

What does your house say about you?

Core Requirements

SOCIAL STUDIES

6040-0101

6040-0202

MATH

5040-0102

5040-0201

5040-0404

LANGUAGE ARTS

4040-0601

Objectives

Students will:

- ✗ *Examine how the rooms in a house reflect the lifestyle of the people who live in it.*
- ✗ *Compare two turn-of-the-century houses.*
- ✗ *Determine the actual size of a house by using a scale on a floor plan.*
- ✗ *Infer information about the lifestyles of the families who lived in the houses.*

Background

By examining the number, use, and size of rooms in a house, we can learn a lot about the lifestyle of the people who lived there. In this lesson, students will compare the Kearns Mansion to a Park City miner's cottage.

About eleven people lived in the Kearns Mansion in the early twentieth century: five members of the Kearns family and six household staff (cook, housekeeper, laundry maid, butler, nursemaid, gardener/stable hand/chauffeur). The mansion had 32 rooms when it was built. The rooms tended to be large and have very specific uses—e.g. library, ballroom, Moorish parlor.

The Park City miner's cottage was built around 1890 for Benedictus and Maria Carling. The Carlings were from Sweden and had at least seven children. Benedictus worked in an ore processing mill in Park City. The family lived in the house about ten years. The house had five rooms and no indoor plumbing. Because there are no photos or accounts of life in the Carling House, historians are not sure how each room was used. It is likely, however, that each room served several purposes.

Materials

-  *The Call Board photo*
—make overhead—
-  *Kearns Mansion Dimensions chart*
—make overhead—
-  *Carling House photo and floor plan*
—1 copy per student—
- ✓ *Rulers*
—1 for each student—
- ✓ *Measuring tape or string marked off in one-foot increments*

Student Instruction



Explain that houses can tell us many things about the way people live. Ask students to think about the rooms in their own house. What can we learn about the activities of their family by looking at these rooms? For example, the kitchen would lead us to believe that the family cooks meals in the house. Have students think of other examples.

Ask students: *Could we guess how many people live in your house by looking at the rooms? What clues would tell us this?*

Have students think of other things they might learn by looking at a family's house. (e.g. family income, cultural background, style preferences)



Pre-Tour

2

Show Clue 8, *The Call Board* photo. Remind students that they are detectives looking for clues. Tell students: *Look for clues about the lifestyle of the Kearns family by examining the call board. How many rooms are listed on the call board? Look at the names of a few rooms and guess what activity took place there.*

3

Show Clue 9, *Kearns Mansion Dimensions* chart. Explain that this chart shows the length and width of the Kearns Mansion and some of its rooms. With a measuring tape or string, measure the length and width of your classroom. As a class, discuss how your classroom compares in size with rooms in the Kearns Mansion.

4

Share background information on the size of the Kearns household. As a class, discuss what the clues students have found about the number, use, and size of the rooms in the Kearns Mansion tell us about the lifestyle of the Kearns family. (e.g. What activities took place in the house? Was it crowded or spacious?) Write student ideas on the board.

5

Pass out Clue 10, *Carling House* photo and floor plan to each student and share background on the Carling family. **Explain:** *This sheet shows a map of the rooms in the Carling House. This kind of map is called a floor plan. By measuring a floor plan and using the scale, we can tell how big the rooms in a house are and how big the whole house is.*

6

Ask students to count the rooms in the Carling House. Divide student into pairs. Students use the scale to determine the length and width of the house. In this floor plan 1 inch equals 4 feet. Then each pair of students chooses a room in the house and determines its length and width. As a class, discuss how the rooms in the Carling House compare to your classroom.

7

Ask students: *Do any rooms in your house have more than one use?* (e.g. In addition to cooking and eating, the kitchen might be used as a gathering place and for doing homework.) Ask students to think of examples. As a class, guess how the Carlings might have used their five rooms for all the activities of the family. Remind students each room probably had more than one use.

8

As a class, discuss what the number, use, and size of rooms in the Carling House reveal about the Carling family's lifestyle. Write student ideas on the board.

Student Activity/Product



Ask students to plan the use of the rooms in the Carling House. Students should label each room on their floor plan sheet and draw in the furnishings to go with the activities in the room. Remind students that they must find space for nine people.



Have students imagine they are a child in the Kearns family or the Carling family. Ask them to write a story about what it was like to live in their house. What did children living there do? What did they like or dislike? What did they wish they had?

Extensions

- Encourage students to design a floor plan for their dream house. (Graph paper is very helpful.) What rooms does the house have? How is each room used? How does the house meet the needs of the people who live there? How much would it cost?
- Have students mark out the a room (or rooms) of the Carling House on the floor of the classroom or outside. Let students decide the use of the rooms and then experiment with different arrangements of tables, chairs, cots, etc. in the imaginary rooms.

