

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Nancy Todd, Neil Larson DATE: September 1986
Empire State Plaza

YOUR ADDRESS: Agency Building #1 TELEPHONE: 518/474-0479

ORGANIZATION (if any): Division for Historic Preservation
see cover sheet, Item #11

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Heermance House and Law Office (Component #27)
- 2. COUNTY: Dutchess TOWN/~~ENV~~: Rhinebeck VILLAGE: NA; Rhinecliff vicinity
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Rhinecliff Road and Long Dock Road intersection
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Edward & Barbara Frisch ADDRESS: Rhinecliff Road, Rhinebeck 12572
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain no; private residence

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
see Item #18

- 12. PHOTO: N. Todd, 1986
- 13. MAP: See continuation sheets
Rhinebeck Historical Society, 1984 Acreage: 1.3



1 East (front) and north elevations

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
d. developers e. deterioration
f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
g. shop h. gardens c & j: contributing
i. landscape features: _____
j. other: law office _____
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land b. woodland
c. scattered buildings
d. densely built-up e. commercial
f. industrial g. residential
h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

see continuation sheet

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

see continuation sheet

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: main house: 1858; office: 1866; garage: 1900

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

see continuation sheet

21. SOURCES:

see cover sheet, Item #9

#27. Heermance House and Law Office

Rhinecliff Road and Long Dock Road intersection, Rhinecliff vicinity
page 1

17. The Heermance House and Law Office occupy a 1.3-acre corner lot at the intersection of Rhinecliff Road (River Road, Route 308) with Long Dock Road in the west-central section of the town of Rhinebeck. Tangent to the property associated with the Abraham Kip House in the Sixteen Mile Historic District, the Heermance property is approximately two miles west of the village of Rhinebeck, one-quarter mile east of the Hudson River and one-half mile north of the hamlet of Rhinecliff. The property is on the west side of a short section of the old Rhinecliff-River Road, which was bypassed when the course of Route 308 was broadened and the sharp curve at Long Dock Road was lessened. The immediate neighborhood is characterized by thick woods and scattered residential properties, including extensively altered, middle-class dwellings dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries located to the east and south along Rhinecliff River Road. Other historic properties in the immediate vicinity include the Abraham Kip House to the northeast and the Long Dock Road Farmhouse and Jacob Kip House to the northwest along Long Dock Road. (All are included in the Sixteen Mile Historic District). The Kip-Beekman-Heermance Archeological Site (Individual Component #20) is located several hundred yards to the south of the Heermance House.

The hilly, 1.3-acre lot features thick brush and heavily wooded areas to the west, north and northeast. The driveway and a broad grassy lawn extend to the south of the main house.

Two contributing outbuildings are located on the nominated property. The garage is located immediately behind the house to the southwest. The law office building, situated close to the road, is located several hundred feet to the south. The heavy black outline on the attached county tax map identifies the boundary of the nominated property.

Contributing buildings: 3

18. The Heermance House and Law Office includes a mid-nineteenth century Italianate style cottage (ca. 1858), a diminutive, Gothic-inspired dependancy (ca. 1886) and a plain, unembellished garage (ca. 1900). In form, massing and orientation, the dwelling reflects the persistence of late Federal/early Greek Revival period building traditions with its two-story, three-bay, side-hall facade, balanced composition and orientation of the gable end towards the street. Decorative features, however, including ornamental bracketry and pierced

#27. Heermance House and Law Office
Rhinecliff Road and Long Dock Road intersection, Rhinecliff vicinity
page 2

woodwork, reflect its mid-nineteenth century period of construction and contribute an Italian Villa quality to a rather conventional house type. The projecting south pavilion with cross-gable roof and the long, two-story rear wing create an asymmetrical, T-shaped configuration for the entire building.

The east (front) facade is dominated by the broad, picturesque verandah which spans the three bays of the main block and extends around the southeast corner to span the side ell. Decorative features of the porch include the bracketed cornice, arcaded frieze and pierced balustrade. Built into a hill which slopes down to the road, the basement level is partially exposed at the east elevation. Access to the basement is provided through an entrance which occupies the northern bay below the porch at ground level. The terrain in front of the house has been built up and secured with a stone retaining wall, thus obscuring the remainder of the basement from exposure. Latticed panels cover the remaining sections of the above-ground foundation. The primary entrance is located in the southern bay at the first story level. Two tall, two-over-four, double-hung sash windows occupy the center and north bays. Both are embellished with scalloped lintels, simple wooden surrounds and louvered wooden shutters. Second-story window openings also contain two-over-four, double-hung sash windows and have flat-arched wooden lintels and louvered wooden shutters. The roofline is marked by broadly projecting, bracketed overhangs and exaggerated cornice returns.

