LA CROSSE COUNTY SITES SURVEY NOMINATION FORM   NO._____

1. NAME of the site (also original name, if known) or property nominated:

C.C. Washburn House, a.k.a. F.N. Rublee House

2. LOCATION:

T_____N,R_____W   612 Ferry St.
Sec._____   LaCrosse, WI 54601
_____¼,_____¼,_____¼

3. CLASSIFICATION of site or property to be nominated:

CATEGORY:	OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	STATUS OF PROPERTY:	PRESENT USE:	
____legend	____public	____occupied	____agricultural	____park
____geology	X private	X unoccupied	____Commercial	X private
____historic event	____both		____educational	residence
____archeology			____entertainment	____religious
____historic district			____government	____scientific
X building(s)			____industrial	____transportation
____site			____military	____other:
____object(s)			____museum	
____theme:				
(describe)_____				

3. OWNER of property to be nominated:

Name: Art and Kathy Schaller

Street and number: 603 S. 6th St.

City: LaCrosse   State: Wisconsin   Zip: 54601

4. PHOTO   &/or   SKETCH:

See attached

Continuation Sheet

C.C. Washburn House
612 Ferry Street
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

5. Statement of Significance

The C.C. Washburn House is eligible for nomination to the LaCrosse County Historic Sites Listing due to its historical association with C.C. Washburn, a Civil War hero and former governor of Wisconsin, who lived in the house from 1866, shortly after his tour in the Civil War, until 1882, the year of his death.

The Washburn House was originally constructed for F. N. Rublee in 1856. This house is believed to be the first architect-designed building in the city of LaCrosse, designed by a Mr. Gregory (Rausch: 70). Washburn apparently purchased the house in 1861 and owned it until his death in 1882. According to the LaCrosse City Directories, Washburn is listed at this address from 1866 (the earliest directory) to 1882, which was, as mentioned above, the year of his death. He is listed as living in Madison, Wisconsin in 1876, and in Minneapolis in 1880-81 (LaCrosse City Directories, 1866, 1868, 1870, 1873, 1876, 1880, 1881).

Cadwallader Colden Washburn was born in Main on April 22, 1818 and immigrated to Wisconsin in 1842. He came to LaCrosse in 1861. He was elected to Congress in 1855, and served until 1861 when he joined the troops of the Second regiment of Wisconsin cavalry as colonel. He was promoted to the position of major general by November 29, 1862. He returned to Congress in 1868, and served five terms, until 1872. In 1873-74 Washburn served as Governor of Wisconsin, occupying himself actively with affairs of the university. He was responsible for the building and equipping of the Washburn observatory at the University of Wisconsin. His actions of philanthrophy extended to offering his summer home in Madison as a Catholic girls school; presenting an orphan asylum to Minneapolis; endowing Edgewood College in Madison; and presenting a public library to the city of LaCrosse. Washburn's business interests included the LaCrosse Lumber Company, of which he was president. Governor Washburn died on May 14, 1882 at the age of sixty-four years (Bryant: 58-59; 271; Rausch: 344).

6. Description, historic and present

The C.C. Washburn House, constructed in 1856, is constructed near the center of Block 15 of Stevens Addition in the city of LaCrosse, on Ferry Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets. The house is located on a knoll, with houses and apartments built around the house on the east, south and west sides. Large trees landscape the west side of the house.

The two story brick building is an Italianate style house with stucco applied to the brick walls. Historic photographs make the house appear that either the brick was painted early in the house's history, or stucco was applied at an early period. The house is built in an X-shape, with gabled roofs. The one-over-one sash windows on the first floor are very large, while second story windows are smaller, decorated with square panels of colored glass. The roof is ornamented with wood brackets under the eaves, set against a wide friese.

The house, historically, had four one-story porches on each of the house's corners. Today, none of those porches exist. According to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, all four porches were on the house in 1891, as well as 1906, however by 1941 the two porches on the east side of the house had been removed. By 1954, only the southwest porch remained.

The house historically had a cupola, or "widow's walk" on the roof of the house which appears in historic photographs. The cupola was removed at an undetermined date.

