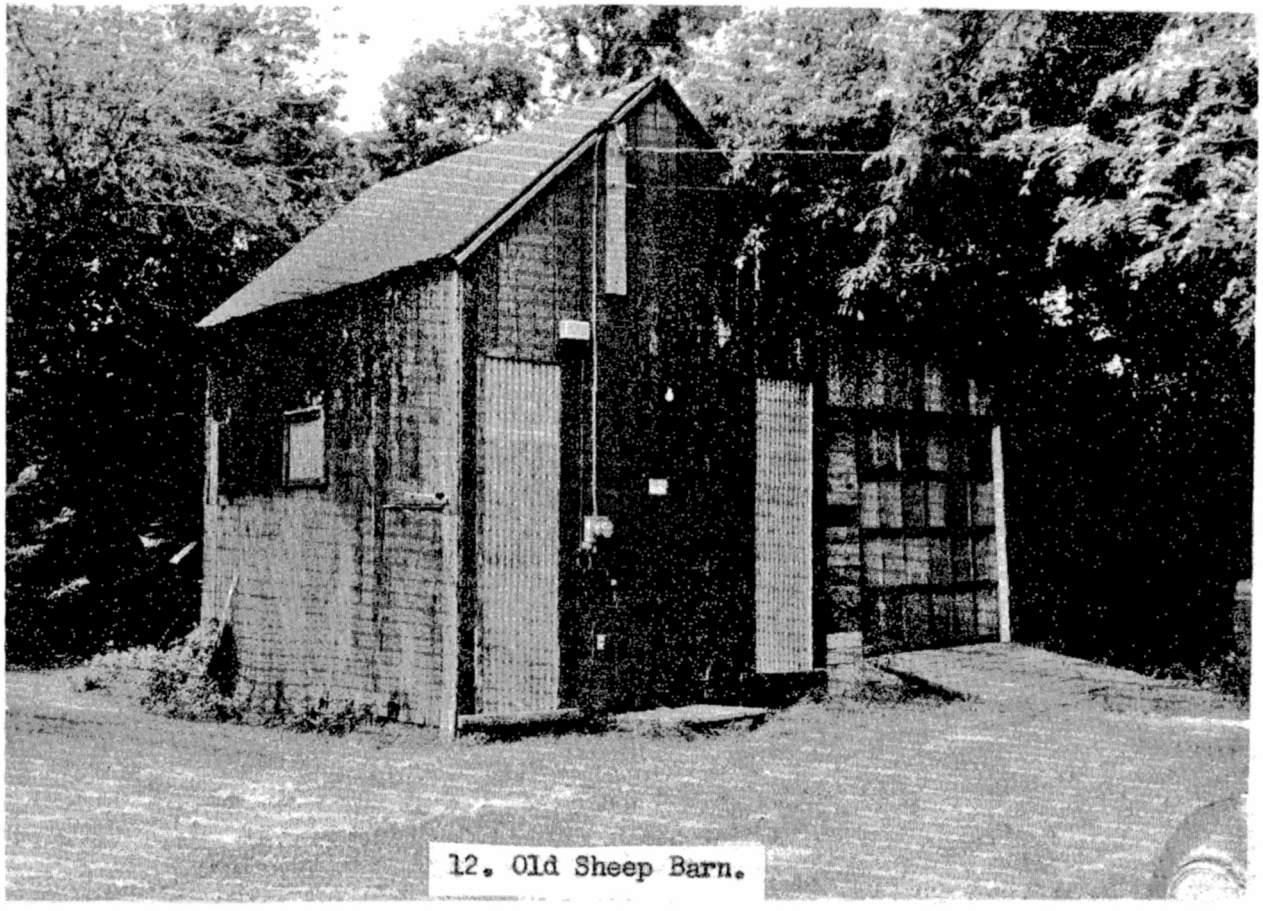
New Barn.



11. New Barn.

Illustration 12

Old Sheep Barn.