The south side of the main block is dominated by the picturesque ell, which features a pair of rounded-arch windows with simple surrounds and louvered wooden shutters at the second-story level. All other window openings are rectangular and contain two-over-four, double-hung sash windows. The southwest corner features a small porch which shelters the secondary access into the west side of the ell. Decorative elements exhibited by the rear porch include a bracketed cornice, an arcaded frieze and a simple balustrade. Like the roofline on the front facade, the roofline on the side elevation is marked by paired scroll brackets and exaggerated cornice returns.

The two-story, gable-roofed rear addition features a slightly unbalanced composition of four six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with louvered wooden shutters at the second story and a door and four windows of various sizes and types of panes at the first story level. A scallop-edged bargeboard embellishes the roofline of the rear wing.

The north (side) elevation of the main block, overlooking

#27. Heermance House and Law Office

Rhinecliff Road and Long Dock Road intersection, Rhinecliff vicinity
page 3

Long Dock Road, features four regularly spaced, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. Fenestration on the north elevation of the rear wing, also overlooking Long Dock Road, is asymmetrical. Windows of various sizes and lighting patterns are represented.

The interior of the Heermance House has been substantially altered and subdivided to accommodate several apartments. However, some historic fabric does survive intact, including simple and restrained woodwork in the front and rear parlors.

Directly behind the house to the southwest is a one-story, rectangular, gable-roofed frame garage. Dating from the early twentieth century, the garage is a contributing component of the nomination.

The Law Office (ca. 1886) is located several hundred feet south of the main house. The office building, vacant and slightly deteriorated, is a small, one-story, rectangular frame building. The building is sheathed with clapboard and vertical board siding and is surmounted by a cross-gable roof with broadly projecting eaves embellished with pierced bargeboards.

20. The Heermance House and Law Office are distinctive examples of Picturesque, eclectic style architecture in Rhinebeck. The main house (ca. 1858) is a distinctive example of a mid-nineteenth century Italianate style residence. Although its two-story, three-bay, side-hall facade with front gable end is reminiscent of early nineteenth century, Federal and Greek Revival period forms, its decoration and design features, including the broadly projecting, bracketed eaves, flush board facades, full-width porch with bracketry and scroll-sawn ornament, floor-length windows opening onto the porch and cross-gabled side pavilion all contribute an Italian Villa quality to a rather conventional house type. Located on the northern fringes of the hamlet of Rhinecliff, the residence is essentially a village dwelling in form, decoration and orientation. The dwelling is complemented by an intact, late nineteenth century Picturesque law office and a modest, early twentieth century garage.

Little is known of the exact origin of either the main house or the office building. The house may have been erected by a branch of the Fellows family; the name P. Fellows appears on the 1858 and 1867 maps. However, the nominated property takes its name from Andrew J. and Martin Heermance, who apparently owned the property during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Map and deed research indicates that Andrew J. Heermance owned the property in 1876 and Martin Heermance, a lawyer, apparently

Rhinebeck Town Multiple Resource Area
Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York

#27. Heermance House and Law Office

Rhinecliff Road and Long Dock Road intersection, Rhinecliff vicinity

page 4

occupied the house in 1886. The office building, a distinctive example of a dependency designed in the picturesque taste of the period, presumably was built during Martin's period of occupancy. The Heermances were descendents of one of the earliest families in Rhinebeck. Hendricus Heermance acquired property in 1716 in Kipsbergen from his father-in-law, Gerrit Artsen, the patentee. Second and third generation Heermances inter-married with branches of the Kip, Beekman and Livingston families, and the Heermance families continued to play important roles in the history of Rhinebeck. The manor house of Kipsbergen, the archeological remains of which are included in the Kip-Beekman-Heermance Archeological Site (Individual Component #20) was acquired by Andrew J. Heermance from Margaret B. Livingston (daughter of Colonel Henry B. Livingston, who was the grandson of Henry Beekman II, who had resided at the manor house between 1726 and 1776) in the mid-nineteenth century.

The house and law office remain important examples of mid- to late nineteenth century, picturesque architecture in the multiple resource area.

