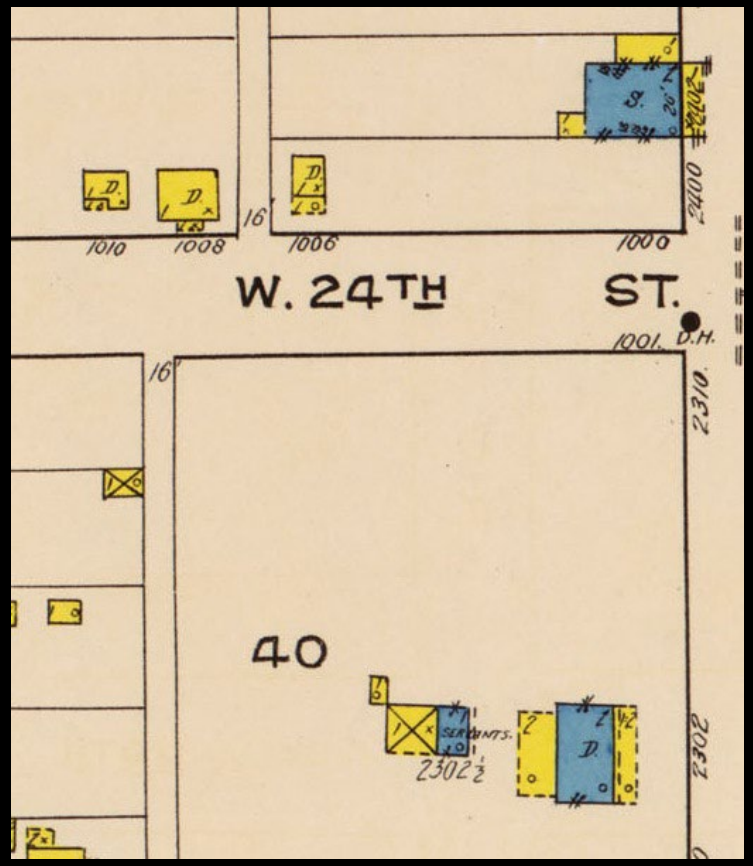
Neill-Cochran House Museum Slave Quarters Project

Presentation to the Historic Landmarks Commission, April 5, 2023

- Our site dates to 1855-1856
- Designed by Abner Cook

- Only intact slave dwelling left in Austin
- 2 stories
- Approximately 850 square feet
- One room each floor



Detail of 1921 Sanborn Map, showing the main house (bottom right) with the Slave Quarters and historic garage to the left.

1950s photograph of the back of the property, showing the garage to the left and Slave Quarters to the right.

OLD SMOKE HOUSE—Family life of a century ago is illustrated by this thick walled smokehouse where once hung cured hams and beef carcasses. Its walls, like those of the main house, are 18 inches thick.—(Neal Douglass Photos by Bill Monroe.)

Undated photograph from the *Statesman* at a time when the stair was on the East façade.

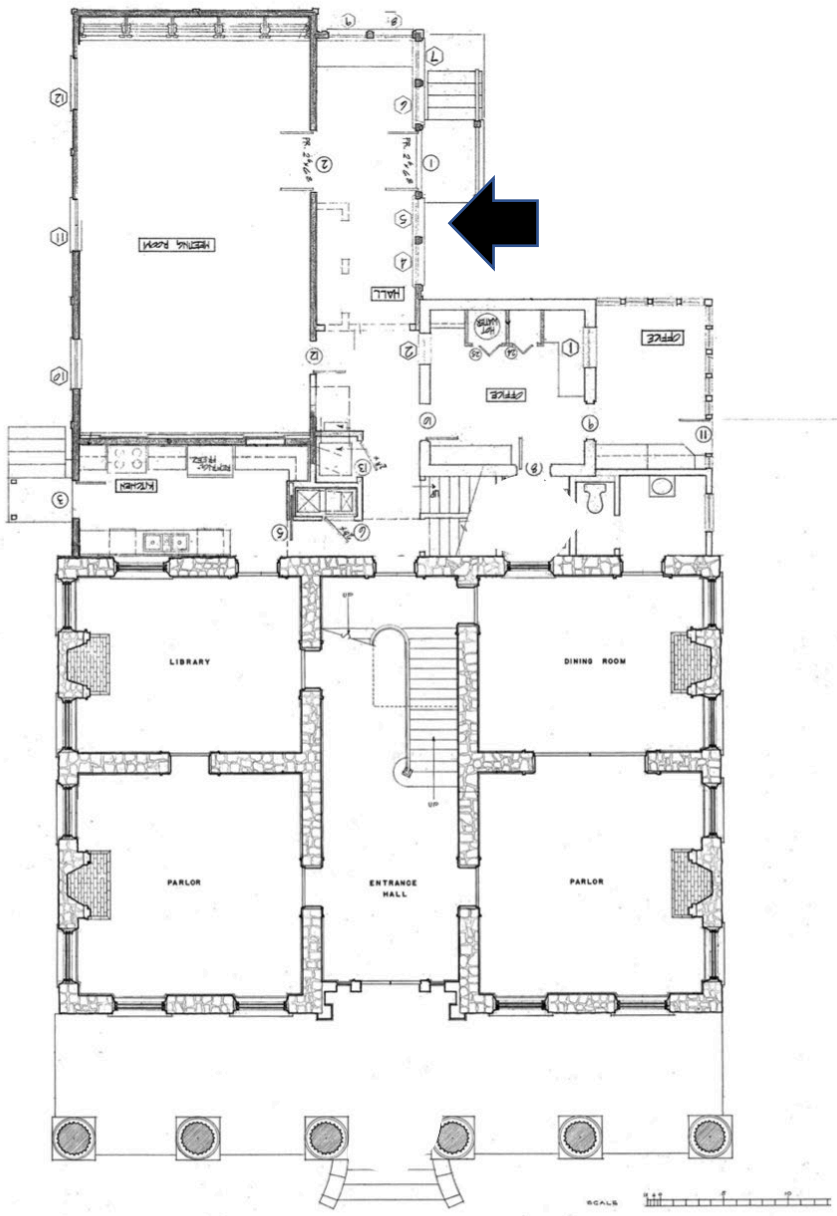
- This is primarily a deferred maintenance project. There will be no changes to the existing structure, existing materials will be reused wherever possible, and we will use historically appropriate materials wherever replacement is necessary.
- Two primary goals will be to rebuild and cap the chimney (bottom left) and to repair and seal the metal roof.

