# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

## Henri Penne Plantation HABS LA-#188

#### Location:

1040 Henri Penne Road Anse-La-Butte, LA 70517 St. Martin Parish United States of America

The Henri Penne Plantation property is located in St. Martin Parish, between Lafayette and Breaux Bridge off West Mills Avenue/ Highway 94. From Interstate 10, take the Breaux Bridge exit and head southeast on Rees Street/ Highway 328. Turn right onto West Mills Avenue/ Highway 94. Henri Penne Road is on the left. The property is approximately 200 feet from the highway on the left side of the gravel road.

## Significance:

The Henri Penne Plantation contains the following structures which were documented: Henri Penne house (LA-188-A), Fontanette-David Maison Dimanche (LA-188-B), Olivier Pigeonniere (LA-188-C), Kitchen (LA-188-D), Outhouse (LA-188-E), and Tool Shed (LA-188-F). Each of the structures documented are historically significant but are not original to their current site. Each structure was in danger of demolition and/or deterioration at its original location. The building collection was relocated and placed to form a plantation arrangement. As a group, the structures represent early nineteenth century south Louisiana plantation structures.

The buildings are currently used for Robert Smith's "Au Vieux Paris Antiques" business. The owner has made every effort to retain the historical character and integrity of the structures including foundations, orientation on site, relationships between adjacent buildings, replacement of materials, and finishes. Several other minor structures on the property were not documented. The purposes and functions of these structures was not identified although all were relocated from other sites and appear of similar vintage to those listed above.

## **Description:**

The Henri Penne house was listed on the National Register in 1980 for architectural significance as "an Anglo-American raised cottage" or Federal-Creole blended styles. Federal features include the centered front entry opening into a central hall, originally with stairs to the second floor and paired six-panel doors at front and rear porches; and gable wall fireplaces and chimneys. Typical of Creole or Acadian styles are the cypress structure; floor plan with large rooms at front opening directly onto the front porch; small rooms at the rear; brick-pier foundation, and full-width porches at front and rear. The half-story under the gable roof is undivided and includes tongue-and-grooved plank doors opening into the attic over front and rear porches. Finishes are painted or natural wood and matched to original finishes as closely as possible.

The Fontanette-David Maison Dimanche (Sunday House) was listed on the National Register in 1984 as a rare survivor of refined Creole architecture. The structure consists of a brick-pier foundation with cypress structure, windows, doors, and millwork. A central chimney serves fireplaces with wraparound mantels and opens into both original rooms of the house. Typical of Creole homes, the two rooms open directly onto the front porch through pairs of narrow half glass-half raised panel doors. Each room also opens to the rear porch which has been converted into two rooms: kitchen and bathroom. A narrow step-stair via the front porch provides access to the second floor under the gable roof. The second floor, not originally occupied, has been renovated into a single bedroom and bathroom as guest quarters.

The two-story Olivier Pigeonniere, originally constructed around 1827, was listed on the National Register in 1983. It is a rare survivor of a south Louisiana building type that mainly ceased to exist after the Civil War. The first floor of the Pigeonniere contains a wood floor with wide, rough cypress boards placed horizontally. The upper floor contains a wood floor with wood clapboard siding ending at a drip-cap circumnavigating the building at the center of all four elevations. There are single solid cypress doors to each room. The roof is a four-sided pyramid ending in an octagonal kingpost at its apex.

The Kitchen, circa 1940's, was originally located at the rear of the Henri Penne house by porches on both buildings facing each other. In the current location, the Kitchen porch connects to the rear corner of the house porch

forming an L-shape. The building consists of only two rooms, kitchen and bathroom. The kitchen opens to the porch via two pairs of half-glass, single panel doors facing the rear of the Henri Penne house and outhouse. The Outhouse is reputed to be the oldest in Louisiana. All cypress wood construction, the simple structure is mortise-and-tenon with wood siding. A single door provides access to the small space with numerous vent holes in the walls.

The Tool Shed consists of a mortise-and-tenon structure with wood clapboard siding and a gable roof. A single door provides access to the interior with one barred window opening.

### History:

The Henri Penne house was constructed circa 1821 in Jeanerette, between Bayou Teche and Highway 182, as part of the Loisel (Albania) Plantation property - see attached Henri Penne House Chain of Title. Robert Smith purchased the house in 1974 and relocated it to the present site. Every attempt was made to recreate the original site conditions including compass orientation, road and circle of live oak trees at front, and Bayou Teche at rear. Each structure was re-installed on similar foundations, including salvaged brick piers for the house and maison dimanche, at the same elevation above ground as their original settings.

The Fontanette-David Maison Dimanche (Sunday House), circa 1827, was relocated in 1983 from its original location twelve miles away in St. Martinville. Originally located on the opposite side of Bayou Teche from downtown St. Martinville, the small home served as a dependency for a larger plantation house on the property. The Olivier Pigeonniere was listed on the National Register in 1983 as the finest of few known surviving examples of a once common building type on south Louisiana plantations. Pigeonniers housed pigeons on the upper floor with openings to the lower level to catch the nutrient rich manure used in plantation gardens. The structure was relocated twenty-two miles from the town of Olivier to its present location on the Henri Penne house property in Breaux Bridge.

The original Henri Penne house brick floored Kitchen remains on the grounds of Albania plantation in Jeanerette. The present Kitchen, constructed around 1927, is connected to the rear of the house by an L-shaped porch and was relocated from the same site as the Henri Penne house outside Jeanerette.

The origins of the Outhouse and Tool Shed were not investigated although construction methods, materials, and style place them within similar dates to the other buildings on the site.

## Sources:

Iberia Parish Conveyance Records, New Iberia, Louisiana.

National Register of Historic Places Database, http://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojects/hp/nhl/index.asp. Robert Smith. Interviews. January through March 2017.

St. Martin Parish Conveyance Records, St. Martinville, Louisiana.

## **Historians:**

Braxton Boothe, Kaylynn Borges, Brittney Istre, students; Karen JS McKinney, Architect, AIA / Graduate Assistant; Corey Saft, Architect, AIA, LEED/ Professor. Report completed 5/10/2017.