CONTINUATION SHEET

RHINEBECK MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

BUILDING NAME: Heermance House, Component 27

#12. Photo:



4 South Elevation



5 Garage, southeast elevations

CONTINUATION SHEET

RHINEBECK MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

BUILDING NAME: Heermance House, Component 27

#12. Photo:



6. Law office, north facade and west elevation

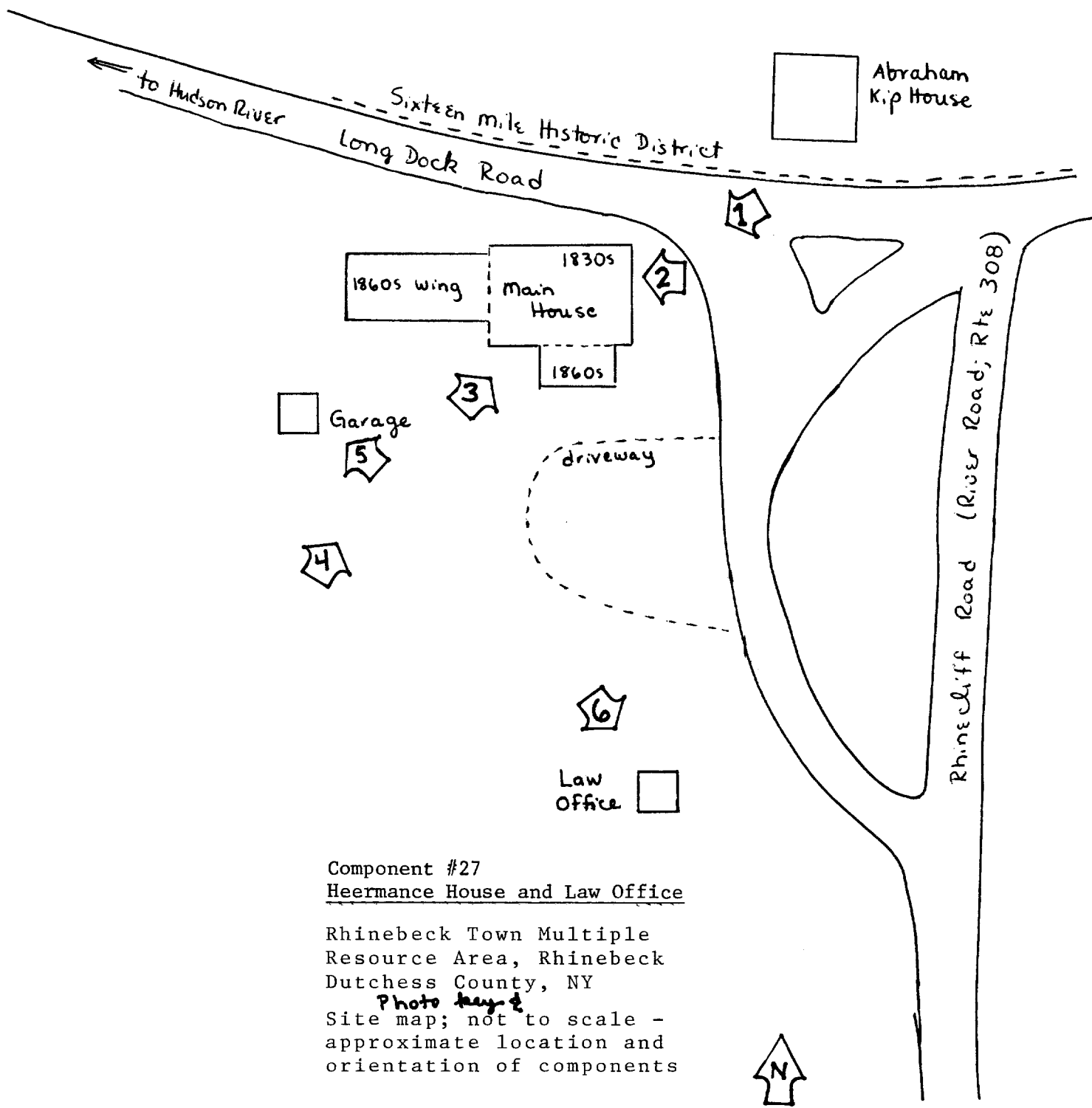
- #27. Heermance House and Law Office
Rhinecliff Road and Long Dock Road intersection, Rhinecliff vicinity



