

The Blue Earth County HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

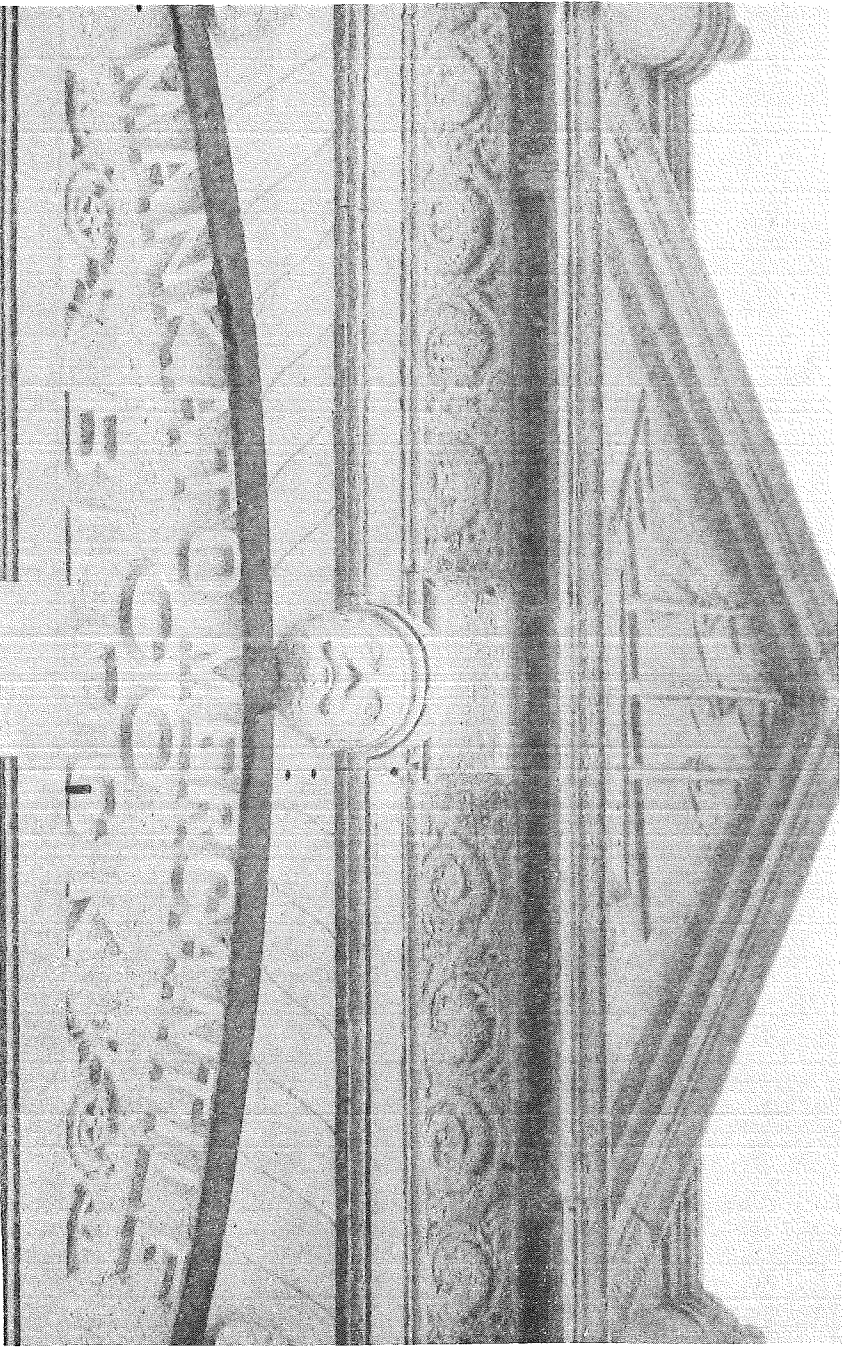
Vol. IV, No. I

Winter 1975.

MUSEUM SAVES FACADE

Emy Frentz, board member in charge of saving the former Meyer and Sons Building facade, has written the following for our newsletter: The old Mankato Mercantile block building of 1890, 209 North Front St. (or the Meyer and Sons Building) was unfortunately scheduled for demolition in November. It became obvious to members of the Blue Earth County Historical Society Board that this was unfortunate because of the value of its facade. This first all limestone store front built in Mankato was produced and designed out of local limestone at the old Widell Quarries and it featured elaborate Victorian carving. It was unique for having an originally carved stone portrait worked into the design and also, an interesting clipper ship. Therefore, the Board appointed members of the Society to work for its preservation. The facade was awarded to the Society which had made the only bid for it. After much effort and perseverance, Robert Carlstrom was finally contacted and he then consented to be responsible for the removal of the facade. This took place at the end of December. The preserved stone is now being safely stored and the next thought concerning it is what will be its possible and most appropriate use.