## **Project Participants:**

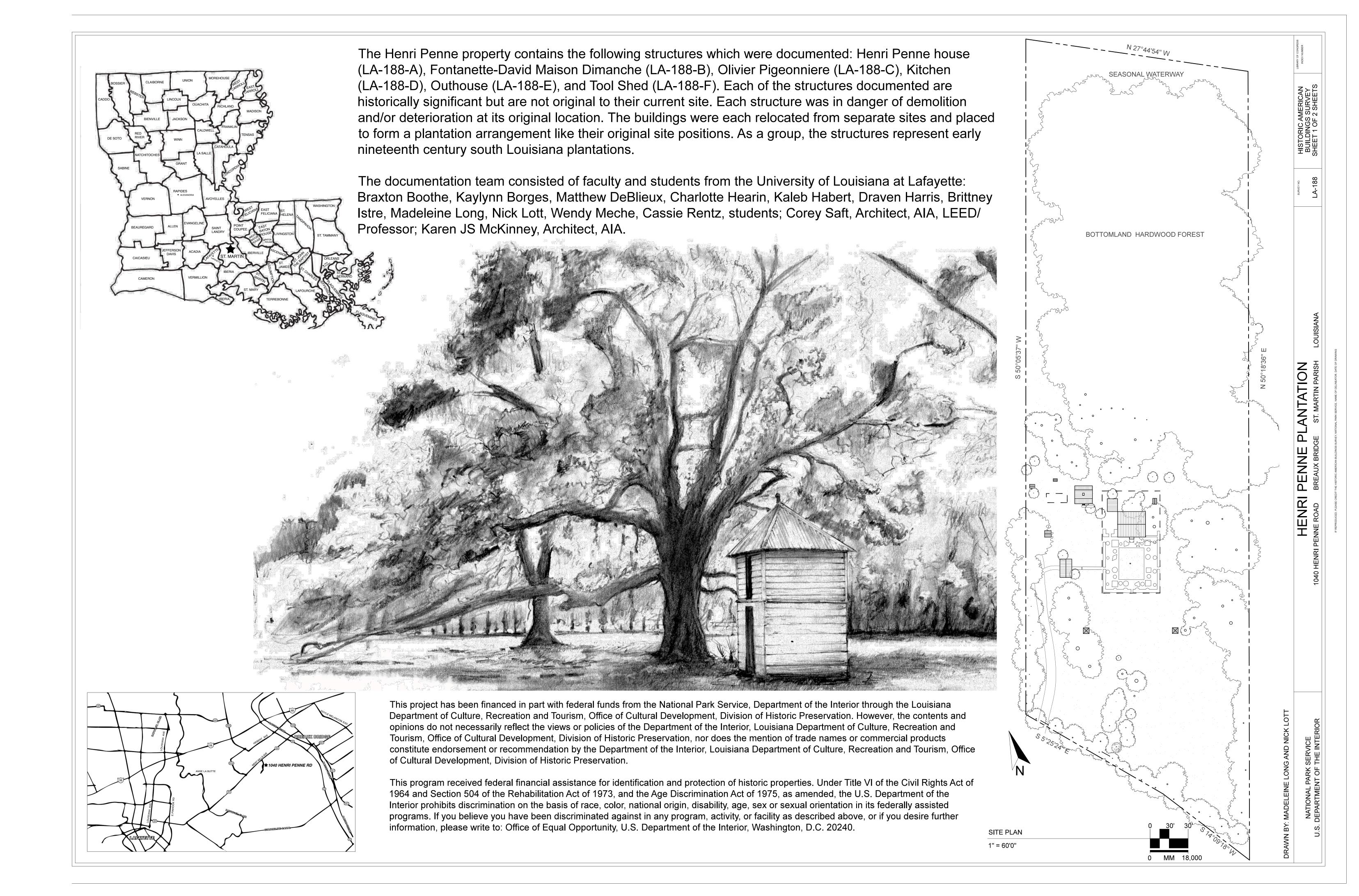
Braxton Boothe, Kaylynn Borges, Matthew BeBlieux, Charlotte Hearin, Kaleb Habert, Draven Harris, Brittney Istre, Madeleine Long, Nick Lott, Wendy Meche, Cassie Rentz, students; Corey Saft, Architect, AIA, LEED/ Professor; Karen JS McKinney, Architect, AIA/ Adjunct. University of Louisiana at Lafayette; State Historic Preservation Office, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, State of Louisiana.