12. Old Sheep Barn.

Illustration 13

Sketch of the Floyd House as shown on the background of Ralph Earle painting of General William Floyd (ca. 1790). Note the two outbuildings to the rear of the east wing.

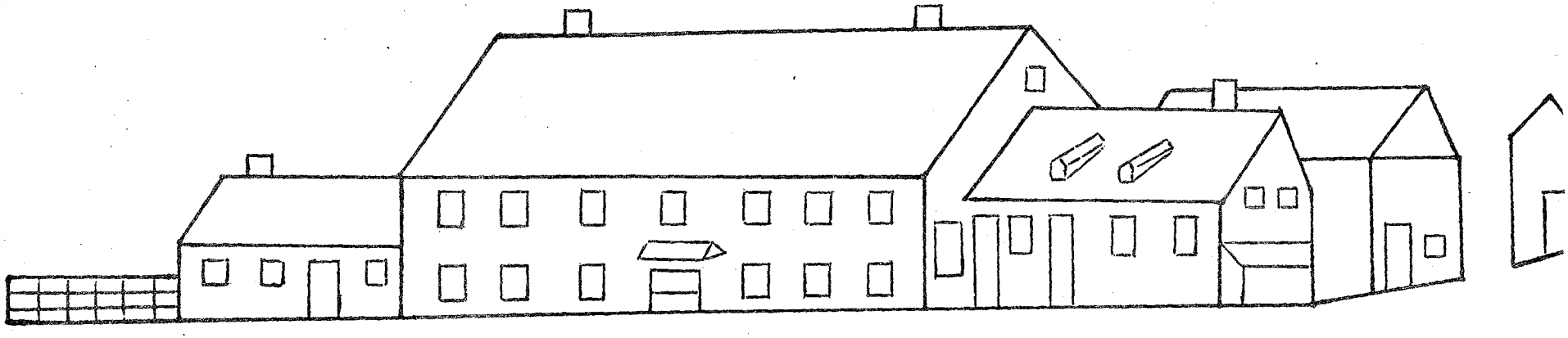


Illustration 14

Survey of the Mastic Estate, June-July, 1911, by Nicoll Floyd 2nd and W. E. Baker, Jr., showing the location of 13 outbuildings, main roads, pastures and other lots, hedges, and the woodland areas. The original, in color, is found in the Mastic House.