Below is a picture of the facade which was saved for the future.



The performance will be held on Sunday evening, March 2, at 7: P.M., at the Menkato State College Student Union Theater. The program includes a stage band with music furnished by the Music Performance Trust Fund with the cooperation of local # 477 musicians, under the direction of Bob Northenschold.

"The Scheer Delights", a song and dance act, the "Zippy Zion Zingers", a W. S. Hart Comedy and the main feature, "Blood and Sand" starring Rudolph Valentino and accompanied by Mildred Miller and Company. The public is invited to attend -- admission is free.

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

OPEN HOUSE

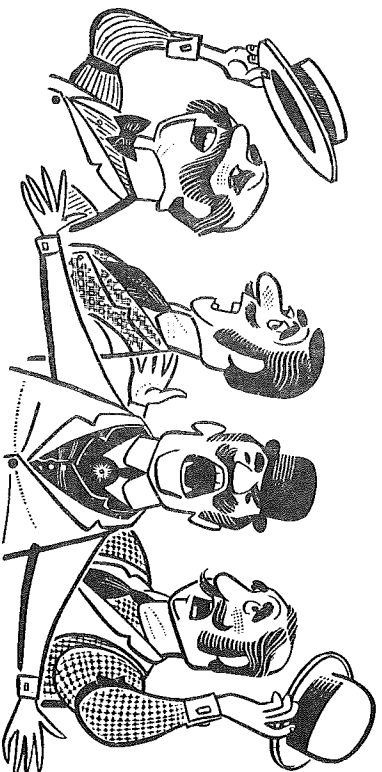
Mr. Hays is invited to attend the Museum's next Open House, planned for Sunday, March 2. The theme will be local bands: dance bands, pit bands of the old days, etc. Exhibits will include pictures of local musical groups, records, and instruments, and old sheet music. If names like Cliff Keyes, etc., make Haskell make you nostalgic, come immerse yourself in old memories at the Museum. If you know nothing about Cash Seaton, who with his whole family owned the pit band of Mankato's Grand Theatre, come learn about him. What is a pit band? Drop in to the Open House on the afternoon of March 2 and find out.

FREE PARKING

Do not be deterred by the sign in the YMCA parking lot. Both the city and the "Y" say you may park there if you are visiting the Historical Society Museum. That sign, by the way, indicates that your car will be towed away if you are not using the YMCA.

FRANK HAYS TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING

If all goes as expected, on April 16 (the third Wednesday of the month) Frank Hays will be the featured speaker at the Historical Society's Annual Meeting. Anthony Guertin, who is arranging Mr. Hay's visit to Mankato, states that the speaker is a "New York illustrator, interior designer, design consultant, collector, and dealer...whose personal collection centers around art of the late Victorian, Art Nouveau, and Art Deco periods." The Society has asked Mr. Hays to speak on Art Nouveau, with special emphasis upon Tiffany. His speech will tie in with the Tiffany windows and chandeliers in the Hubbard House. Mr. Hays will also be principal speaker for Native American Emphasis Week At M.S.C.



A TIP OF THE HAT

Thanks go to Mr. Phil Stuve, who donated a period sink to the Hubbard House Restoration project. The sink has been authenticated by the State Historical Society. Thanks also to Mary Hammer, who is weaving rugs for the renovated kitchen and pantry on the museum loom.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

For the past year Katolight Corporation has been printing our newsletter for us. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Mr. C.W. Pennington and Mr. Loren Swenson, for without their help this newsletter might not have become a reality.

WANTED: Loans of old handbills, musical instruments, phonograph records from local groups, old sheet music, instruments - anything that might pertain to the March 2 Open House at the Museum. They are to be on loan from the first of February to mid-March. The Museum staff promises to take good care of them.

NEEDED FOR THE RENOVATED KITCHEN AT THE HUBBARD HOUSE:

- A working kitchen stove, circa 1888-1871.
- A small cupboard of some sort - perhaps a pie cupboard.
- An old-fashioned roller towel.
- A small wooden ice box or ice chest.
- A small wood box.

