

A LOOK BACK | Emily Post and Bruce Price

Famous author of 'Etiquette' was daughter of man whose buildings still adorn the W-B landscape



With the publication of her book, 'Etiquette,' Emily Post became synonymous with courtesy and good manners.



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO / DON CAREY

Bedford Hall, now the ROTC building of Wilkes University, was designed by architect Bruce Price for lawyer George Bedford in 1876. It is on West South Street at South River.

Graceful living by design

By TOM MOONEY
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From the publication of her book "Etiquette" in 1922 to her death in 1960, Emily Post was inextricably linked with the idea of good manners and the social graces.

Her father, Bruce Price, was a titan in another field — architecture — and some of his best work helped make Wilkes-Barre an attractive city from the late 1800s into the 20th century.

Price, a native of Maryland (born in Cumberland in 1845), learned architecture on the job in Baltimore and traveled in Europe, according to Michael Lewis in "Bruce Price in Wilkes-Barre, 1873-1876." Price began

ON THE WEB

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his career in Baltimore and married Josephine Lee of Wilkes-Barre, daughter of Washington Lee, a coal shipper from Wyoming Valley who lived in Baltimore.

In 1873, around the time of Emily's birth, Price moved to his wife's hometown of Wilkes-Barre, setting up shop on South Franklin Street. Over the next three years he honed his craft on numerous buildings, winning commissions through "the extended network of relatives and business associ-

ates of the Lee family," says Lewis.

In the decades after the Civil War, coal was fueling Wilkes-Barre's growth. In 1870 the borough had 10,000 residents and was expanding rapidly, and in 1871 it became a city. With the merchant class needing homes, churches and public buildings befitting their status, Price and other rising architects supplied the designs.

One of those designs was that of a home for lawyer George Bedford in 1876. An attractive, compact brick building, it served as a family residence for generations until it was taken over by Wilkes University. It is now the ROTC building.

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He also designed the Priscilla Lee Bennett and Andrew McClintock homes, as well as business buildings including the Welles block on North Main Street and Tuck's Drug Store on Public Square. He designed the First Methodist Church on North Franklin Street, though his original elaborate plan eventually gave way to a much simpler look.

With his 1876 move to New York City, Bruce Price joined the front line of American architects.

Securing many Manhattan commissions, he became known for big office structures, including the American Surety Building, the St. James Building and the International Bank.

He continued to design private homes for the very wealthy plus an occasional oddity, such as a railroad car and the Woodward monument in Wilkes-Barre's Hollenback Cemetery.

Reaching beyond America, for the Canadian Pacific Railway he produced designs for

But it was her 1922 book on manners, titled simply "Etiquette," that turned her into an international celebrity. The book became a best-seller and spawned a career of additional books, magazine articles, a newspaper column, a radio show and countless public appearances. In 1946 she founded the Emily Post Institute to carry on her life's work.

several stations and hotels.

Daughter Emily, meanwhile, received an education at home and at Miss Graham's Finishing School. "She had first-hand knowledge of the social world at Bar Harbor, Maine, where she spent her summers, and she traveled extensively in Europe," wrote The New York Times in her 1960 obituary.

She married banker Edwin M. Post in 1892 and, after financial problems set in, began writing fiction.

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show and countless public appearances.

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Bruce Price, meanwhile, died in 1903. He and wife Josephine are buried in Hollenback Cemetery.

Emily, who died in 1960, was buried at Tuxedo Park, N.Y., an upscale suburb largely designed by her father.

Despite their different career paths, father and daughter might have had something in common after all. Writes Lewis of the milieu in which Price moved, "...out of this rarified atmosphere of high society came the impeccable taste on which Price's daughter, Emily Post, based her code of etiquette."

Backyard View: Here the 1912 building of Wilkes University, was designed by architect Bruce Price for his son-in-law, Dr. J. H. Lewis. It is on West Fourth Street, at down to Street.

