

A Cement - Veneer Farm House.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The house, of which I am sending photograph and plans, is different from most farm houses in at least two particulars. The walls and the water system. The walls are a cement veneer. The foundation, of course, is concrete, and on top of this was built a balloon frame just the same as for a brick veneer.

Then when starting to put on the cement veneer, I made two forms to go entirely around the house, something after the style of silo rings, only they were made of 6-inch dressed lumber, each one foot high. In making the forms we made each section the full length of the different sides of the house, breaking the joints with the lumber. We put cleats every three feet, allowing the top of the cleat to project past the upper edge of the form two or three inches. We used somewhere about 60 or 70 six-inch bolts, and put the cement on before we plastered the inside.

In starting the first form we put a row of bolts every 3 or 4 feet, both top and bottom of the form, boring the holes for bolts, not in the cleats, but in the one-inch lumber. We put the bolts in from the outside, and just put the nuts on about half way, thus leaving nearly four inches for concrete. After the first form was put on, we only need to bore one row of holes, at the top of the forms, in the same holes in the forms. The projection of the cleat held the bottom in place. My hired man and myself could move and fill the two forms, two feet high, in one day. We were only nine days putting the concrete veneer the full 18 feet high, the wall being somewhere about 120 feet around the house. We had an extra man one full day and part of another, when we were putting up the scaffold poles. It took an extra day filling in around the top joist for the two of us, so that for the veneer, altogether it took the time of one man, and that only a common workman, not skilled, nearly 22 days. Putting that at \$1.50 per day, and the cement (of which we used for the veneer about 37 barrels, mixing it one to five) made a total cost for the veneering of \$87.80. After finishing the veneer I had it plastered and blocked with the beading iron, which leaves a wall superior in appearance to ordinary brick, and positively air tight, therefore, much warmer.

I forgot to say we used about 200 lbs. 4 and 5-inch nails driven into the studding, with the heads sticking out 2 or 3 inches into the cement, to hold it to the wall. If the frame is built quite rigid it will never crack, and is both warm and dry.

So much for the wall, now for the water system. I have a windmill, seen in the illustration, at the well close to the house. I have had the windmill raised since the picture was taken, as it was too low for the house. I have a 40-gallon round tank, just the same style as the hot water tank, only larger, in the corner of the bath-room, and all the water for the barn is pumped into

of water for the closet or the sink. There is a pipe in the top of the hard-water tank running up into the attic—for air. This is necessary. We also have a square tank in the attic for soft water, and roof pipes on two sides, so we rarely have to pump water up to the attic.

We like the lay-out very well ourselves, as it is handy, compact, and quite suitable for a farm house.

Grey Co., Ont.

W. H. HUNTER.

Our Scottish Letter.

Since the year began we have had wretched weather and farming operations are far behind. New Year's Day, 1916, will be remembered as one of the stormiest experienced on the west coast for many years. The fifth of Clyde was like a cauldron, and the river steamers had a lively time negotiating piers. The agricultural situation is much more serious than anyone would suppose from the bearing of people generally. The recruiting campaign has made a big draft on the ranks of agricultural labor, and the position of things at the moment is peculiar. The main classes employed in agricultural labor have been "starred"—that is, they have been declared exempt from military service—unless, of course, any member of a starred employment desires of his own will to join the ranks. But while the ploughman, the shepherd, the cattleman, the byreman and son have been "starred," the man who directs the whole operations of the farm, and on whom the successful working of the farm machine depends, has not been starred. He must be attested—which is equal to saying that he must enlist, and get his 2 shillings 9 pence for one day's service, and that he must submit a special case for exemption to his local tribunal. The extraordinary result is thus arrived at, that a farm might be left with a fair equipment of servants, and no master. Anyone with practical experience of farm work knows that the head which plans and organizes may be of more importance for the successful working of the farm than nearly all of the employees put