SPARE TIME?????

The Historical Society is looking for one or two people to serve as Editors of our newsletter. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please call the museum for details. The number is 345-4154. Betty Cords will be happy to discuss the job with you.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

Available at the museum are items such as notepaper, books on Mankato's history, and postal cards. Stop in and browse when you can.

NOTICE TO ANNUAL MEMBERS

If you have not renewed your membership this will be the last issue of the Newsletter that you will receive. An application form is printed below. Renew now!

M E M B E R S H I P A P P L I C A T I O N

Blue Earth County Historical Society
606 South Broad Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

I wish to join under the following membership:

- ☐ Annual.....\$5.00
- ☐ Life.....25.00
- ☐ Patron.....100.00 or more

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

- ☐ Check enclosed
- ☐ I would like to volunteer my services.

Your membership card will be mailed to you.

REPORTS

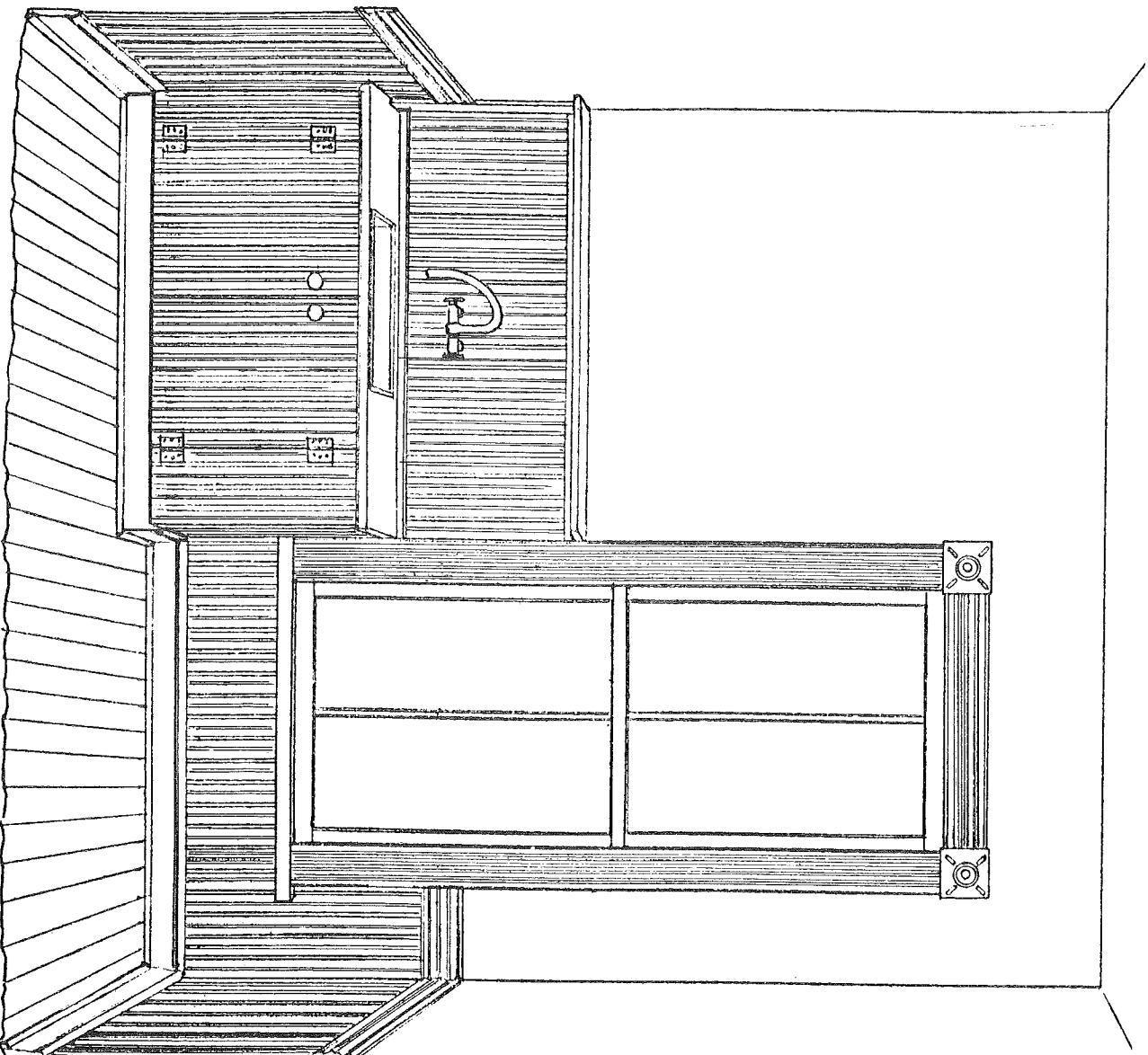
RESTORATION, INSIDE AND OUT

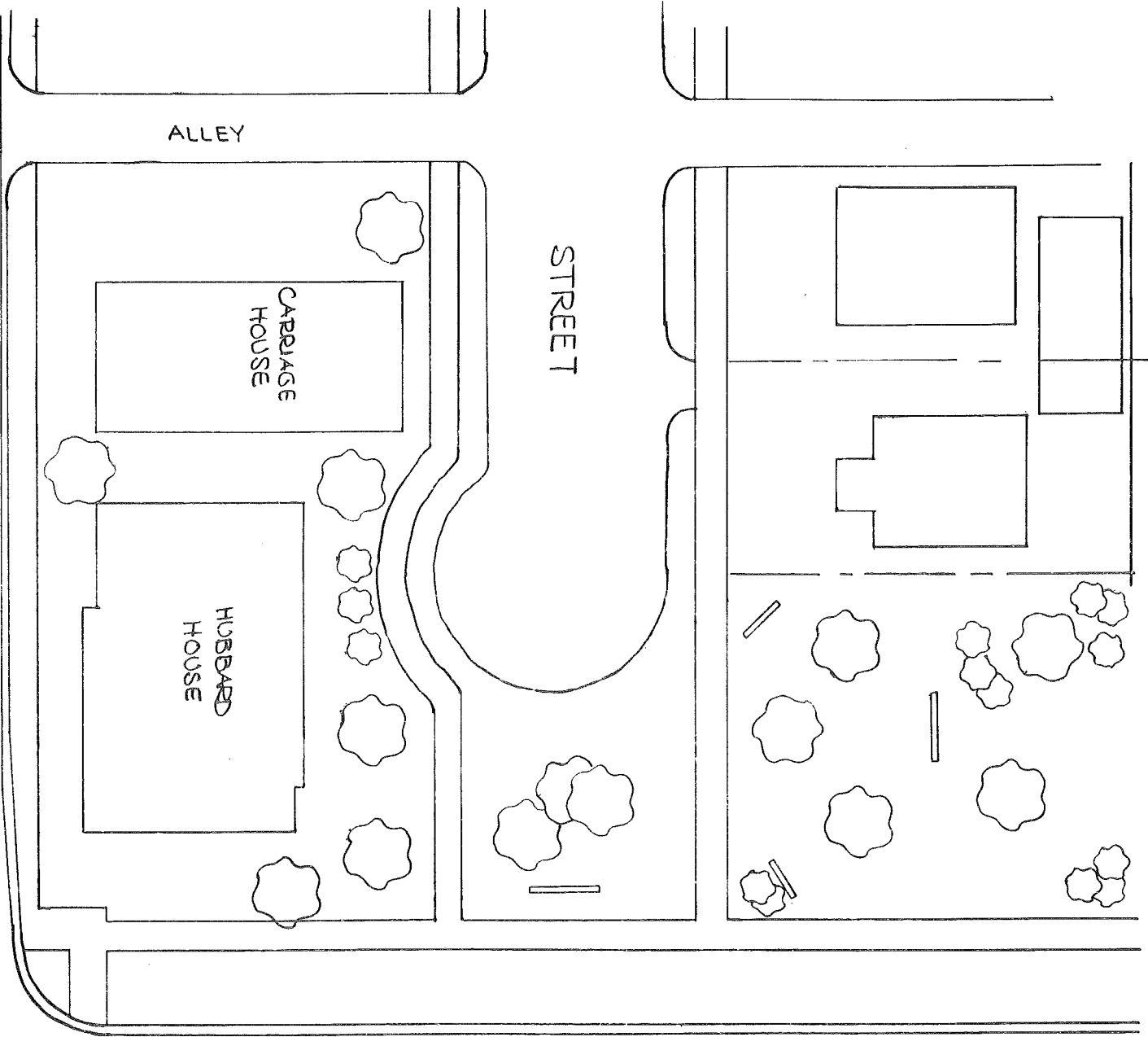
First the outside: By the end of the summer of 1975, the area around the Hubbard House should look as it does in Mankato Landscape Plan, Phase Two, with one exception - the Carriage House will probably be moved farther back and more to the right than it appears on the plan. Eventually when the two remaining houses and the remnants of old Warren Street are removed, the area will resemble that shown in Phase Three. (Phase Two and Phase Three plans are shown on the following two pages. Plans taken from the TOPICS Report, Warren Street Project, City of Mankato.)