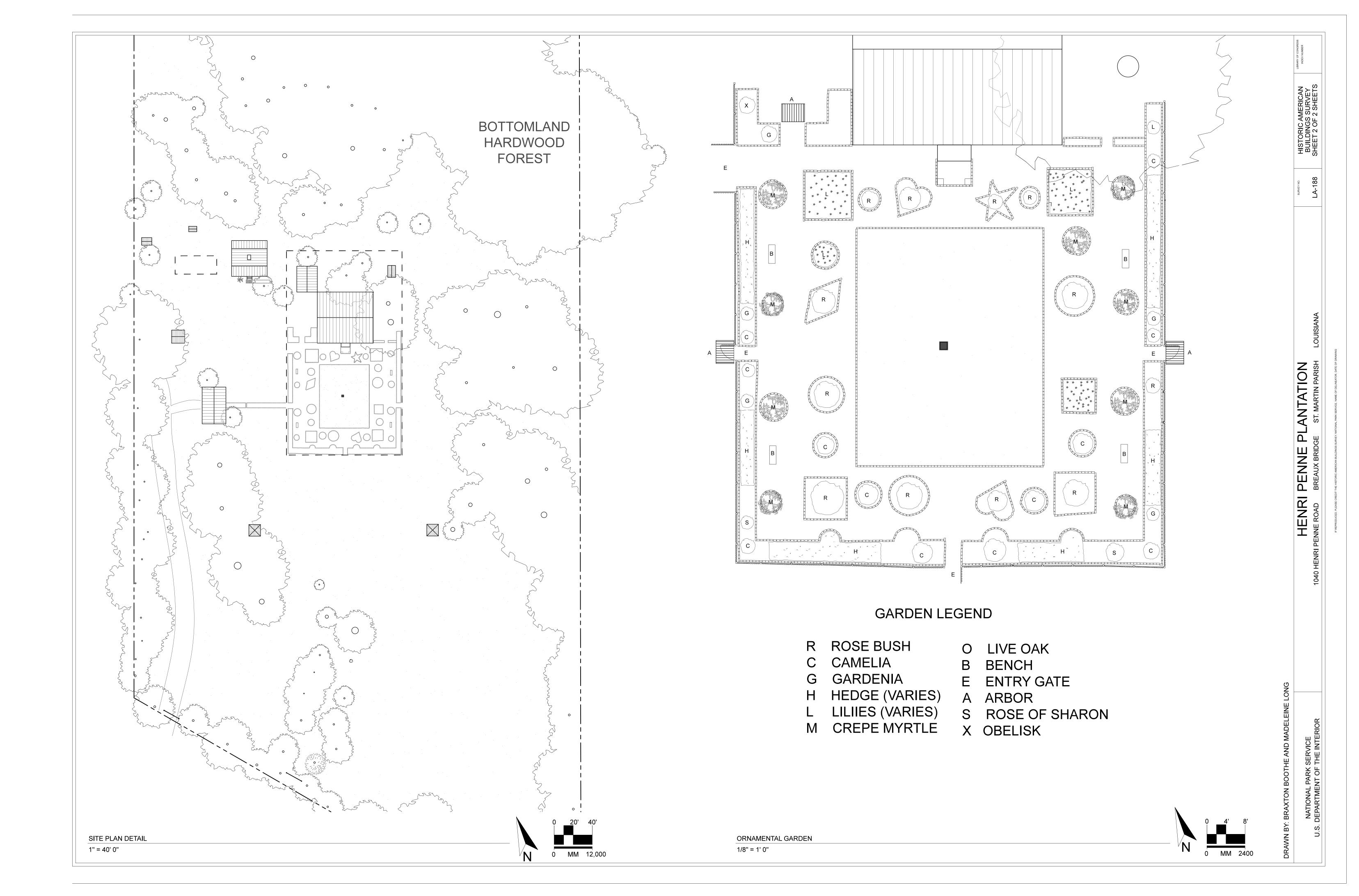
## **Disclaimer/Funding Statements:**

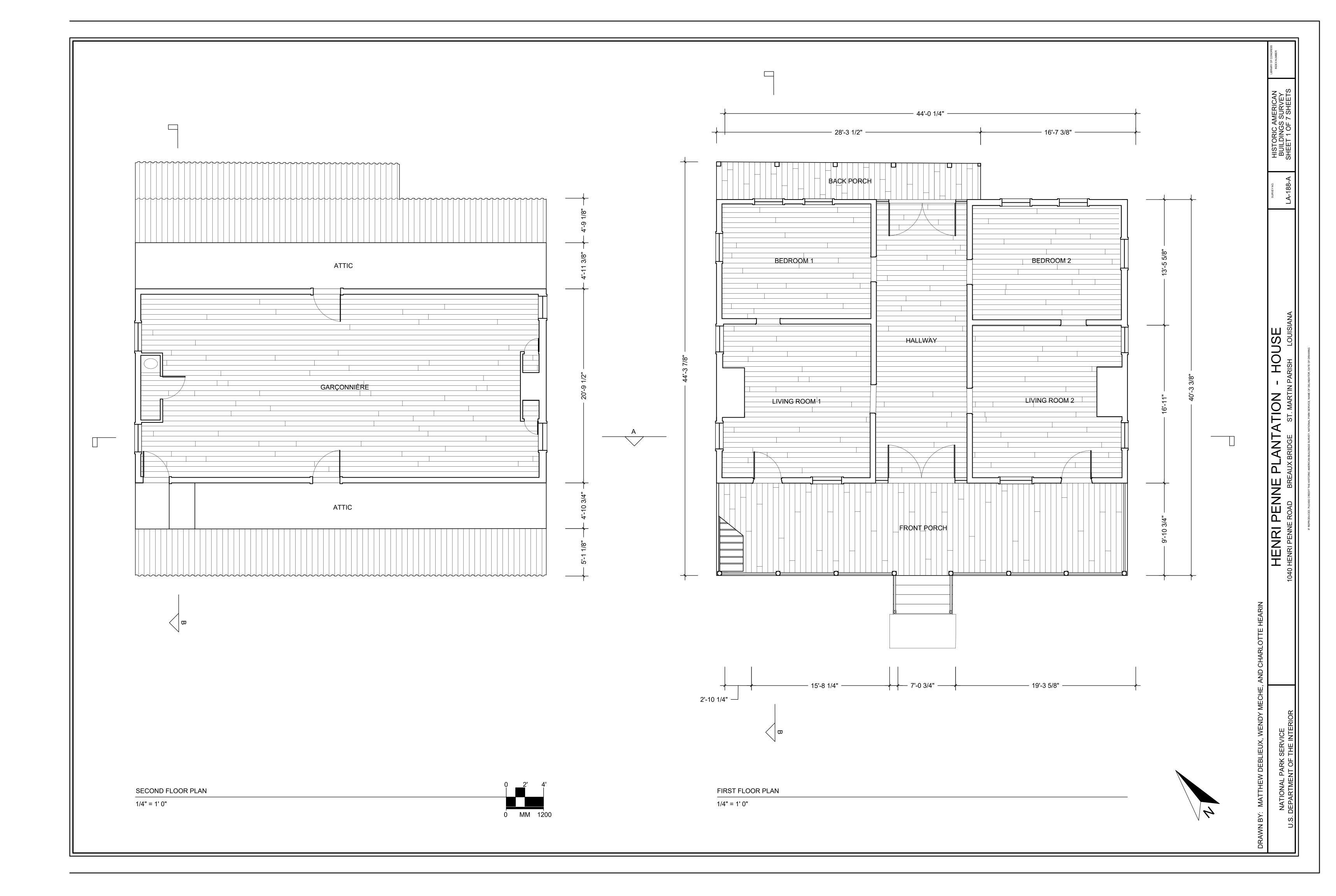
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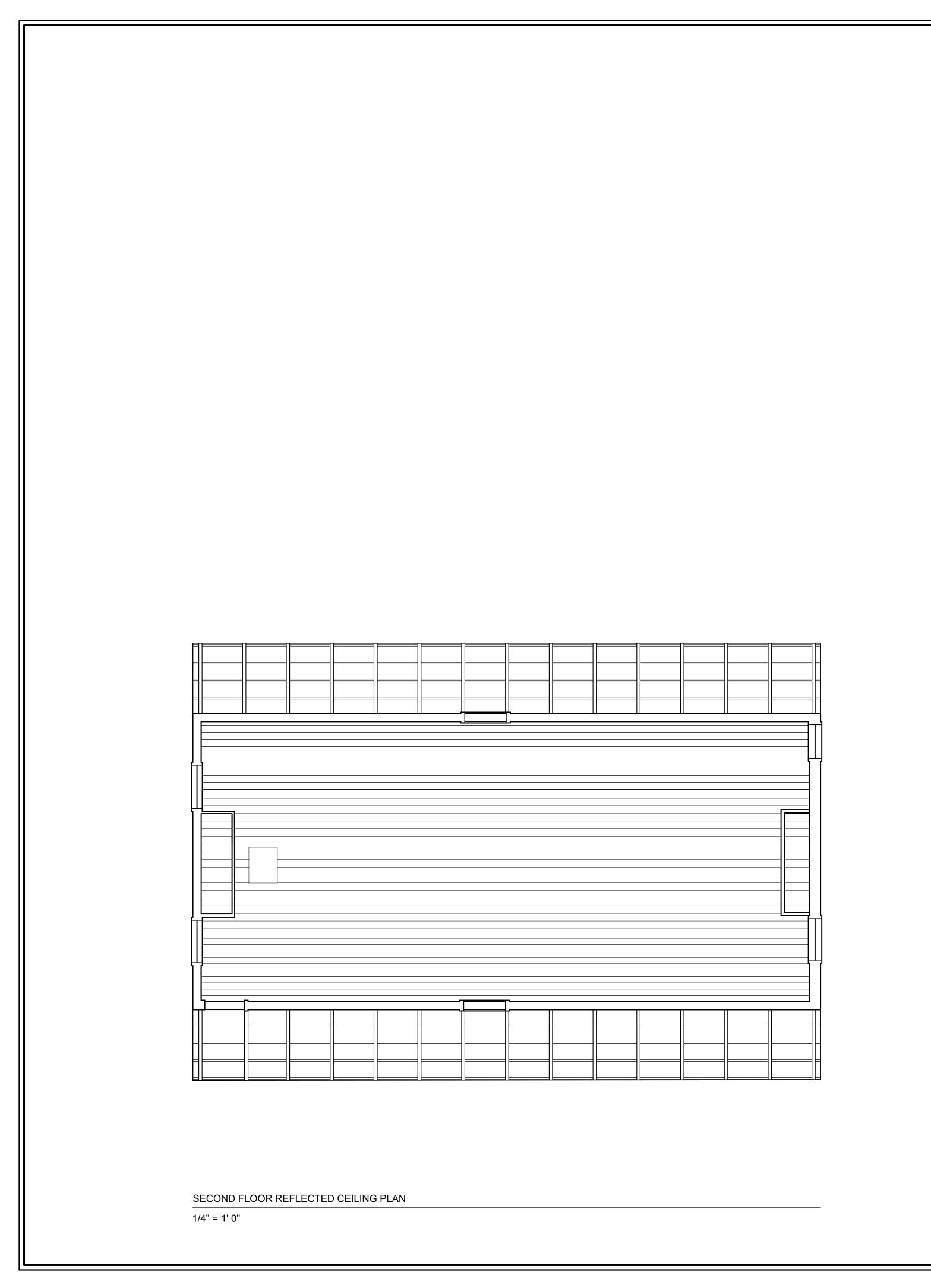