The windows and doors appear to be original. The interior has been gutted, however, original room configuration has been retained. The woodwork, including the central staircase banister, is intact.

Overall, the house is structurally stable condition, despite its alterations and removal of architectural detail.

7. Bibliography

Bryant, Benjamin F. Memoirs of LaCrosse County. Madison, WI: Western
Historical Association, 1907.

LaCrosse City Directories. 1866 - 1882. Located at Area Research Center,
University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse.

Rausch, Joan and Richard Zeitlin. Intensive Historical-Architectural Survey-City
of LaCrosse. City of LaCrosse, 1984.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of LaCrosse,
Wisconsin. New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1891, 1906,
1941, 1954.

Historic photographs of the C.C. Washburn House are located in the Area
Research Center, Murphy Library, University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse.

8. Nomination submitted by:

Barbara Kooiman
Chair, LaCrosse County Historic Sites Commission
Architectural Historian
U.S. West Research, Inc.
P.O. Box 2172
LaCrosse, WI 54602-2172

1891

FERRY

E. C. C. Washburn House

GERMAN METH. CHURCH

PLASTERED OUTSIDE

D.

15

ST. (66 FT. WIDE)

ST. (66 FT. WIDE)

S. 6TH ST.
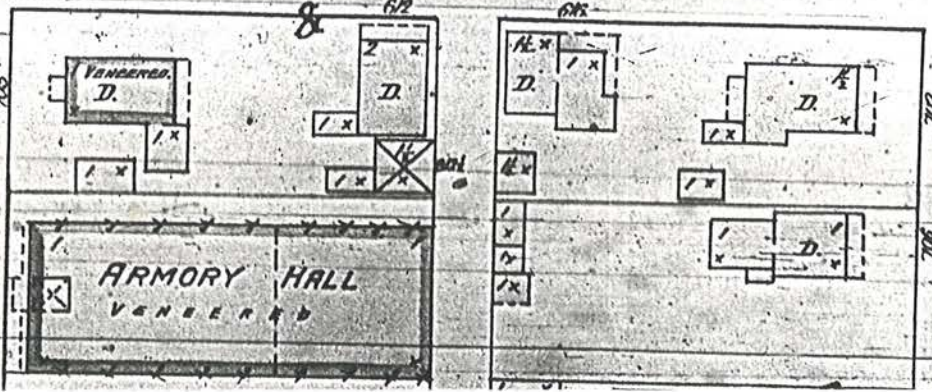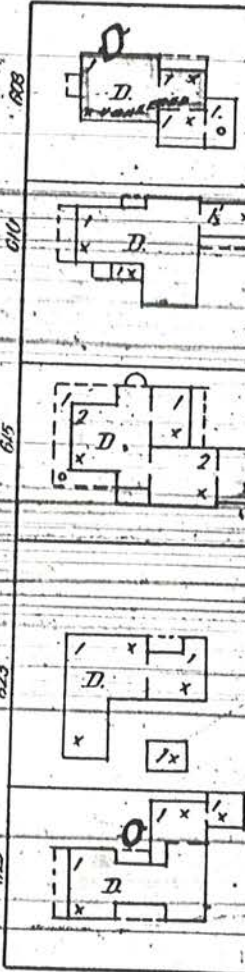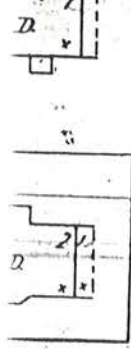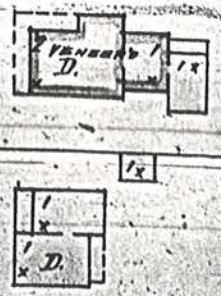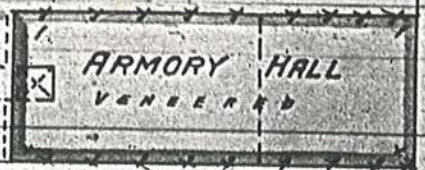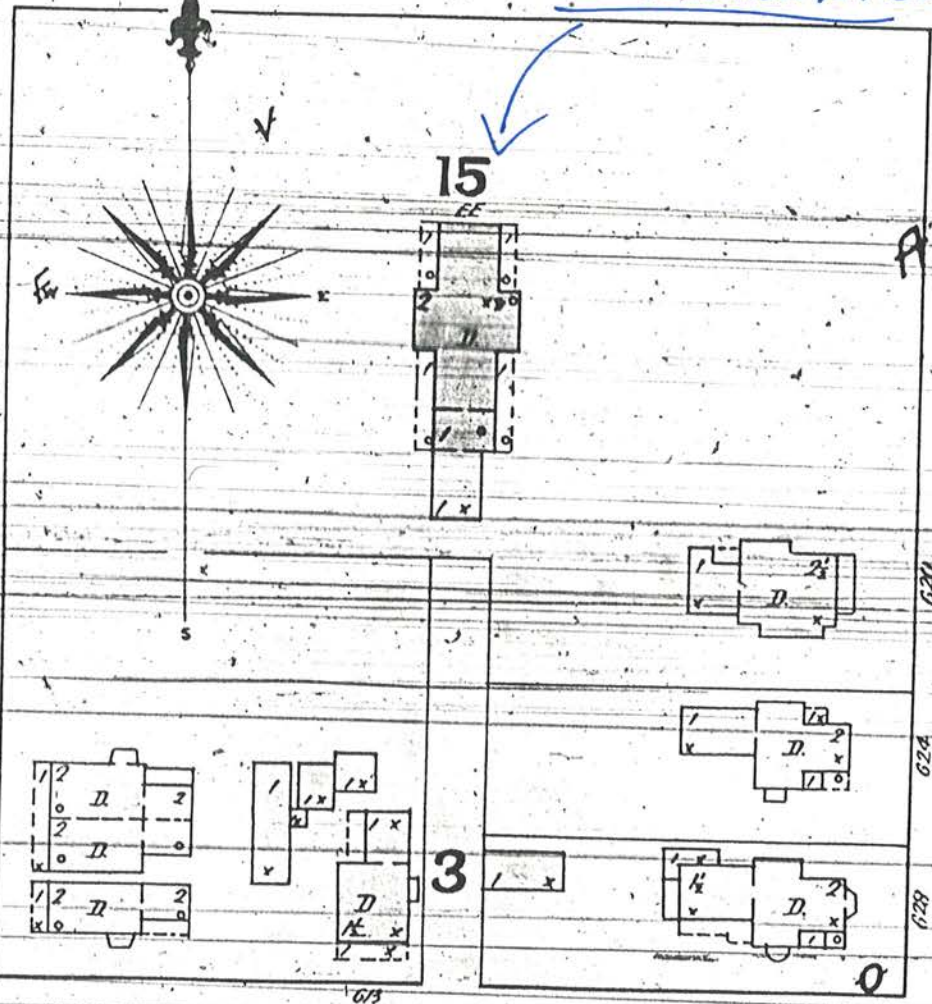
S. 7TH

3

MARKET

R

ARMORY HALL
VENEERED

VENEERED
D.

D.N.

D.K.

1906:

C.C. Washburn House
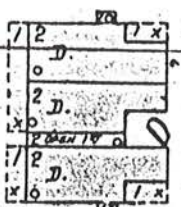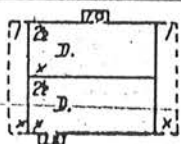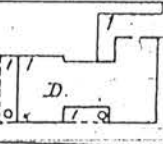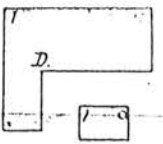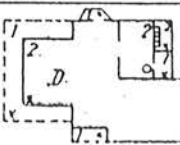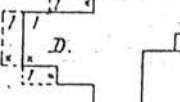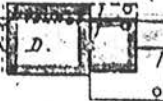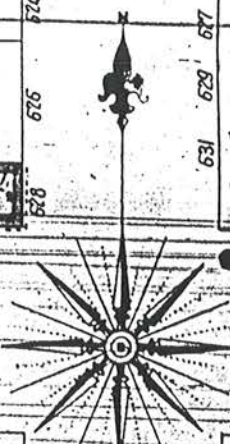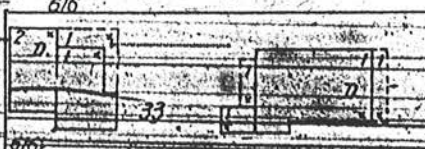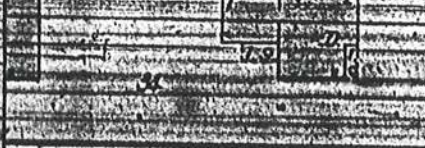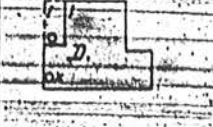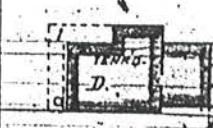
15