Then the inside: Marcia Richards and Carol Williams, who together form the committee for the Hubbard House restoration project, report the following.

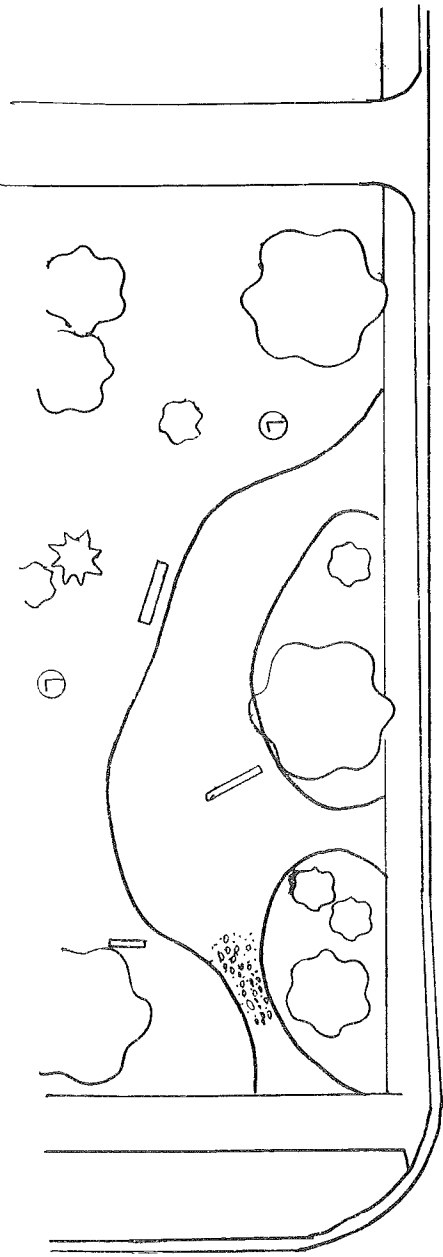
Restoration of the kitchen and pantry of the Hubbard House has been approved by the board and is in progress. The kitchen will represent two early periods: 1871 when constructed and 1888 or 89 when remodeled. Restoration will include replastering, woodgraining of all woodwork, sanding and finishing the floor, installing wainscott and a sink, making the chimney for the cookstove functional, installing period-type lighting and adding furnishings and accessories.