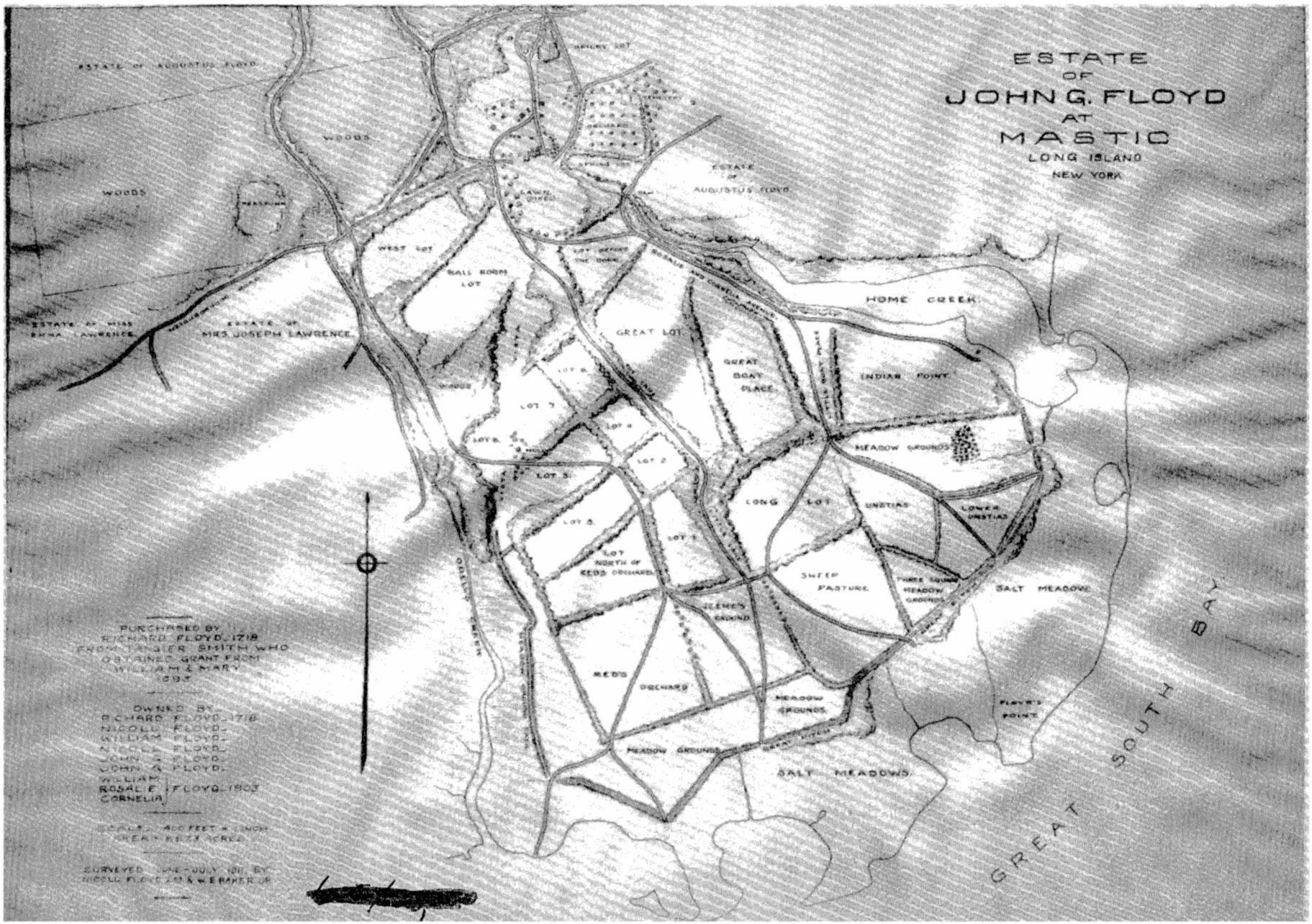

ESTATE
OF
JOHN G. FLOYD
AT
MASTIC
LONG ISLAND
NEW YORK
ESTATE OF AUGUSTUS FLOYD
WOODS
ESTATE OF MISS EMMA LAWRENCE
ESTATE OF MRS. JOSEPH LAWRENCE
WEST LOT
BALL ROOM LOT
GREAT LOT
ESTATE OF AUGUSTUS FLOYD
HOME CREEK
GREAT BOAT PLACE
INDIAN POINT
MEADOW GROUNDS
LONG LOT
UNSTIAS
LOWER UNSTIAS
LOT NORTH OF REEDS ORCHARD
SHEEP PASTURE
SALT MEADOWS
REEDS ORCHARD
MEADOW GROUNDS
SALT MEADOWS
PLOVER'S POINT
GREAT SOUTH BAY
PURCHASED BY
RICHARD FLOYD 1718
FROM TANGIER SMITH WHO
OBTAINED GRANT FROM
WILLIAM & MARY
1693
OWNED BY
RICHARD FLOYD 1718
NICOLL FLOYD
WILLIAM FLOYD
NICOLL FLOYD
JOHN G. FLOYD
JOHN G. FLOYD
WILLIAM
ROSALIE FLOYD 1903
CORNELIA
SCALE 400 FEET = 1 INCH
AREA 885.3 ACRES
SURVEYED JUNE - JULY 1911 BY
NICOLL FLOYD & W.E. BAKER JR.

Illustration 15

Upper part of the survey map (Illustration 14)
on a larger scale.