Graceful living by design

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Men
BARRE HALL

The following individuals lived in Barre Hall but we do not have their addresses. If you have any information on their whereabouts, please contact the Alumni Office either by telephone, 1-800-WILKESU, or in writing to Anthony Shipula, Wilkes University, Alumni Office, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

M I S S I N G

G. Stults
D. Spence
J. Teideck
M. Hirschman
J. Esterman
C. Kwilimbe
B. Quinn
P. McDevitt
A. Davis
B. Stoverski
D. Birth
W. Hinkk
J. Gerber
M. Keenholtz
W. Mistichelli
T. Desiderio
E. Waschs

W. Hartman
C. Wagner
J. Teideck
G. Senick
J. Roberts
D. Budd
R. Hoeker
R. Freidburg
B. Yoeman
V. Capo
J. Noyes
C. Young
R. Blischowski
W. Smith
F. Fairfax
M. Anderson

Women
BARRE HALL

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M I S S I N G

Wendy Yohn
Lauran Kay
Tara MacDonald
Mellie Eagler
Marilyn Gehlsen
Mardi Grohowski
Patricia Forconi
Sybil Blitzstein
Paula Cardias
Kathy Connolly
Kathy Fischer
Carolyn Lovejoy
Vickie Sogn
Nancy Bauman
Donna Granahan
Kathy Lesh
G. Pszczolkowski
C. Bussiere
J. Kniy
J. Tomkiewicz
Kathy Ajers
Alison Comier
D. Brodbeck
Joan Brozostowski
Claire Holden
D. Wosyluk
G. Shewchuk
B. Yachuk
P. Nash

M. Kunzler
M. Rogers
J. Haines
M. Strauss
L. Kwiecinski
D. Giblaro
F. Gerrity
D. Talley
S. Seekford
J. Millman
D. Tagleatera
R. Noghe
R. Oroian
E. Stool
B. Tompkins
P. Vetter
B. Weaver
D. Duncan
Linda Hosara
Deborah Maxwell
Nadine Miller
Kim Perry
Jeannette Robak
Debbie Dzielak
Joan Row
Mary Lou Lens
Marsha Malatras
Anne Salata
Pat Sematchko







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C. Salonic © 1989



BARRE HALL

The building presently known as Barre Hall was built about 1873 as the residence of Richard Sharpe, (1842-1895). Several references to the construction of the house appear in Sharpe's diaries from this period.¹ Sharpe was a founder of the Sharpe Weiss and Company, primarily a mining firm. The company operated a colliery at Eckley, Luz. Co., where Sharpe and his family resided for several years before moving into the West River Street house in Wilkes-Barre. The community of Eckly is now owned by the Commonwealth of Penna. and is to be developed by the Pa. Historical and Museum Commission as a museum and interpretative center of the anthracite industry. The house that Sharpe occupied is one of the buildings acquired by the state.