1941

C. C. Washburn House

FERRY

ARMORY HALL
HEAT: STOVE.
LIGHTS: ELEC.
20' TO EAVES.

VEN'RD.

15

D.H.

T.H.

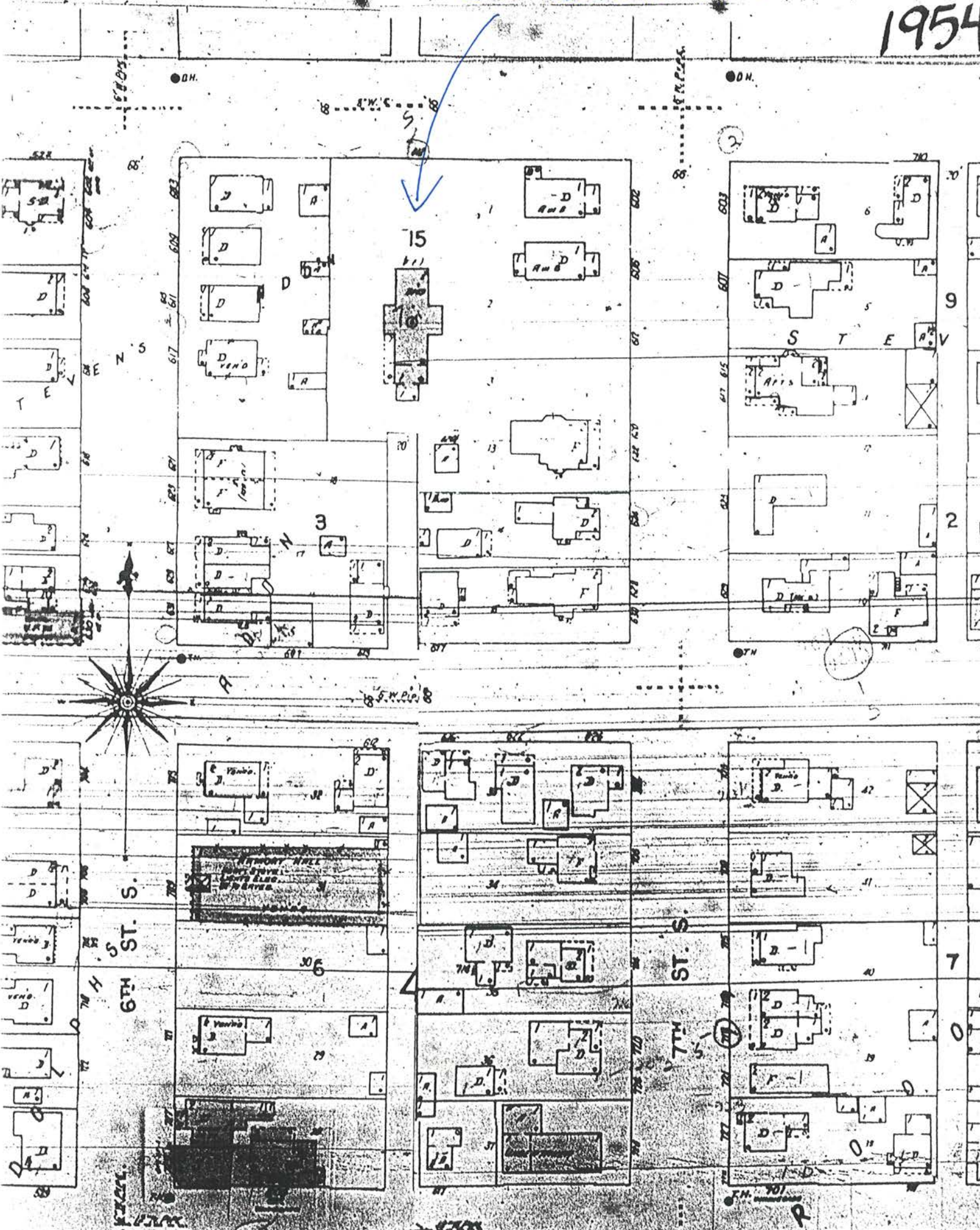N