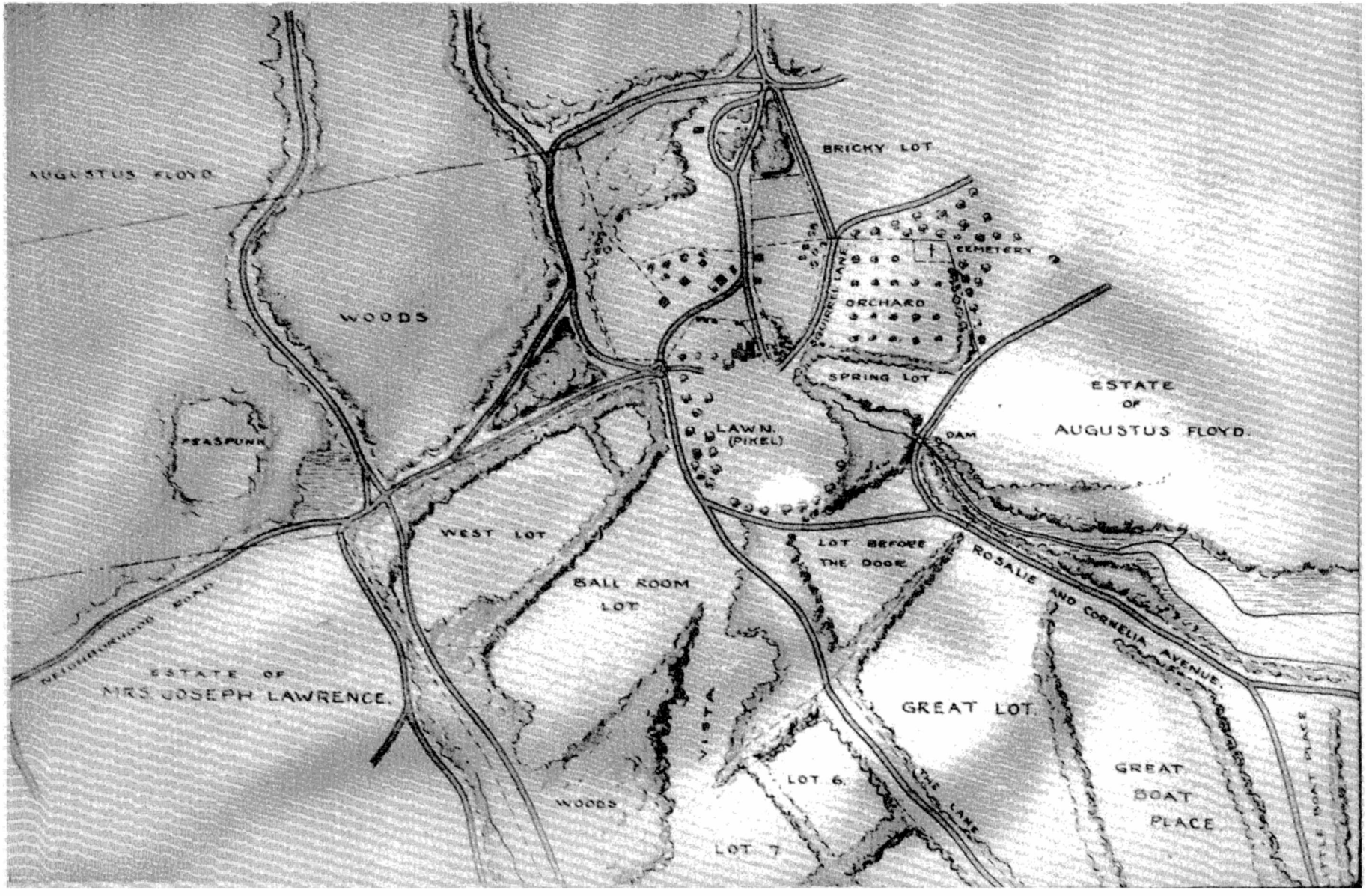

AUGUSTUS FLOYD
BRICKY LOT
CEMETERY
ORCHARD
SQUIRREL LANE
WOODS
SPRING LOT
ESTATE
OF
AUGUSTUS FLOYD
PEASPUNK
LAWN
(PIKEL)
DAM
WEST LOT
LOT BEFORE
THE DOOR
ROSALIE AND CORNELIA AVENUE
BALL ROOM
LOT
NEIGHBORHOOD ROAD
ESTATE OF
MRS. JOSEPH LAWRENCE.
GREAT LOT
VISTA
LOT 6.
THE LANE
GREAT
BOAT
PLACE
WOODS
LOT 7
LITTLE NONT PLACE