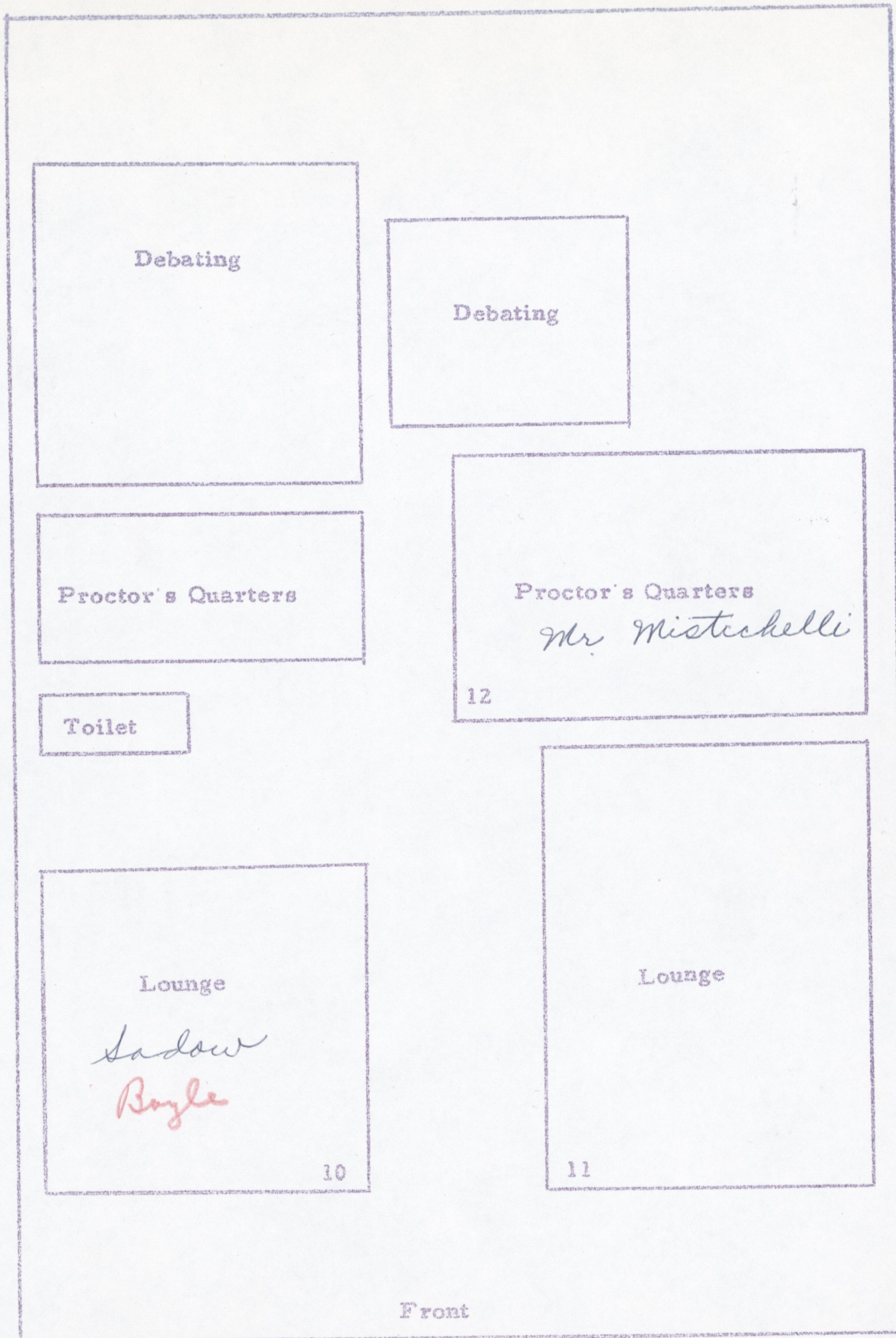
Barre Hall is representative of mid to late 19th century High Victorian Gothic, domestic architecture. The windows, chimneys, and gables show a strong influence of the English Tudor style. The original interior trim is in the Eastlavian manner. Several major alterations and additions were made to the building in this century when it was converted for apartments.

Wilkes College purchased the property in 1972². Today Barre Hall is a residence hall. The building is the second campus building structure to be named in honor of Col. Isaac Barre, a British statesman who supported the cause of the American colonists in their struggle with Great Britain. The first Barre Hall stood at 154 South River Street and was demolished in 1971 for the construction of a classroom building.