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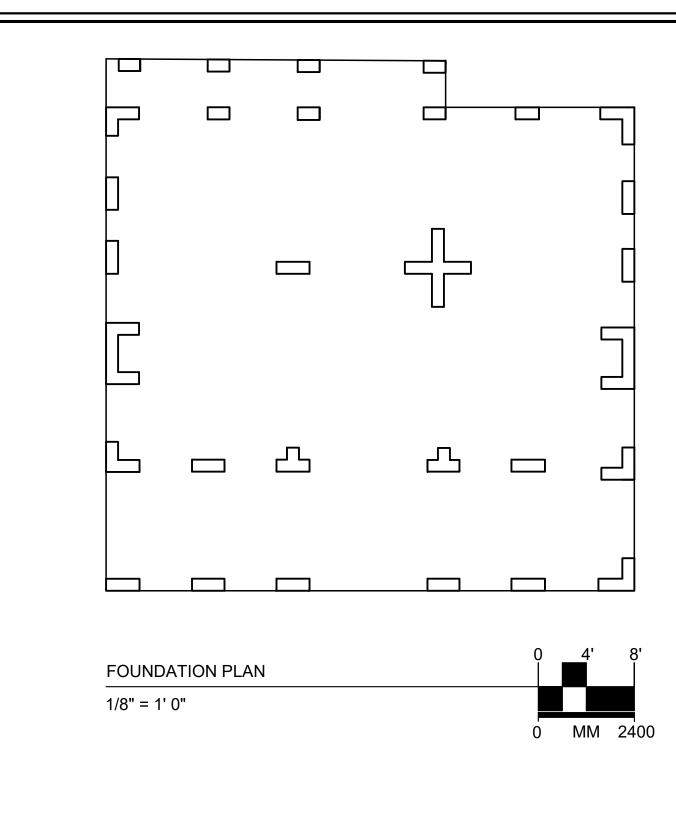
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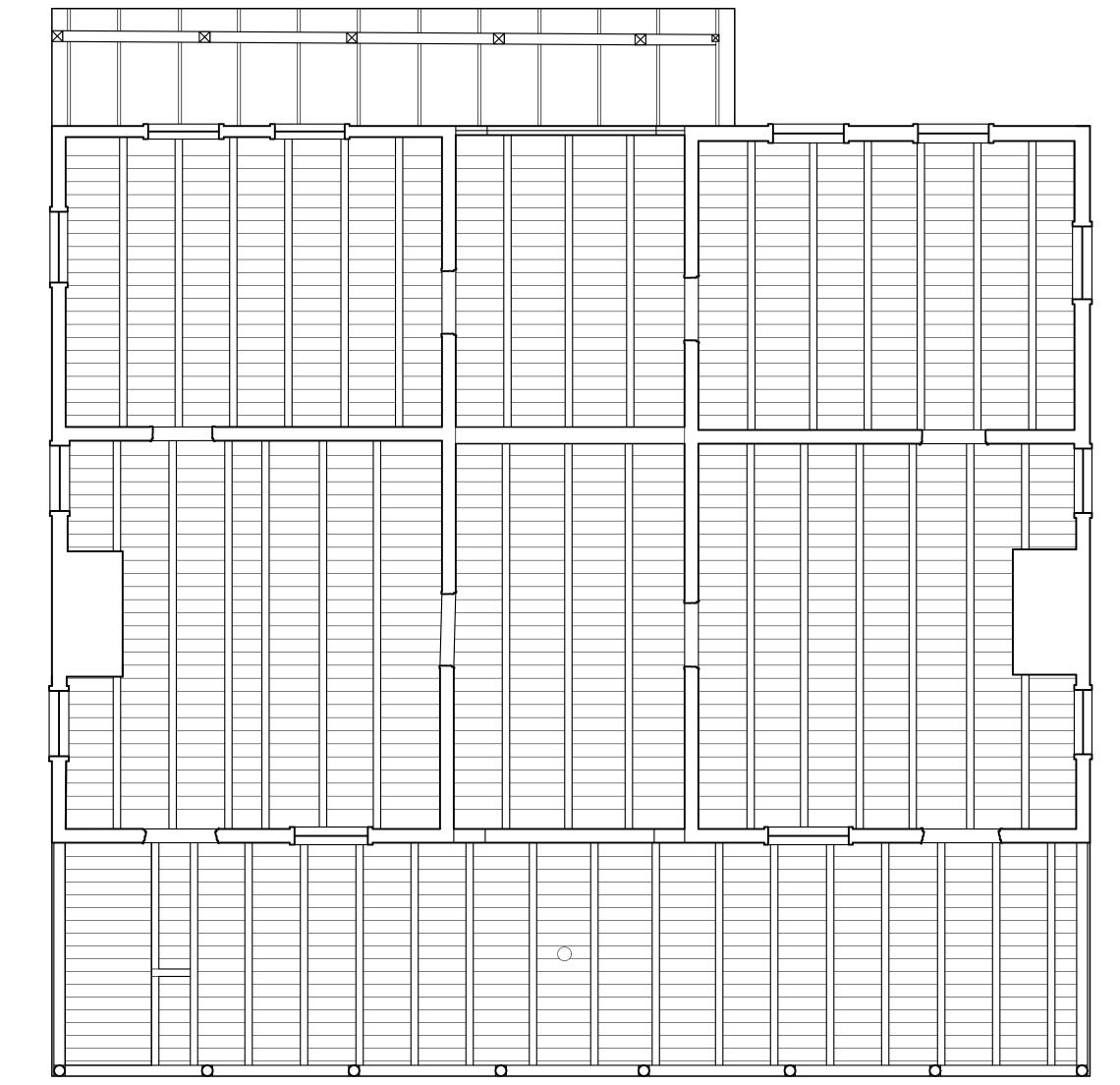