Illustration 16: Sketch of the immediate area of the Floyd House today, showing dirt roads, the line of the woodland, the location of 10 outbuildings, and the sites of 13 historical buildings.

Existing Buildings:

1. Caretaker's Workshop
2. Carriage House
3. Wood Shed
4. Corn Crib
5. Ice House
6. Storage Crib
7. Old Shop (formerly Grain House)
8. Barn
9. New Barn
10. Old Sheep Barn

Sites of Historical Buildings:

A. Storage Crib
B. Hog Pen
C. Goose House
D. Unidentified Buildings (ca. 1790)
E. Old Wagon House
F. Calf Barn
G. Unidentified
H. Barn Buildings
I. Sheep Shearing Sheds
J. Robinson Barn
K. Original Horse Barn
L. Smoke House
M. Overseer's (Manager's) House

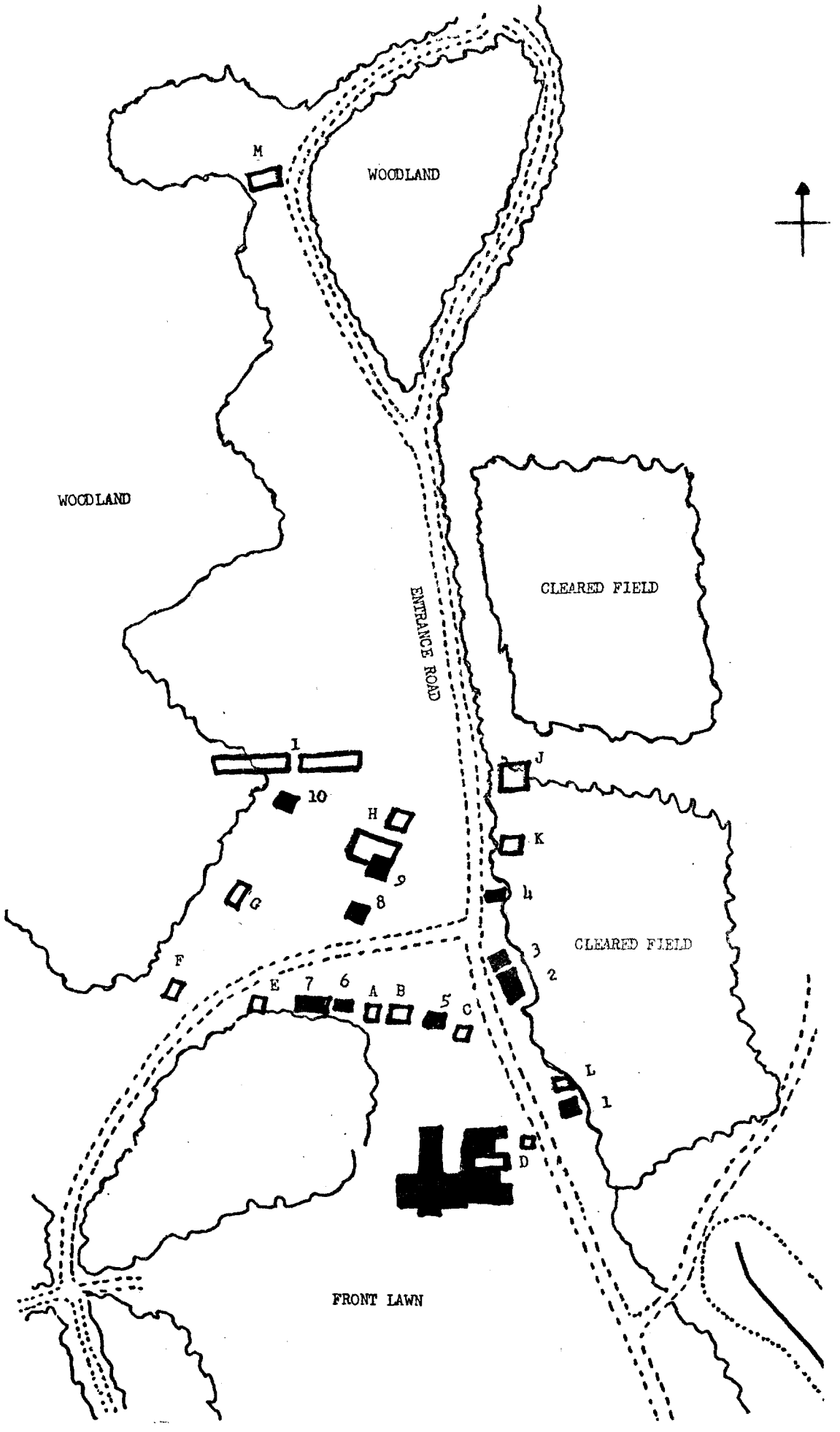

M
WOODLAND
WOODLAND
ENTRANCE ROAD
CLEARED FIELD
CLEARED FIELD
1
10
H
9
8
G
J
K
4
3
2
F
E
7
6
A
B
5
C
L
1
D
FRONT LAWN

Illustration 17

Floor plan, first floor, Floyd House, Mastic.