Links

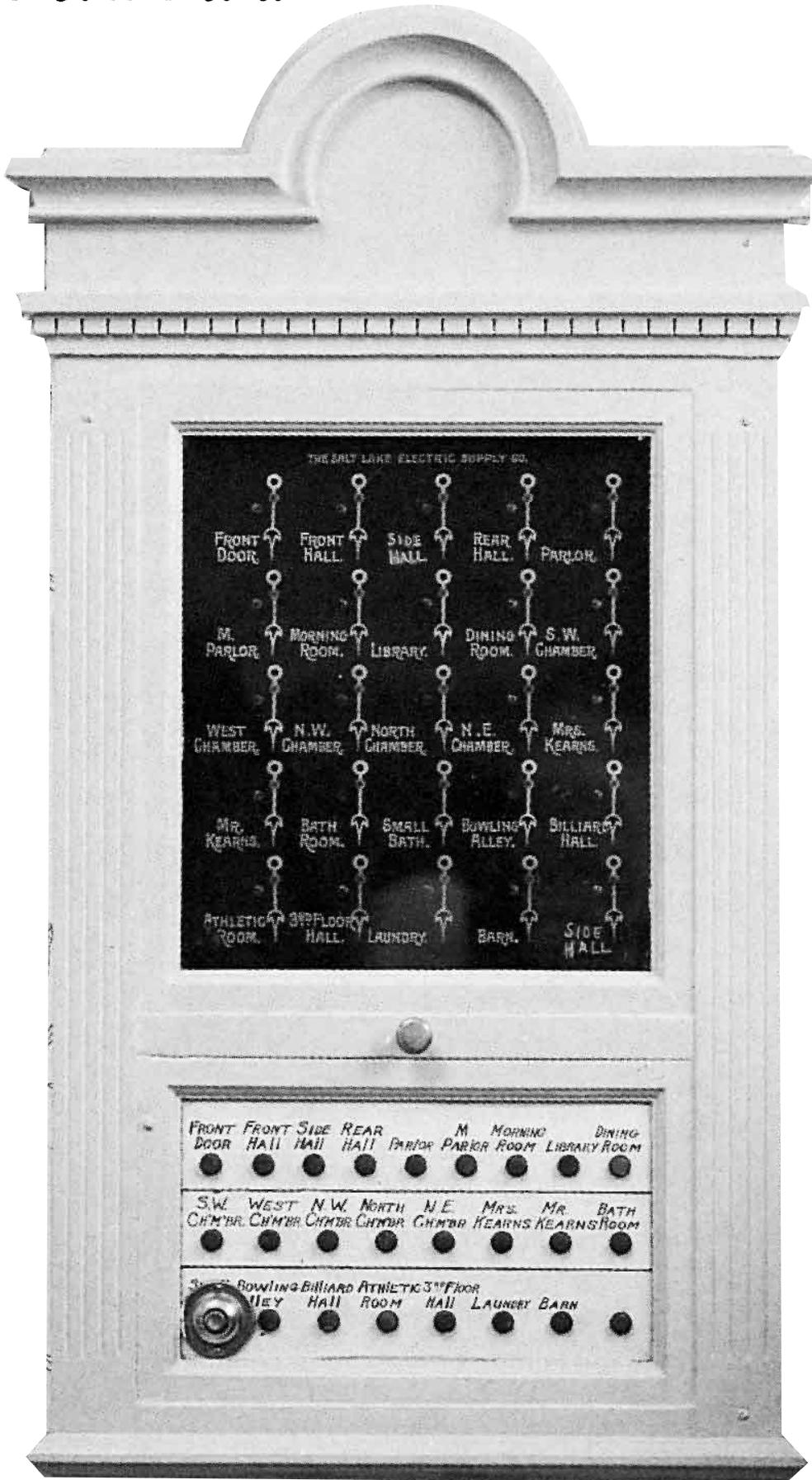
Lesson 5: *Buildings Begin with Basic Shapes* Pre-Tour

Lesson 11: *The Daily Grind in Park City* Post-Tour

Lesson 12: *The Life of a Miner's Child* Post-Tour



The Call Board



Kearns Mansion Dimensions Chart

How Big is the Kearns Mansion?	
The Kearns Mansion	86' x 70'
Parlor (French)	20' x 22'
Dining Room	18' x 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ '
Front (Grand) Hall	36' x 15'
Third Floor Hall (Ballroom)	34' x 43'
Mrs. Kearns	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 22'
Mr. Kearns	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 23'
Bathroom	13' x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ '
Bowling Alley	19' x 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ '

Hint: 2' x 2' = 2 feet by 2 feet



Carling House



Scale: 1" = 4'