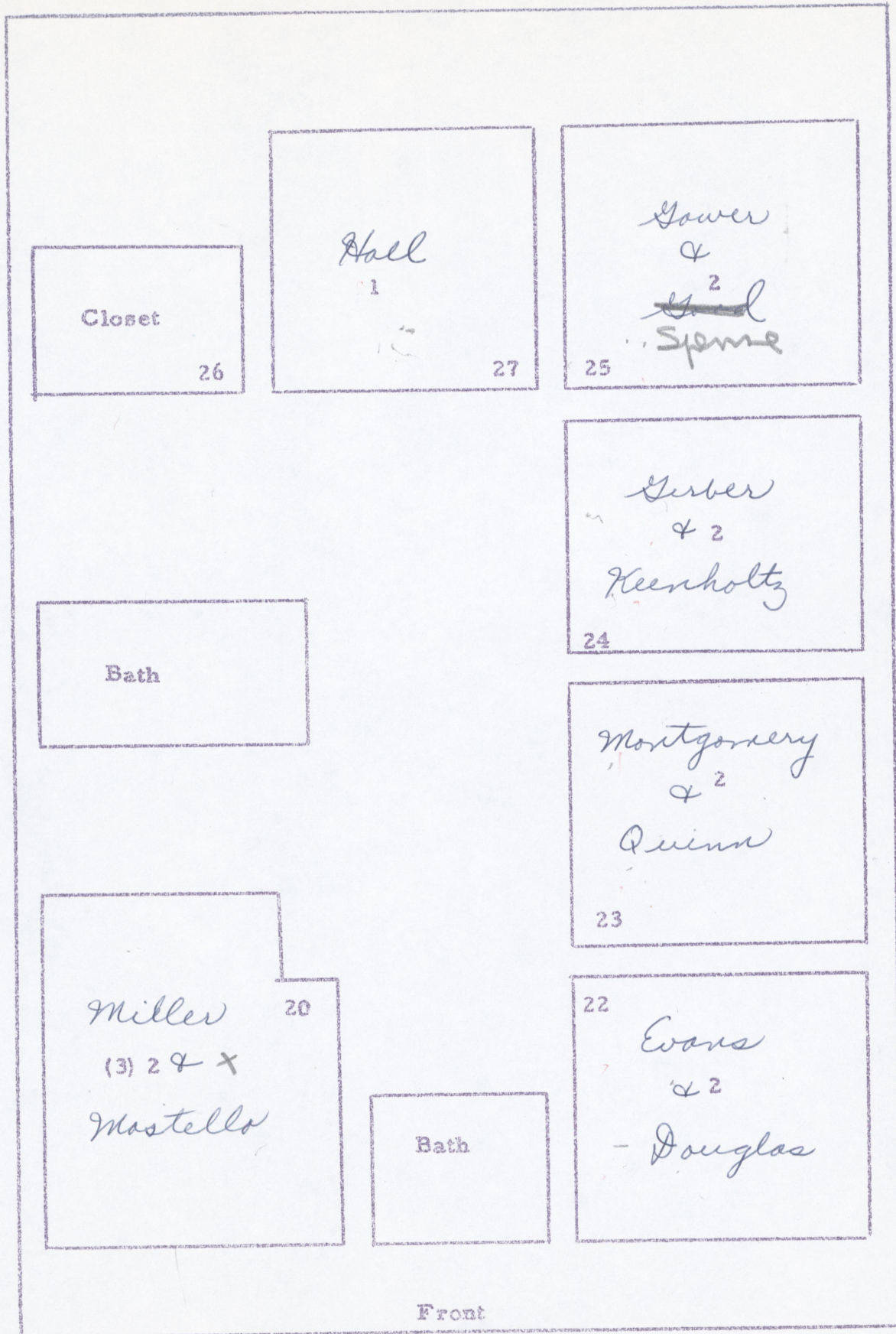
Barre Hall (cont.)

The city maps of the turn of the 20th century indicate that the Sharpe property extended eastward to SouthRiver Street and included the lot to the north, now 72 West River Street, and about 200 feet of land fronting on the Susquehanna River.