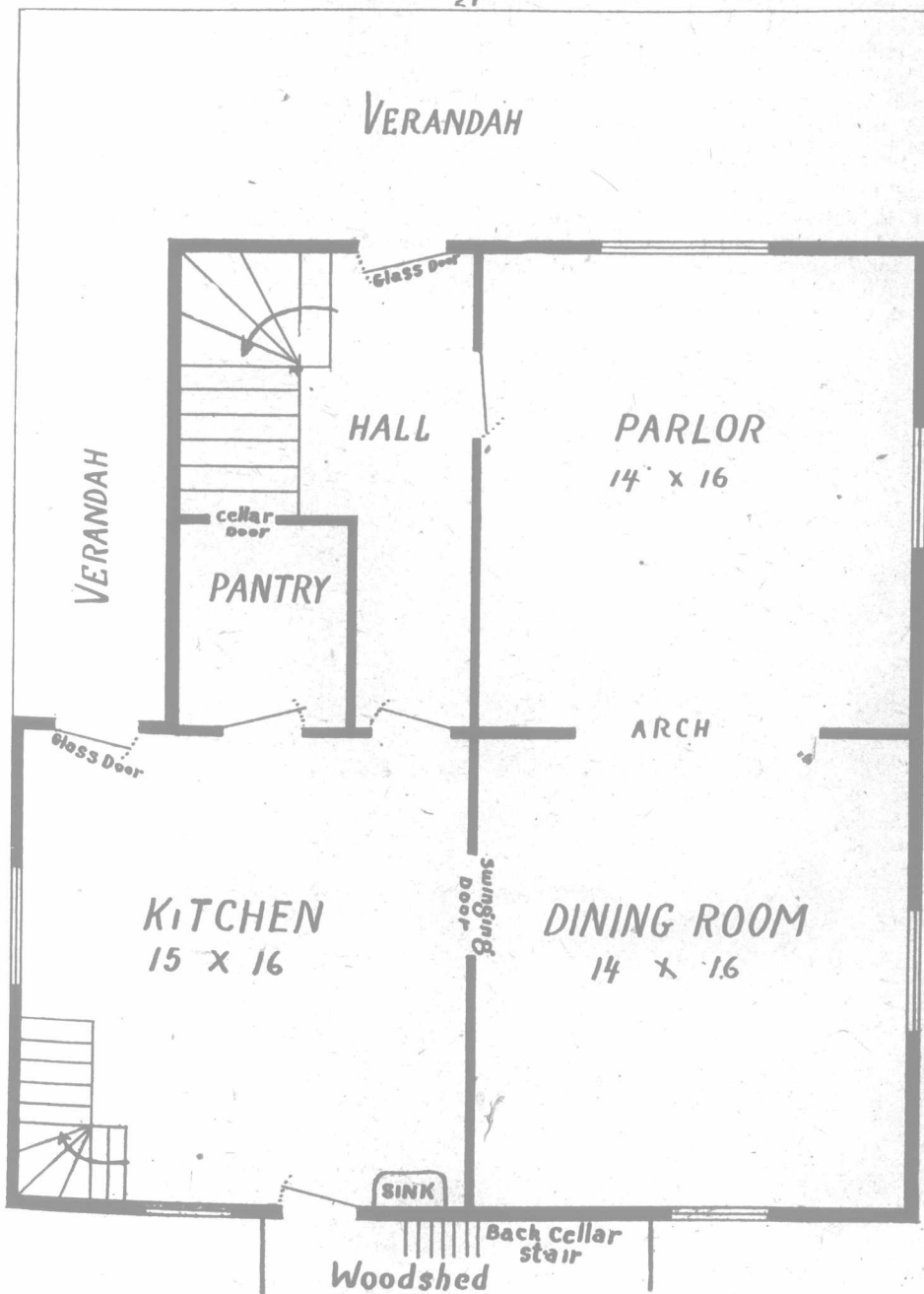


A Cement-Veneer Farm House—Home of W. H. Hunter, Grey Co., Ont.

it and runs by gravity to a big supply tank at the corner of the barn. The tank was ordered specially for my use, and the holes cut in it to suit me. The water is pumped in from the bottom, and the outlet is about six inches from the top, so that when the pump stops we have the tank left almost full. The pipe that comes in from the pump comes up past the sink, and has a tap into the sink, and also has a pipe running to the flushing box of the closet. We use the hard water for this, as it takes quite a lot, and we are practically never out