2. Front porch detail



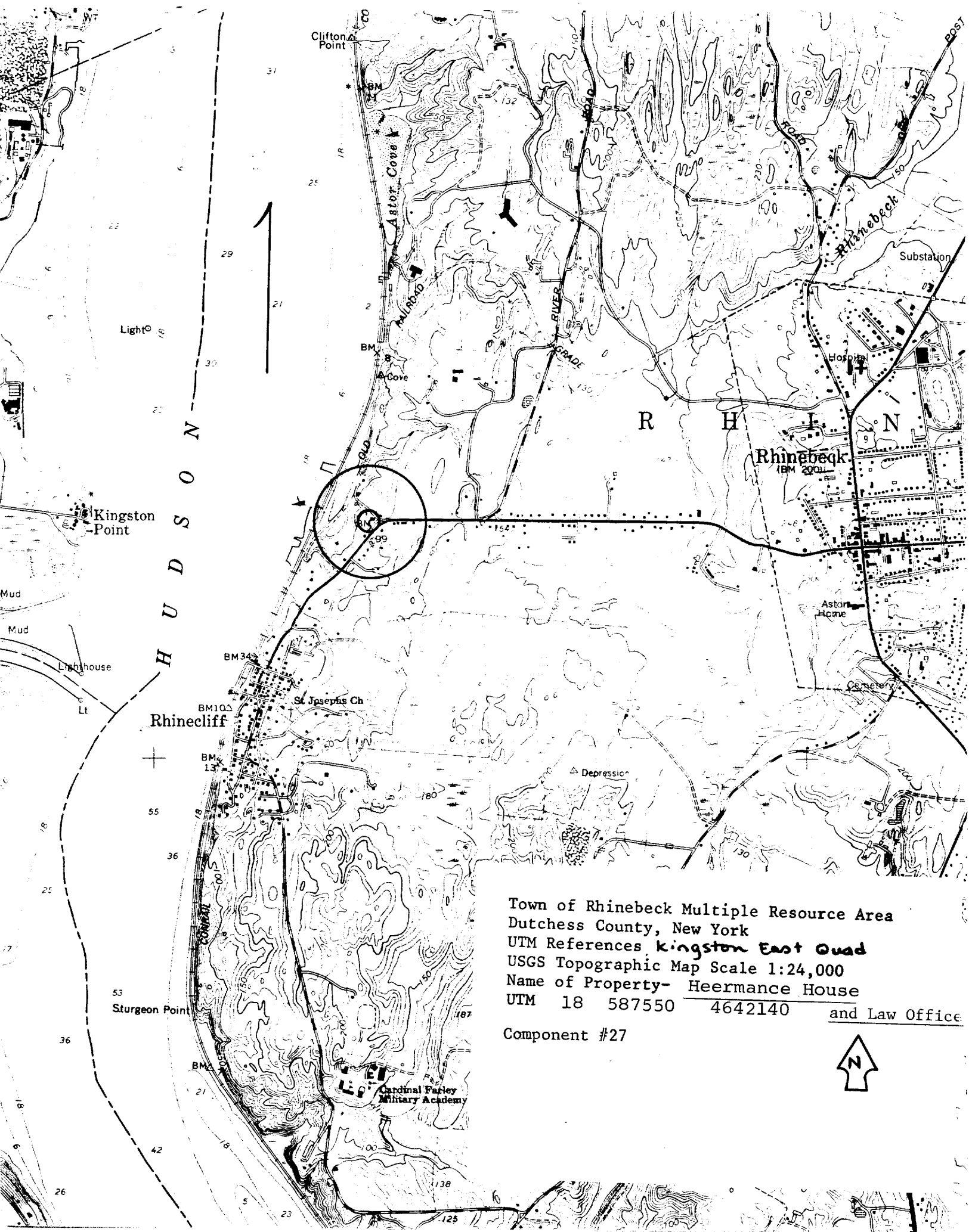
3. Rear porch and cornice detail



Component #27
Heermance House and Law Office

Rhinebeck Town Multiple
 Resource Area, Rhinebeck
 Dutchess County, NY

Photo key
 Site map; not to scale -
 approximate location and
 orientation of components



Town of Rhinebeck Multiple Resource Area
 Dutchess County, New York
 UTM References **Kingston East Quad**
 USGS Topographic Map Scale 1:24,000
 Name of Property- Heermance House
 UTM 18 587550 4642140 and Law Office
 Component #27