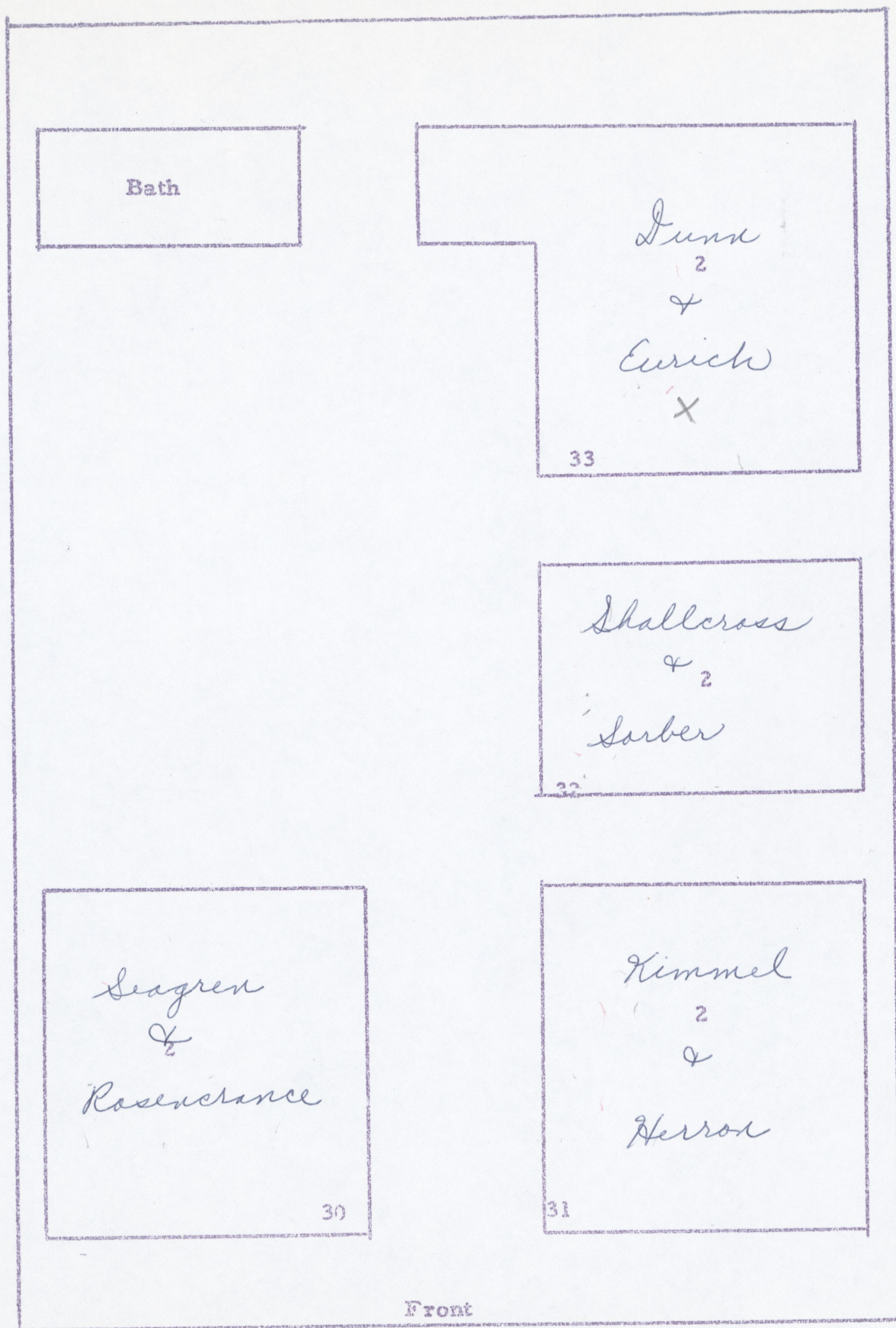
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1. Sharpe, Weiss and Company Papers, Wyoming Historical and Geological Society. In his 1873 diary: he agreed to purchase the land on Saturday, the 16th of August.
 2. Luzerne County Deed Records, Book 1711, P. 198