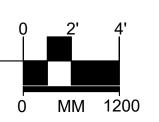






FIRST FLOOR REFLECTED CEILING PLAN

1/4" = 1' 0"



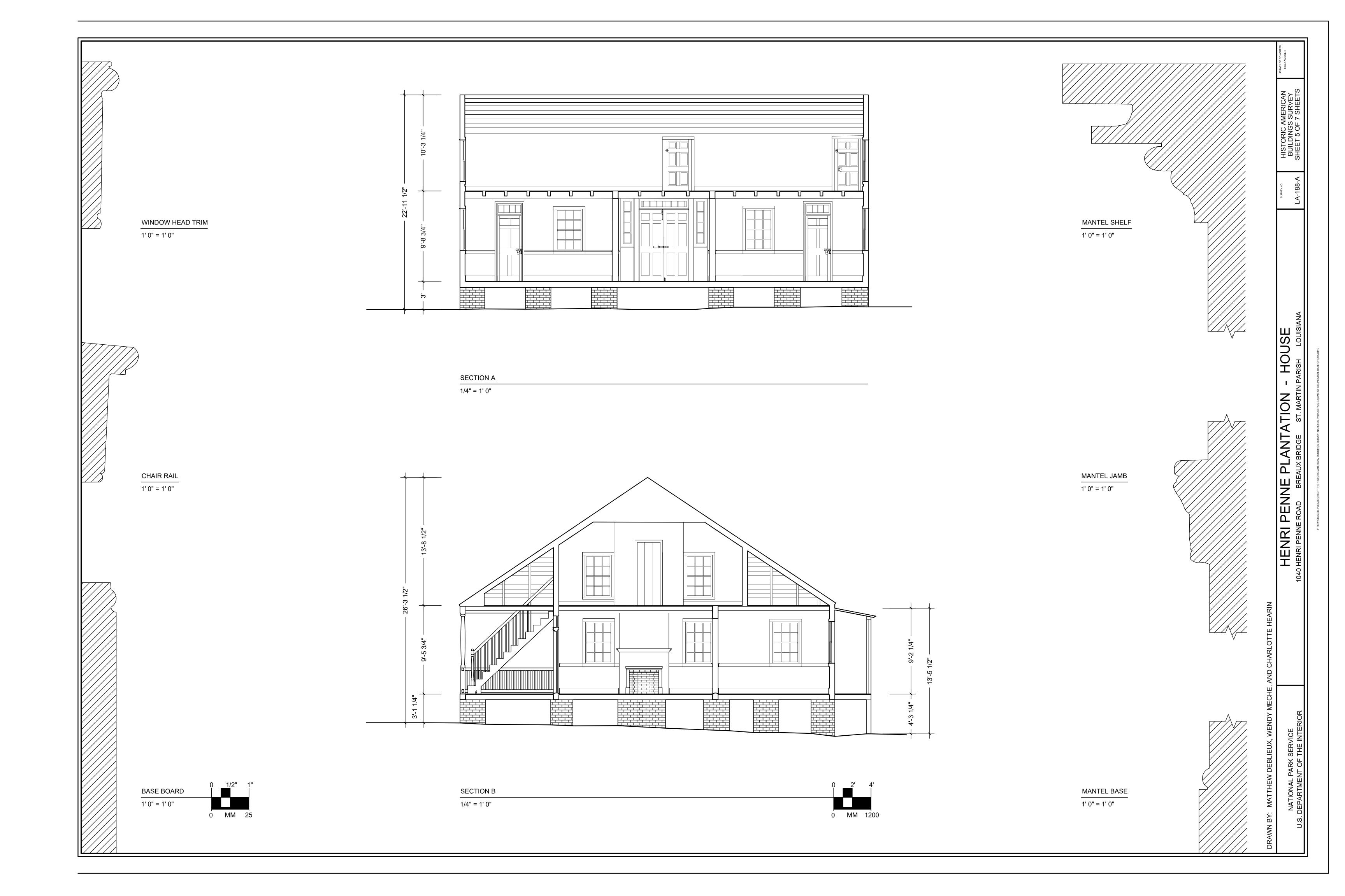


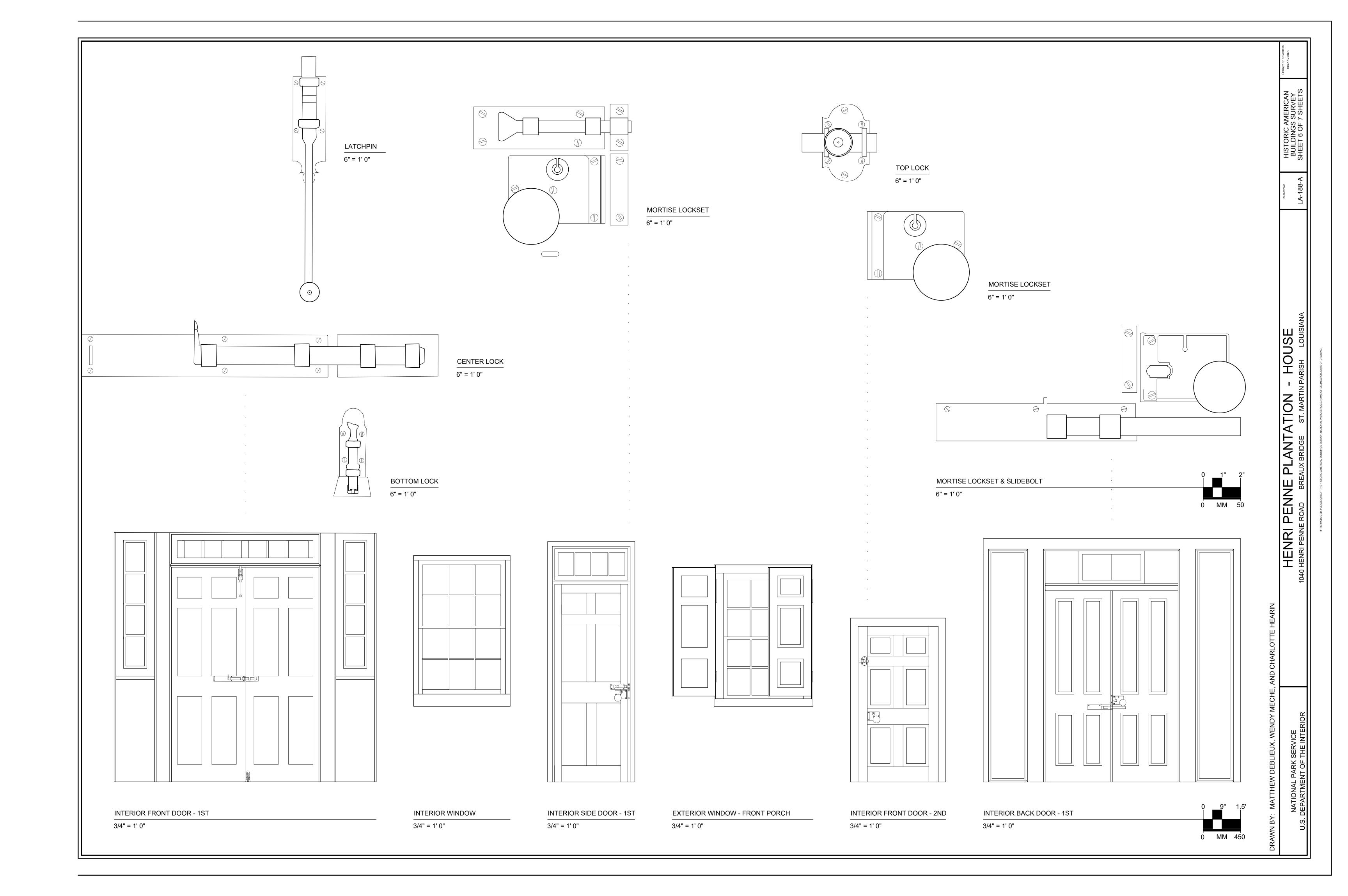
HENRI PENNE POAD BREAU

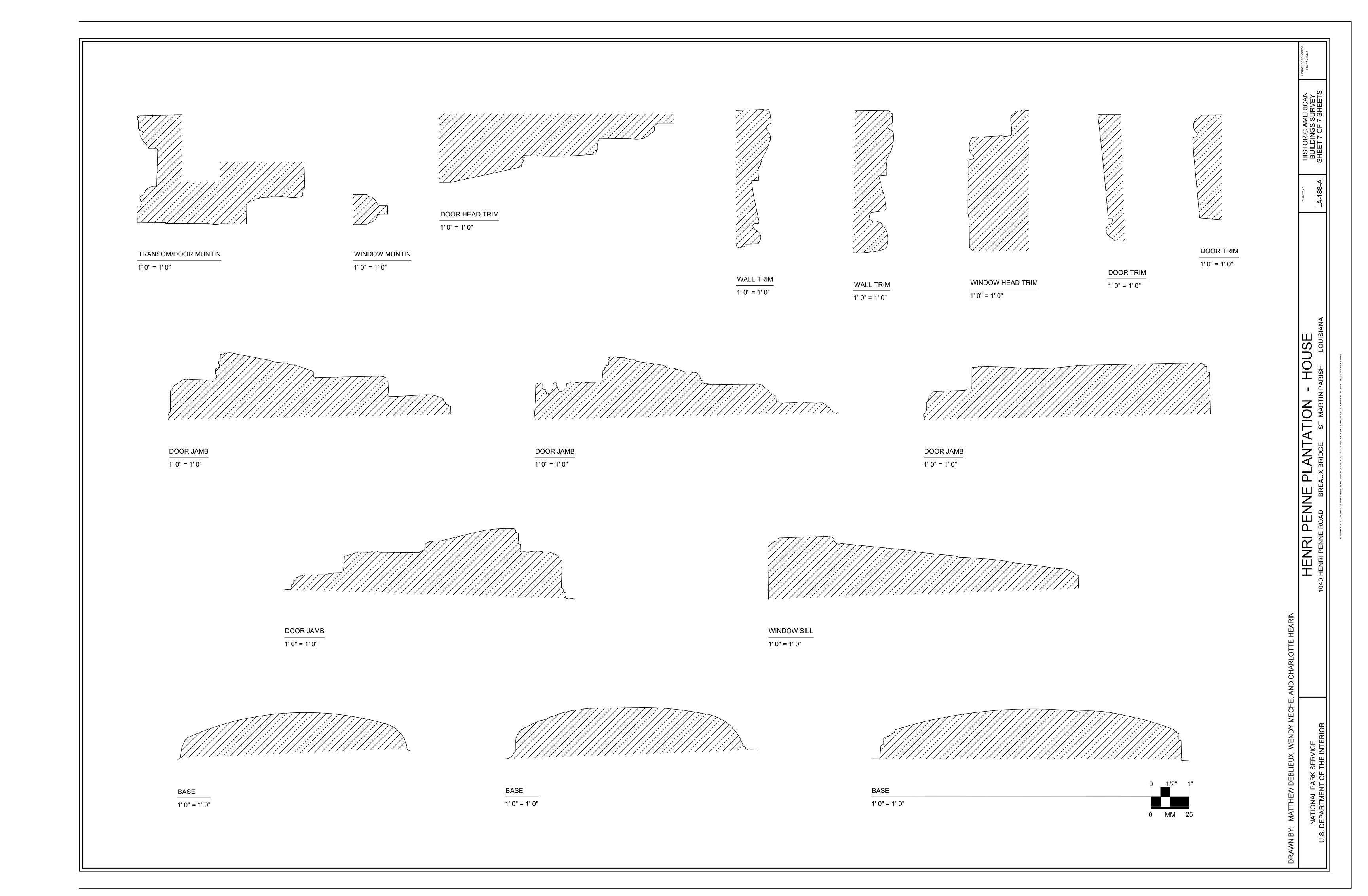