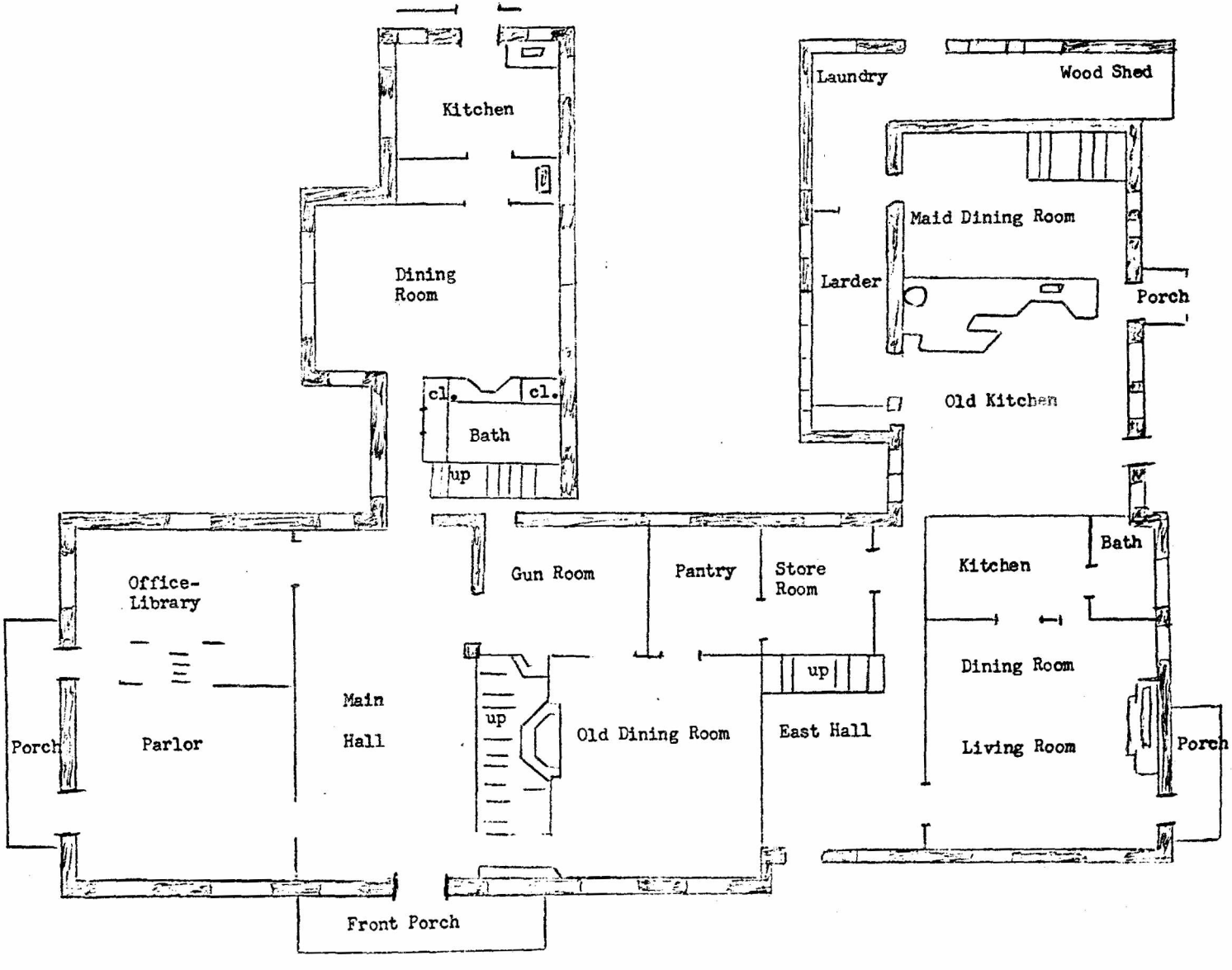

Kitchen
Dining Room
cl.
cl.
Bath
up
Laundry
Wood Shed
Maid Dining Room
Larder
Porch
Old Kitchen
Office-Library
Gun Room
Pantry
Store Room
Bath
Kitchen
Dining Room
Living Room
Porch
Main Hall
Parlor
Porch
up
Old Dining Room
up
East Hall
Front Porch

Illustration 18

Floor plan, second floor, Floyd House, Mastic.