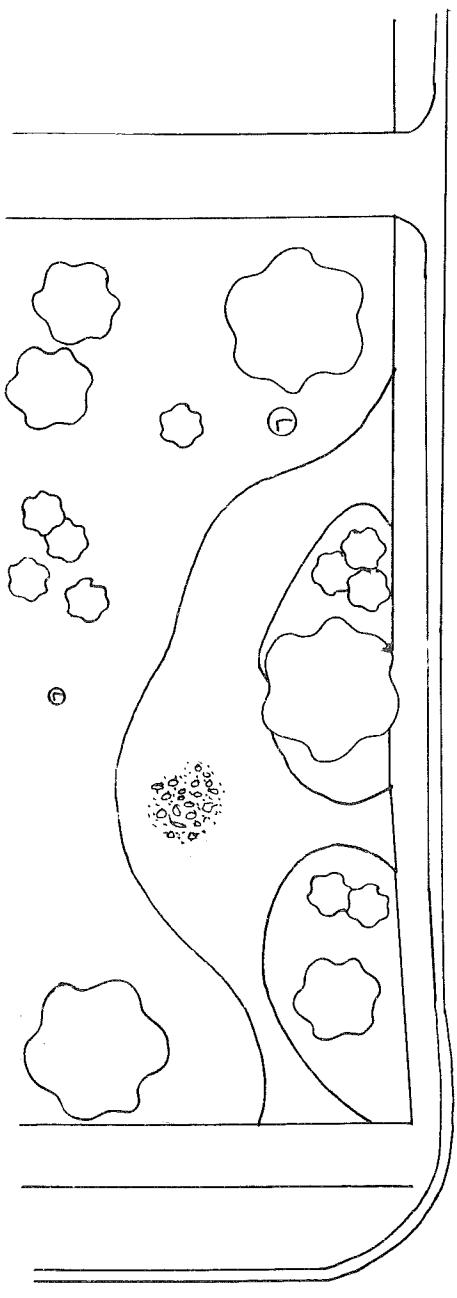
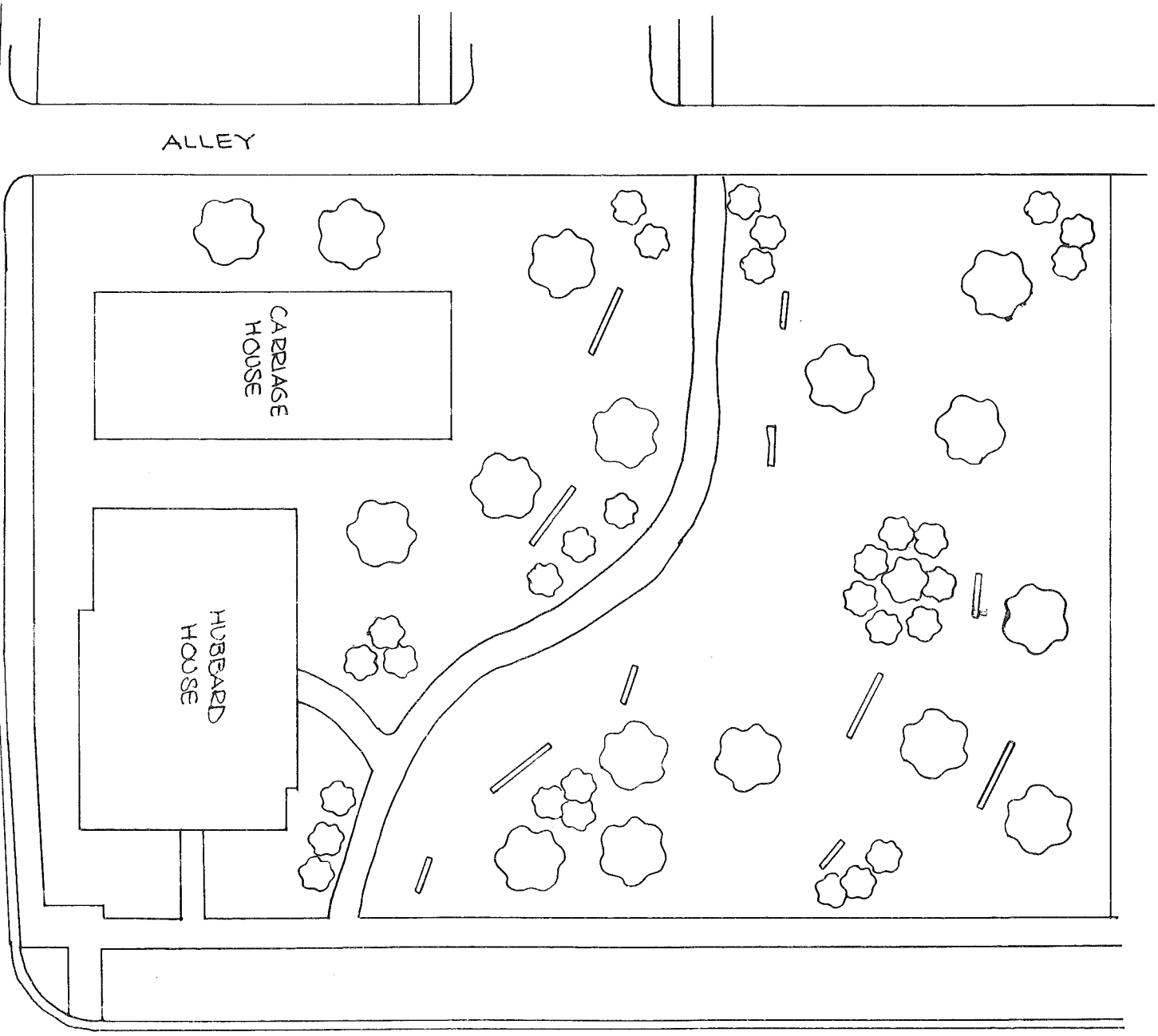
A small detail of the kitchen plan appears below.





WARREN ST.





BROAD ST.

WARREN ST.

ALLEY

CARRIAGE
HOUSE

HUBBARD
HOUSE