LANTATION - X BRIDGE ST. MARTIN PA

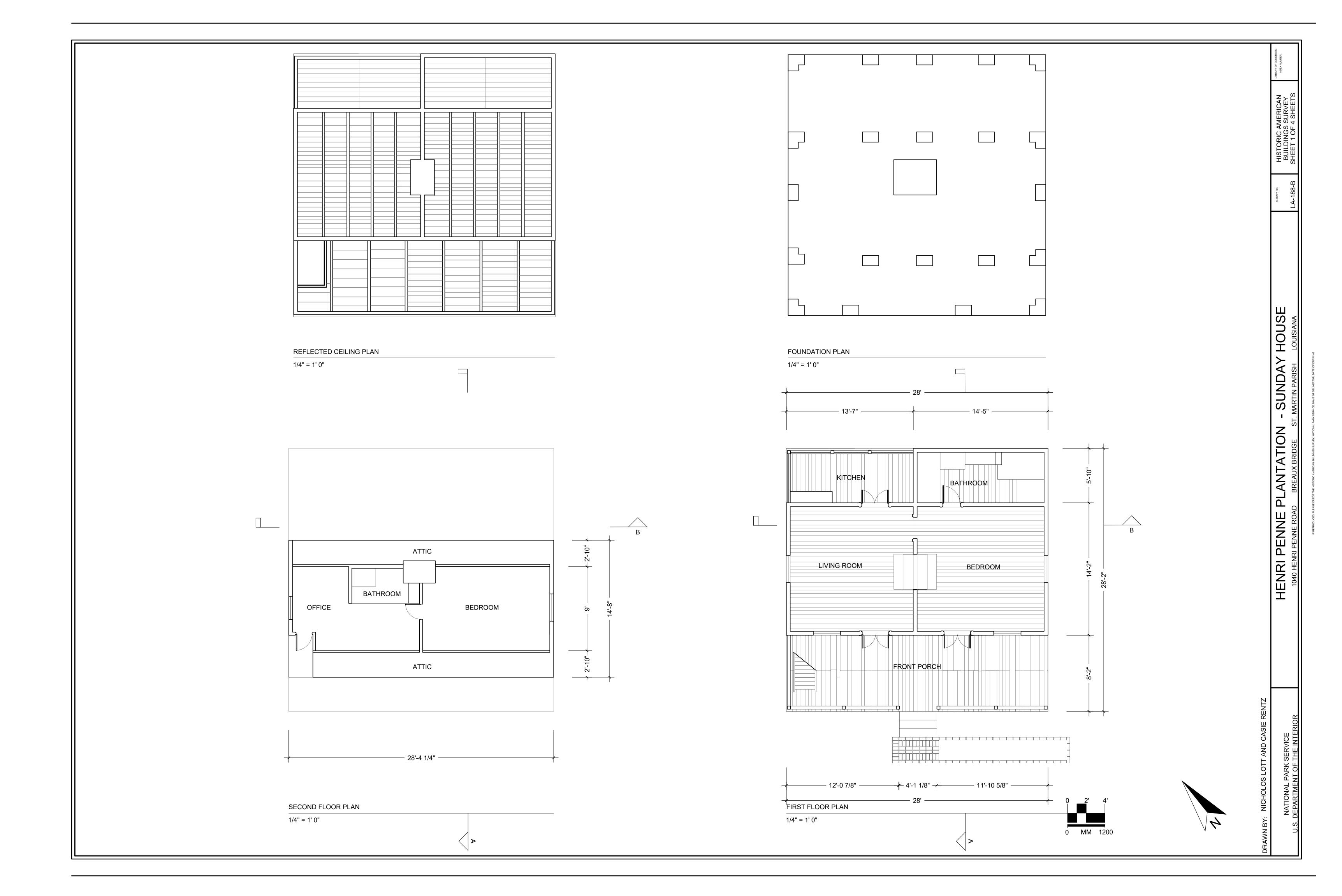


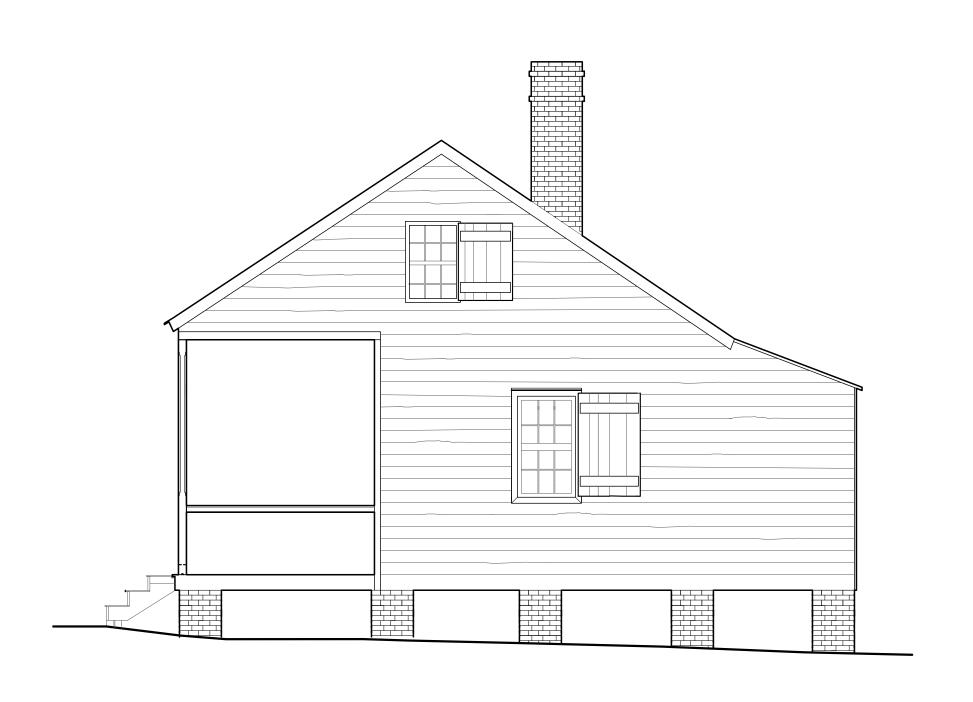










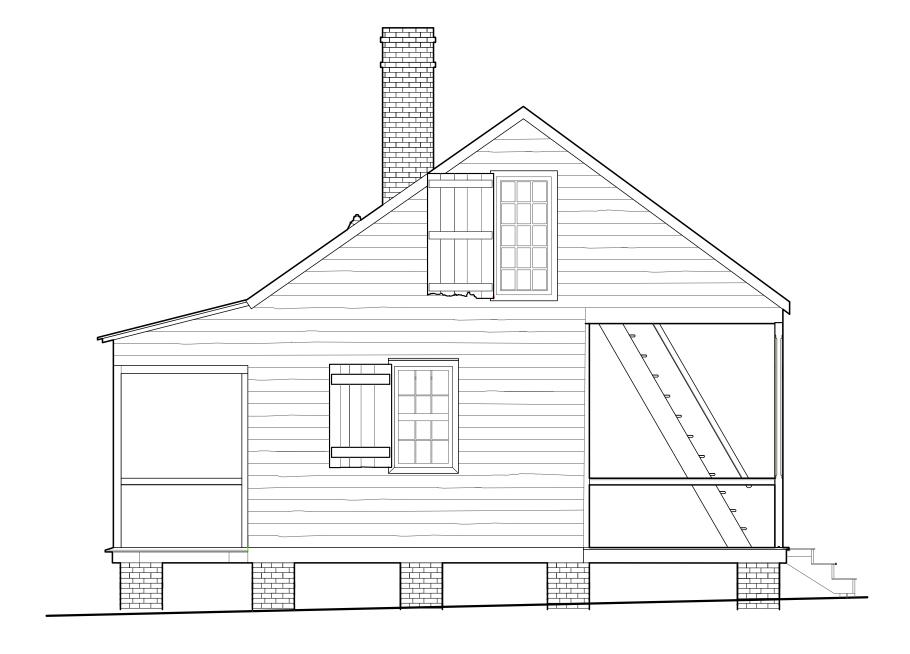


SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

1/4" = 1' 0"