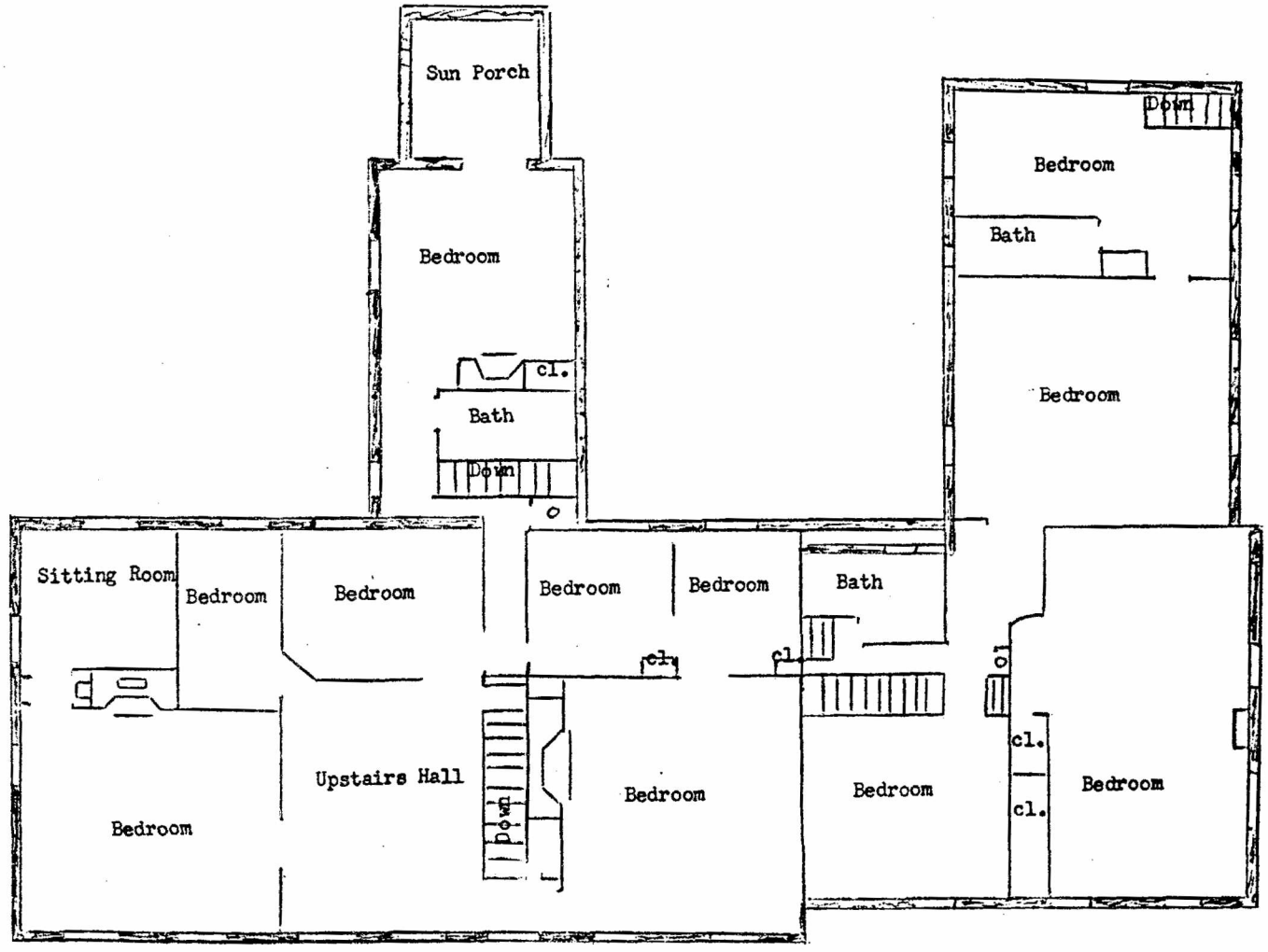
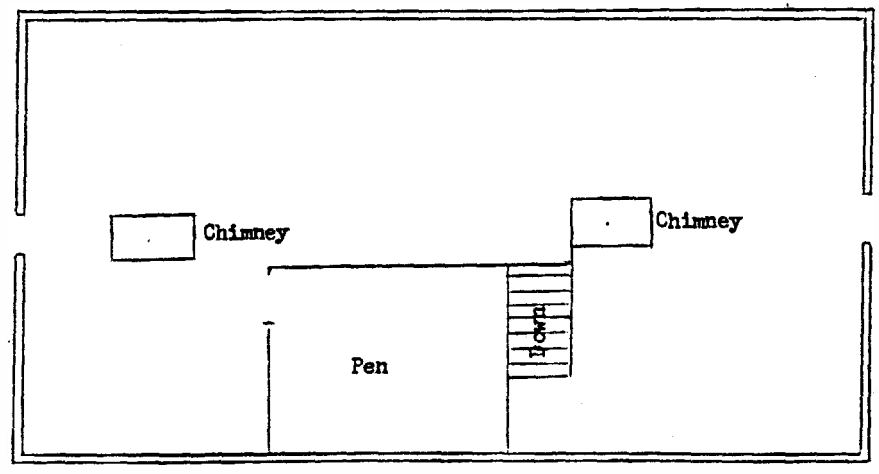

Sun Porch
Bedroom
cl.
Bath
Down
Down
Bedroom
Bath
Bedroom
Sitting Room
Bedroom
Bedroom
Bedroom
Bedroom
Bath
cl.
cl.
cl.
cl.
Upstairs Hall
Down
Bedroom
Bedroom
Bedroom
Bedroom

Illustration 19

Floor plan, attic, Floyd House, Mastic.


Chimney
Chimney
Pen
Down