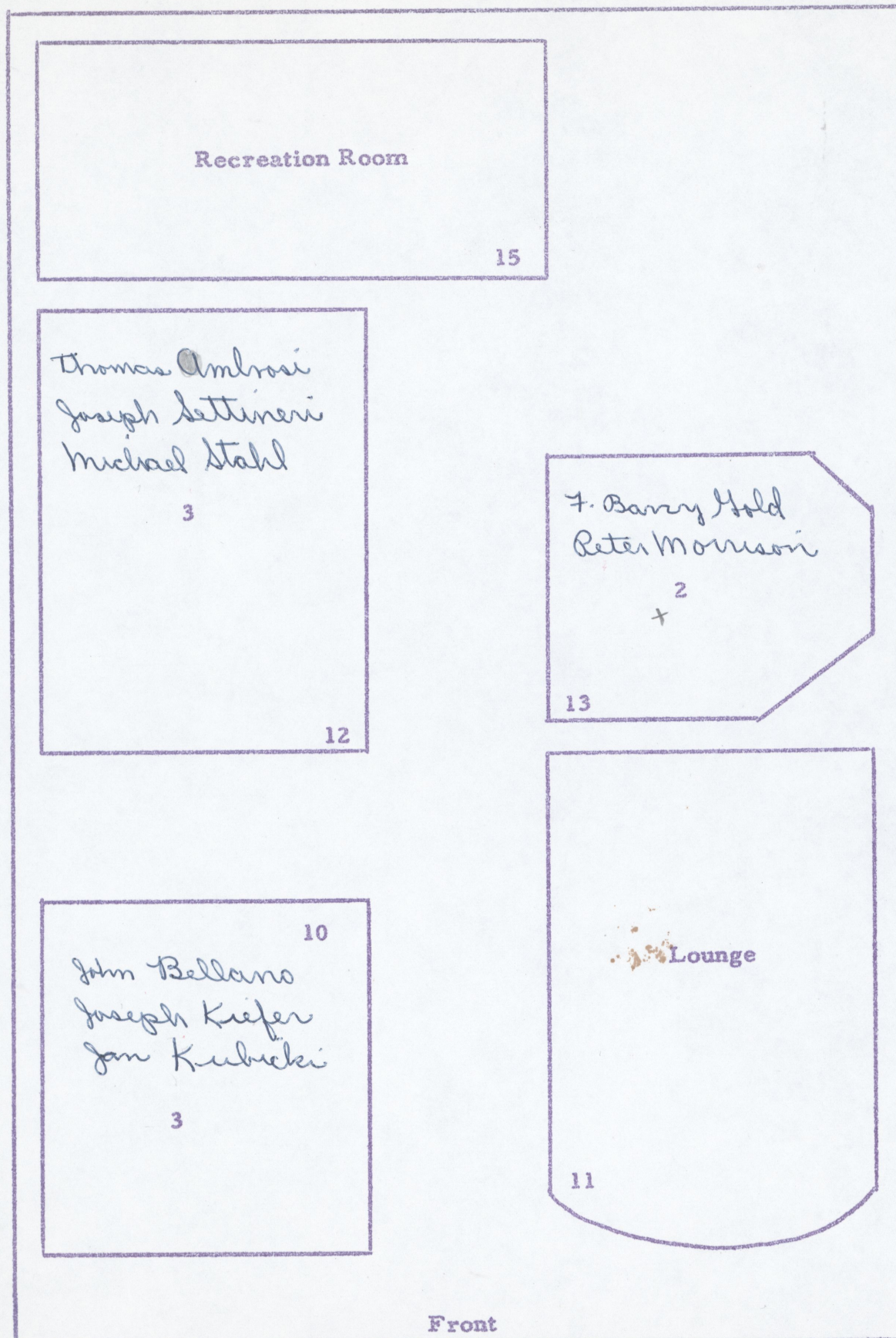
Barre Hall
First Floor



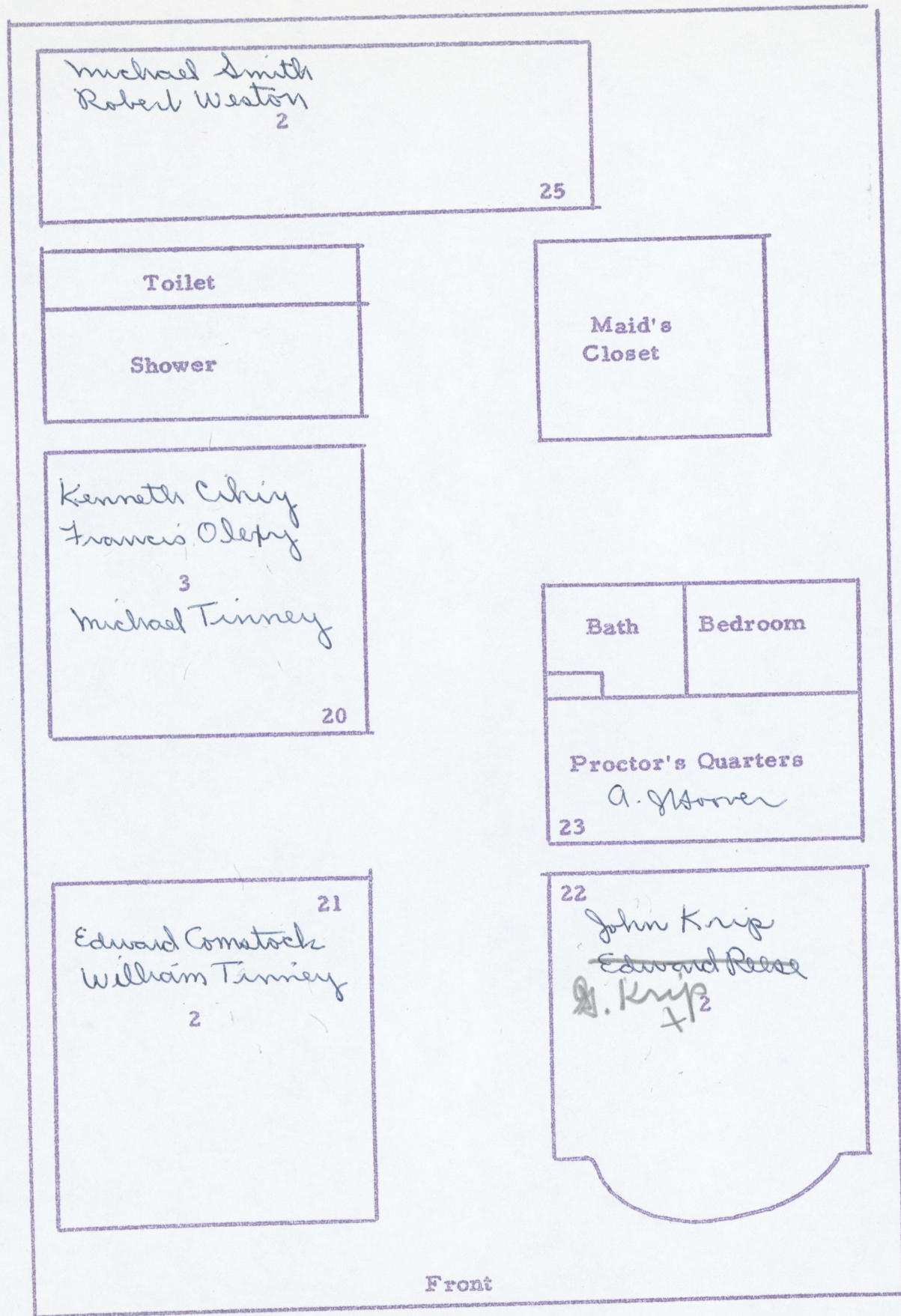