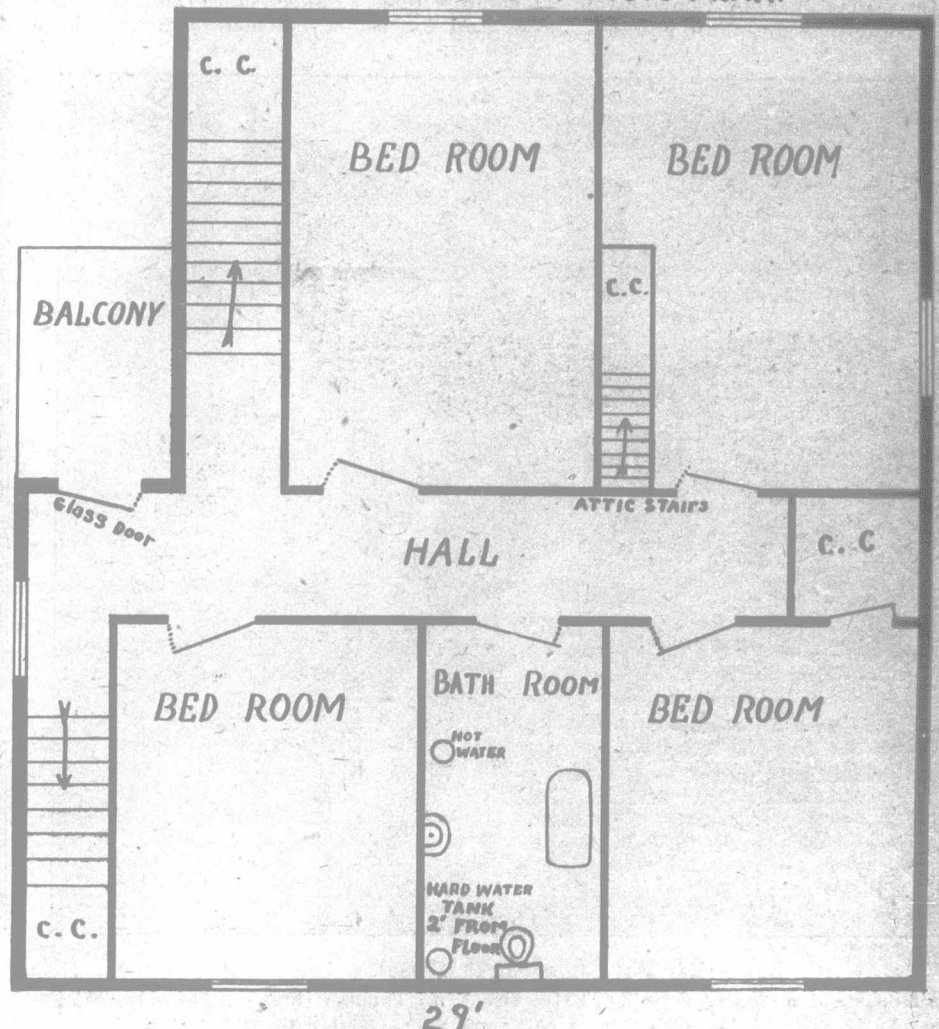
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GROUND FLOOR PLAN



Main Floor Plan of W. H. Hunter's House.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



Second Floor Plan of W. H. Hunter's House.

an itemized account of the labor for building, as sent

adding, joist, rafters, and door frames, windowing, etc.....\$525.50
@ \$18 delivered.... 156.00
is for plastering.... 60.00
ement (cement was the brick) @ \$1.60. 96.00
gravel, @ 15 cents. 18.50
vel, @ \$1 per load. 90.00
19.50
22.00
er hardware..... 2.10
bor in putting same 16.50
30.00
60.00
60.00
22.50
15.00
plete 185.00
280.40
57.00
5 days, 2 men and 25.00
\$7..... 84.00
88.00
n men, team, etc., man @ \$1.50 per 94.00
iece, complete..... 47.50
k, connections to septic tank, work charged at 20 cents 30.75
ion and overflow 9.00
\$2,019.25

s from Winter

Advocate":
al letters in recent issues
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down. The remainder of
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In the spring, when the
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to spread it more even-
the whole of the field
eeded it to clover and
nurse crop. The barley
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s somewhat stronger and
part, while the seedling
on hoed crop land or
The clover was hard to
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would have cut a splen-
the weather been fit for
minded to cut it. The
ond and the hoed crop
being the poorest.
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H. A. C.

for 28 Years.

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preciated by every mem-

D. J. GIBSON.