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

1/4" = 1' 0"



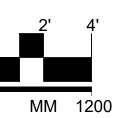


NORTHWEST ELEVATION

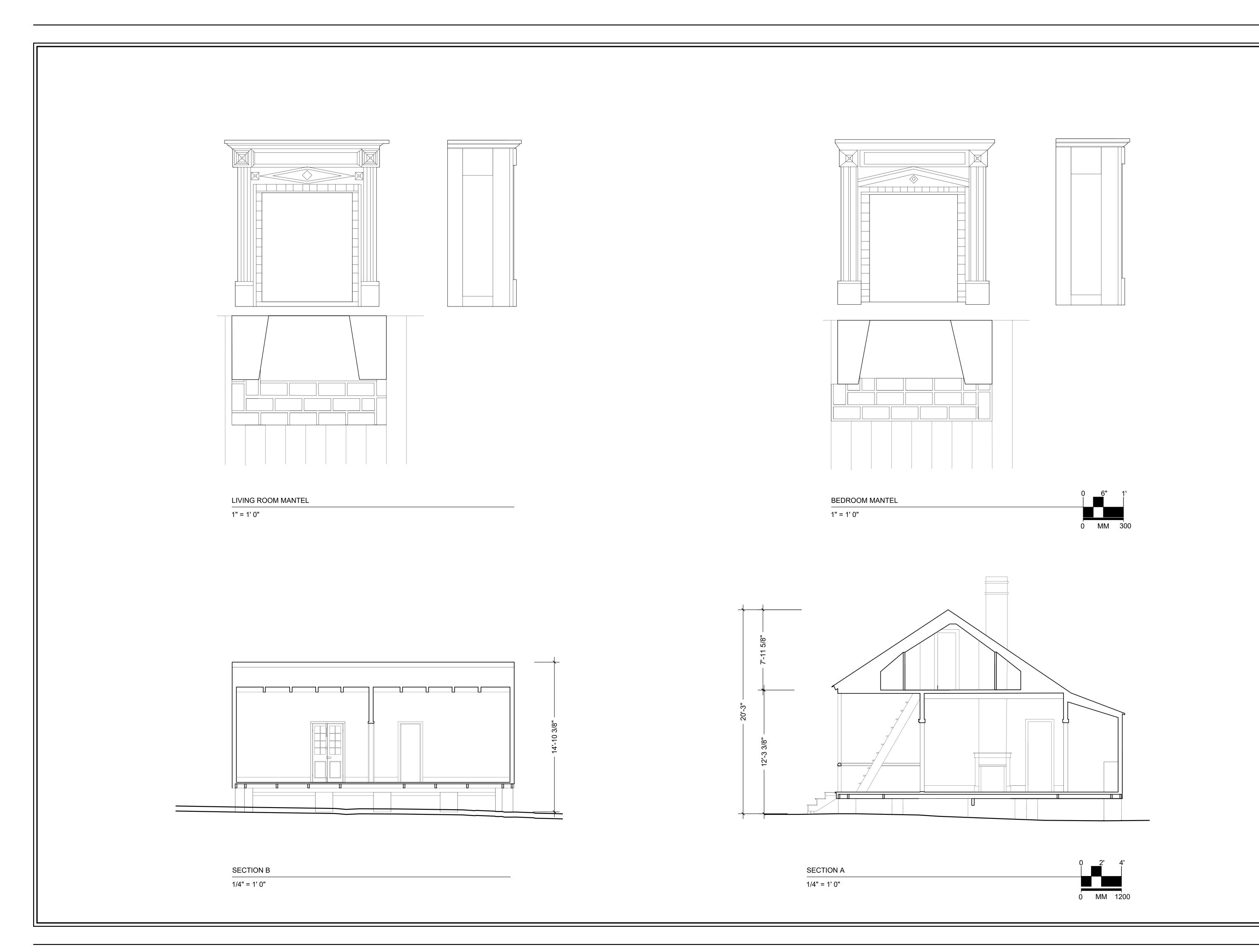
1/4" = 1' 0"

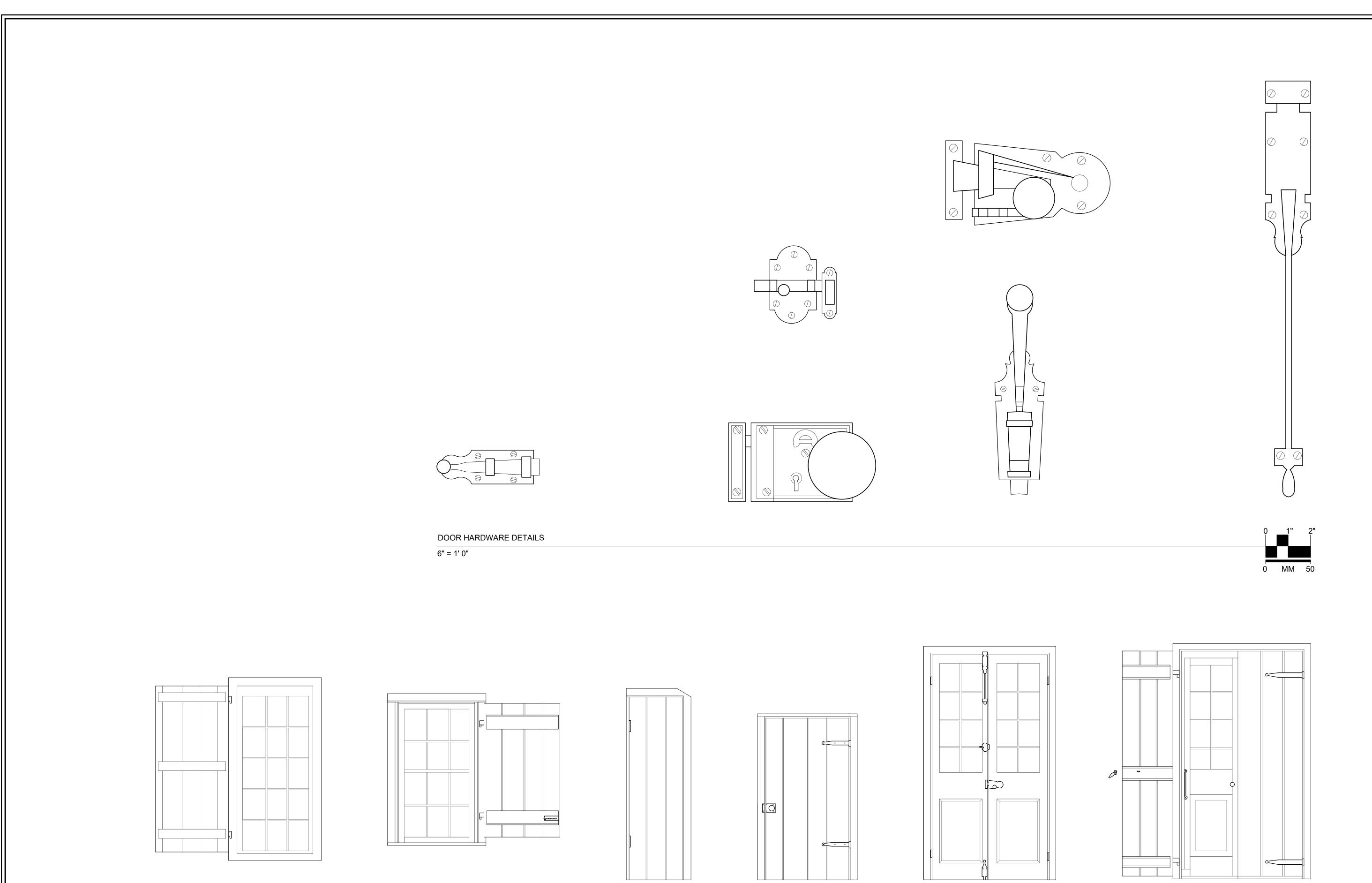
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