- The bars will be removed from this window and the window itself will be repaired and repainted.

First Floor Door

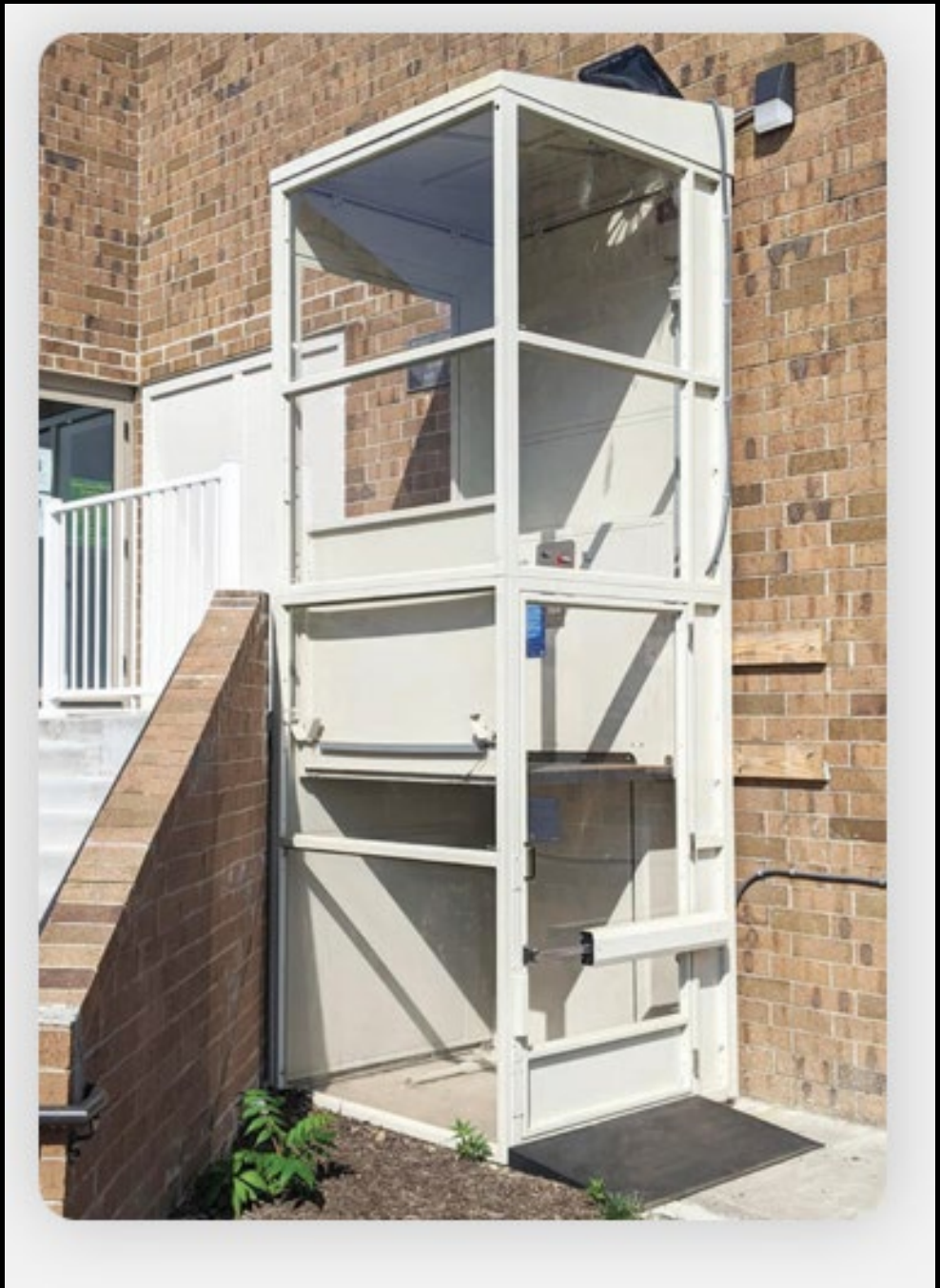
- The first floor door has been cut down and altered over time, and has warped due to the elements.
- The door will be replaced, including the hardware, which has failed.

Wood fascia beneath the roof needs to be stripped and repainted to protect the original fabric.



The NCHM needs to replace the aging exterior lift, which has ceased to function reliably. The location will not change, and will connect to the back staircase, which dates to the 1970s. It will not connect in any way to the original 1856 structure or to the 1900 addition.

The new lift will be enclosed, to better protect the mechanism, improving its longevity.



Mock up of the new lift in place.

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