W E

C. C. Washburn House
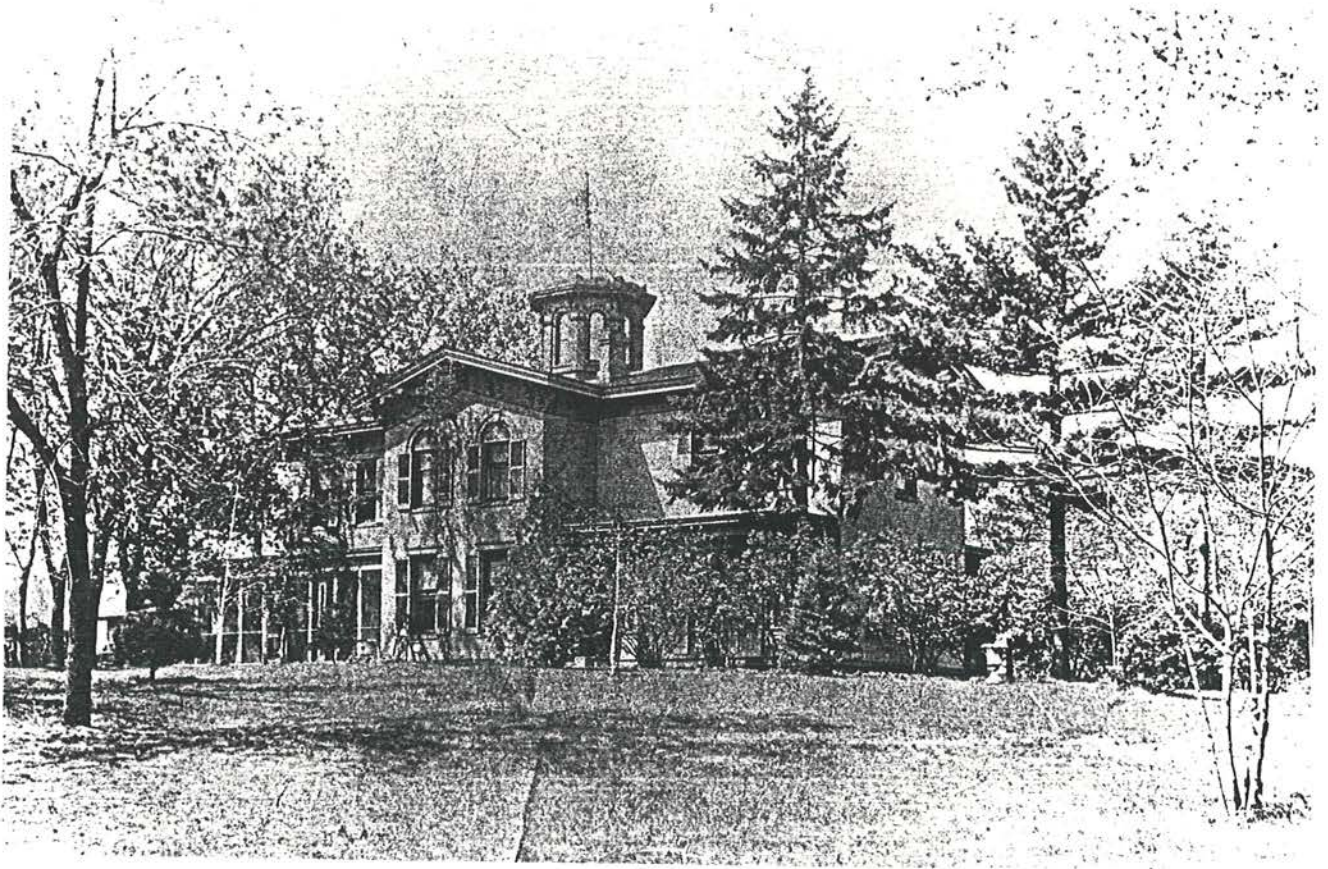
1954

C.C. Washburn House
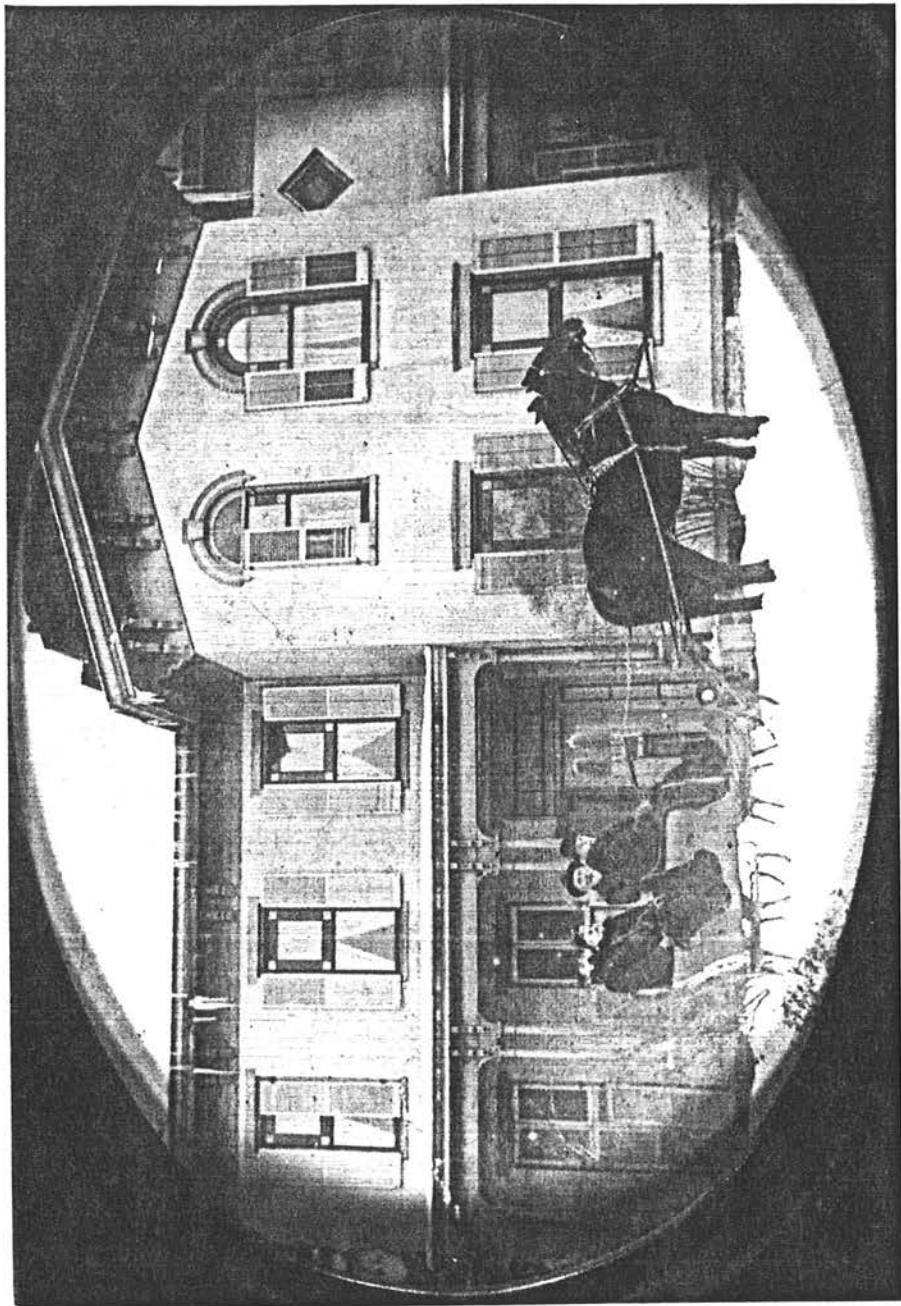612 Ferry