1/4" = 1' 0"



RAWN BY: NICHOLOS LOTT AND CASSIE RENTZ

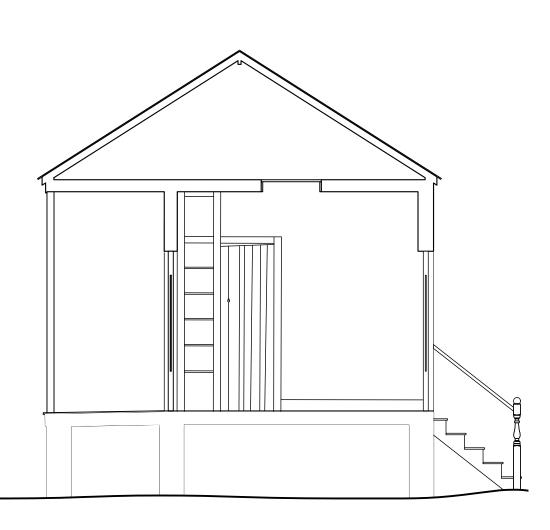




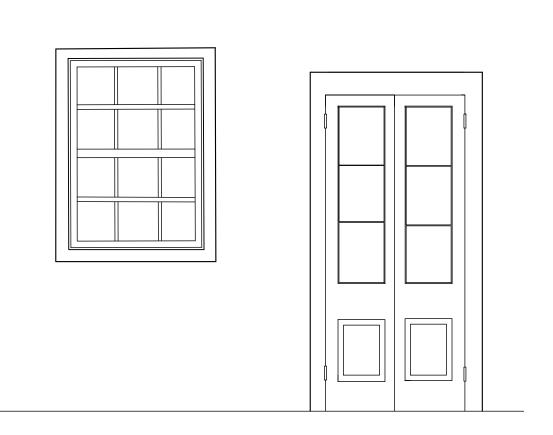
DOOR AND WINDOW ELEVATIONS

3/4" = 1' 0"

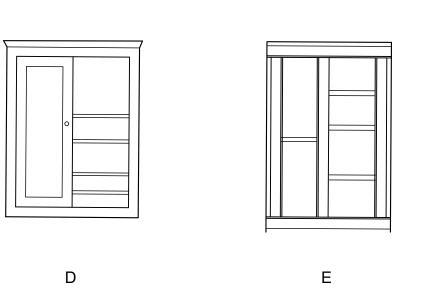
HENRI PENNE PLANTATION - SUNDAY HOUSE
1040 HENRI PENNE ROAD BREAUX BRIDGE ST. MARTIN PARISH LOUISIANA



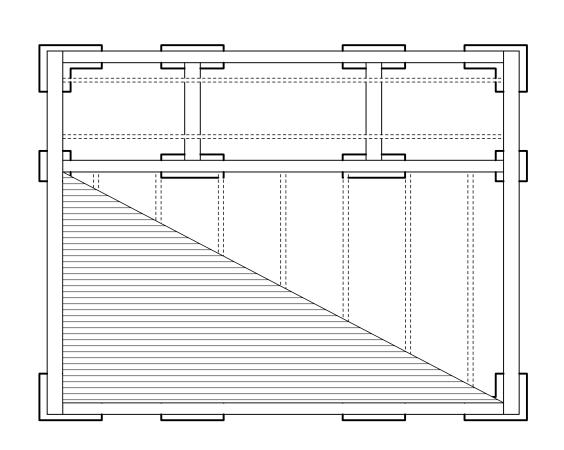




WINDOW & DOOR ELEVATIONS 1/2" = 1' 0"



MILLWORK ELEVATIONS 1/2" = 1' 0"

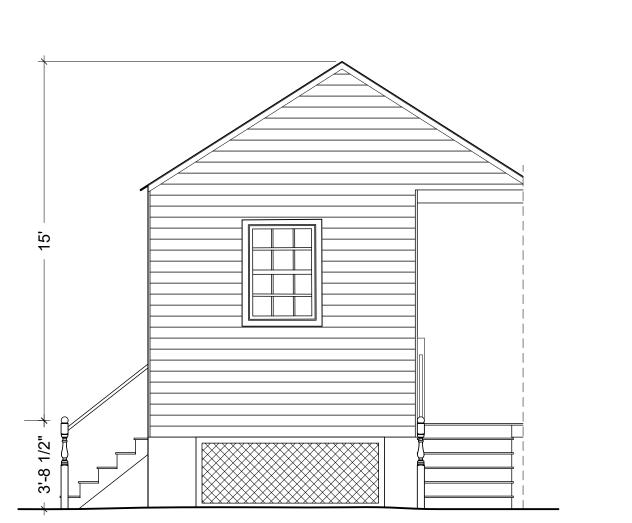


STRUCTURAL PLAN 1/4" = 1' 0"

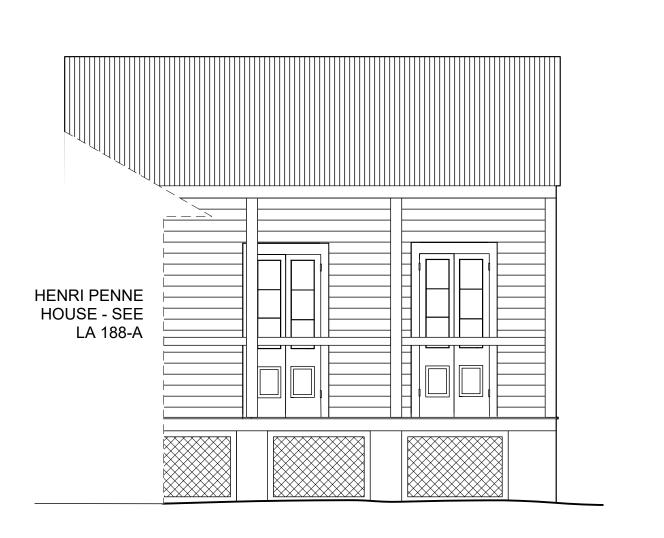


NORTHWEST ELEVATION

1/4" = 1' 0"



SOUTHWEST ELEVATION 1/4" = 1' 0"



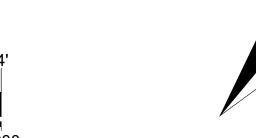
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

1/4" = 1' 0"

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

1/4" = 1' 0"

FLOOR PLAN 1/4" = 1' 0"



HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS

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HENRI PENNE PLA