Barre Hall
Second Floor



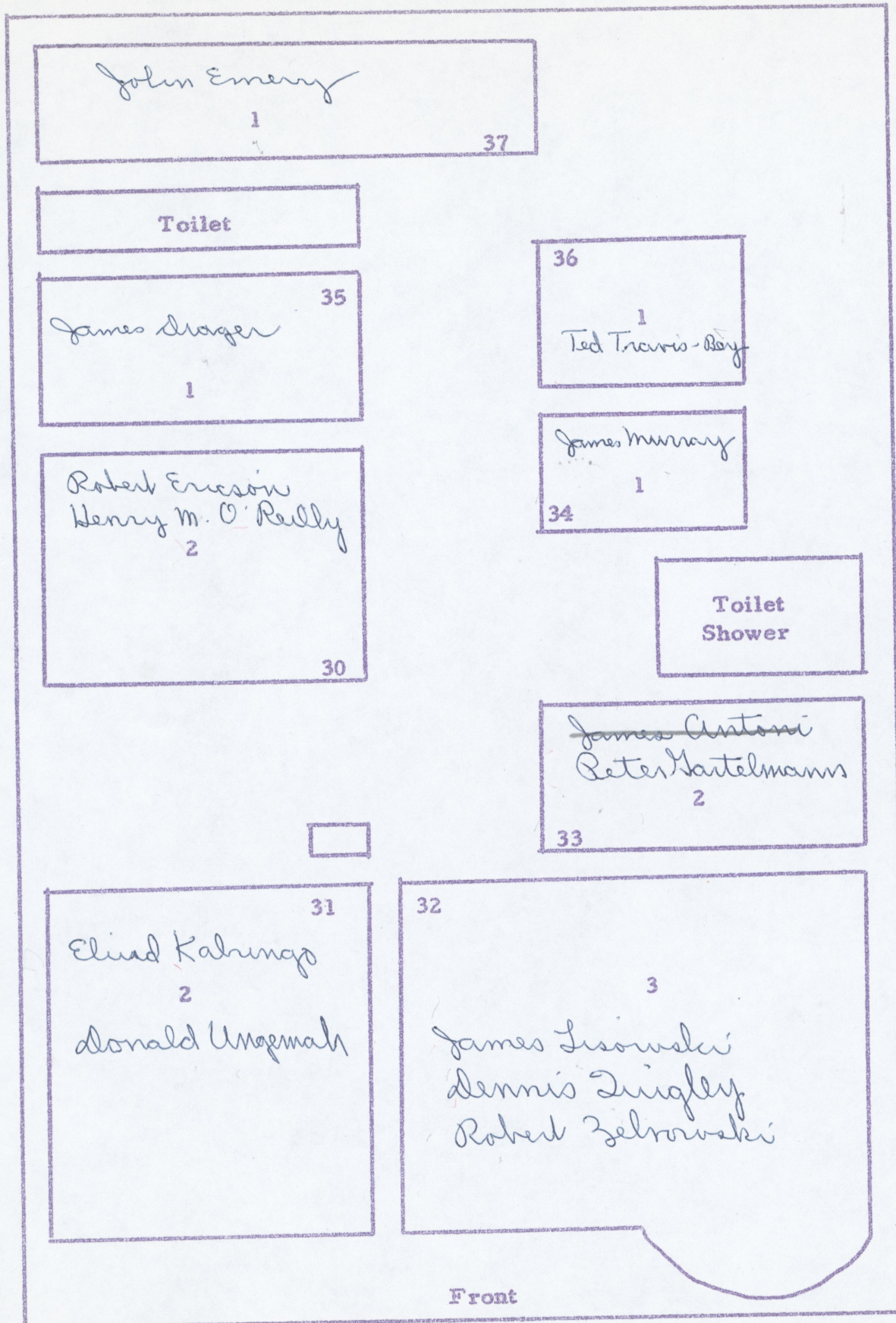
Barre Hall
Third Floor



Butler Hall
First Floor



Butler Hall
Second Floor



Butler Hall
Third Floor