North & west facade
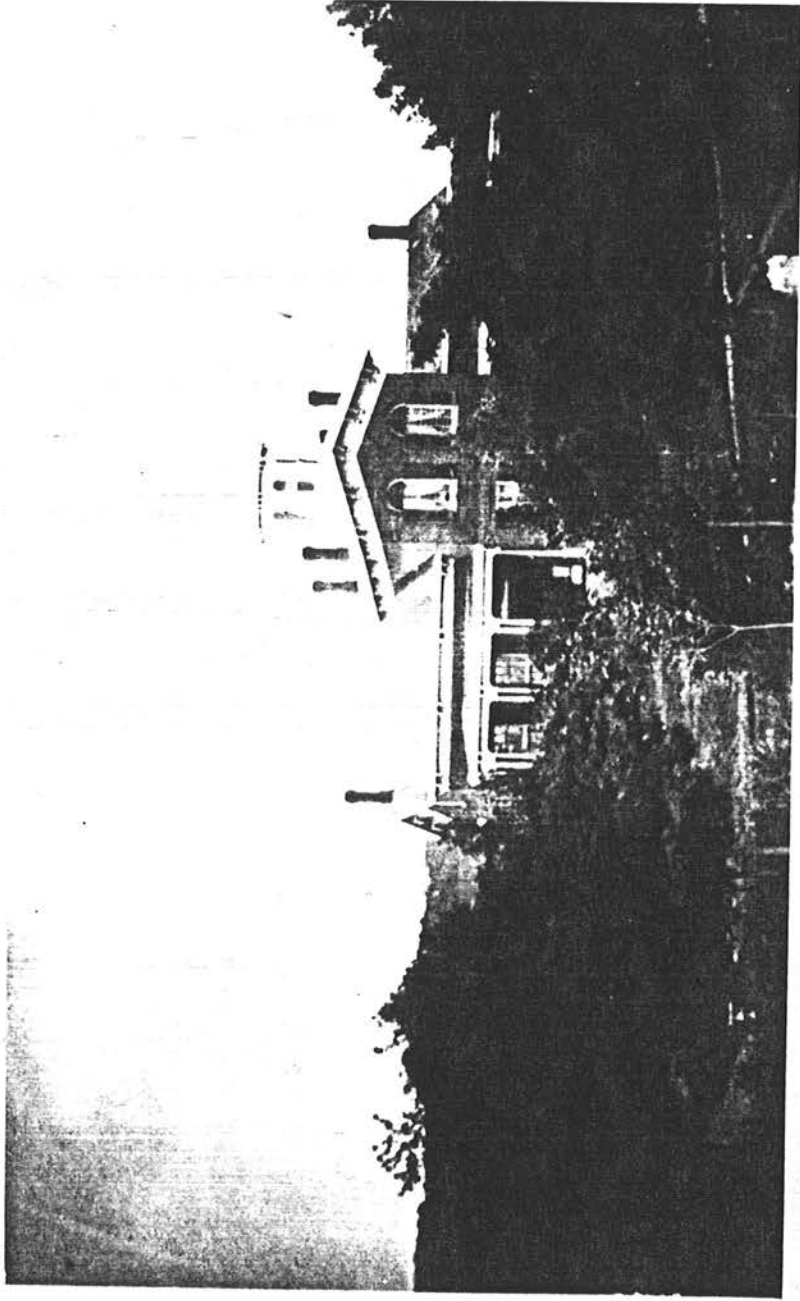

North & east facade

taken 1993

C.C. Washburn House, date unknown

~~West~~ East facade

Washburn House, date unknown
West facade

C.C. Washburn House, date unknown

West side of Washburn House, ca 1901