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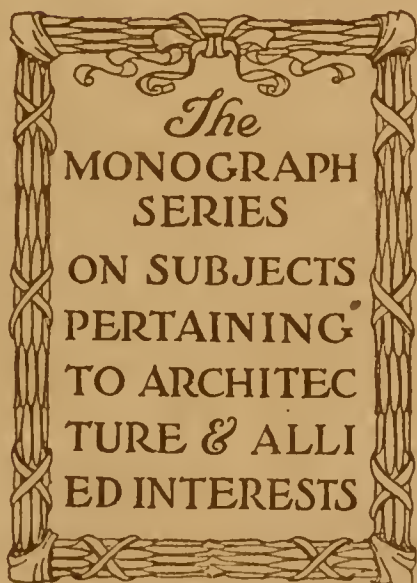
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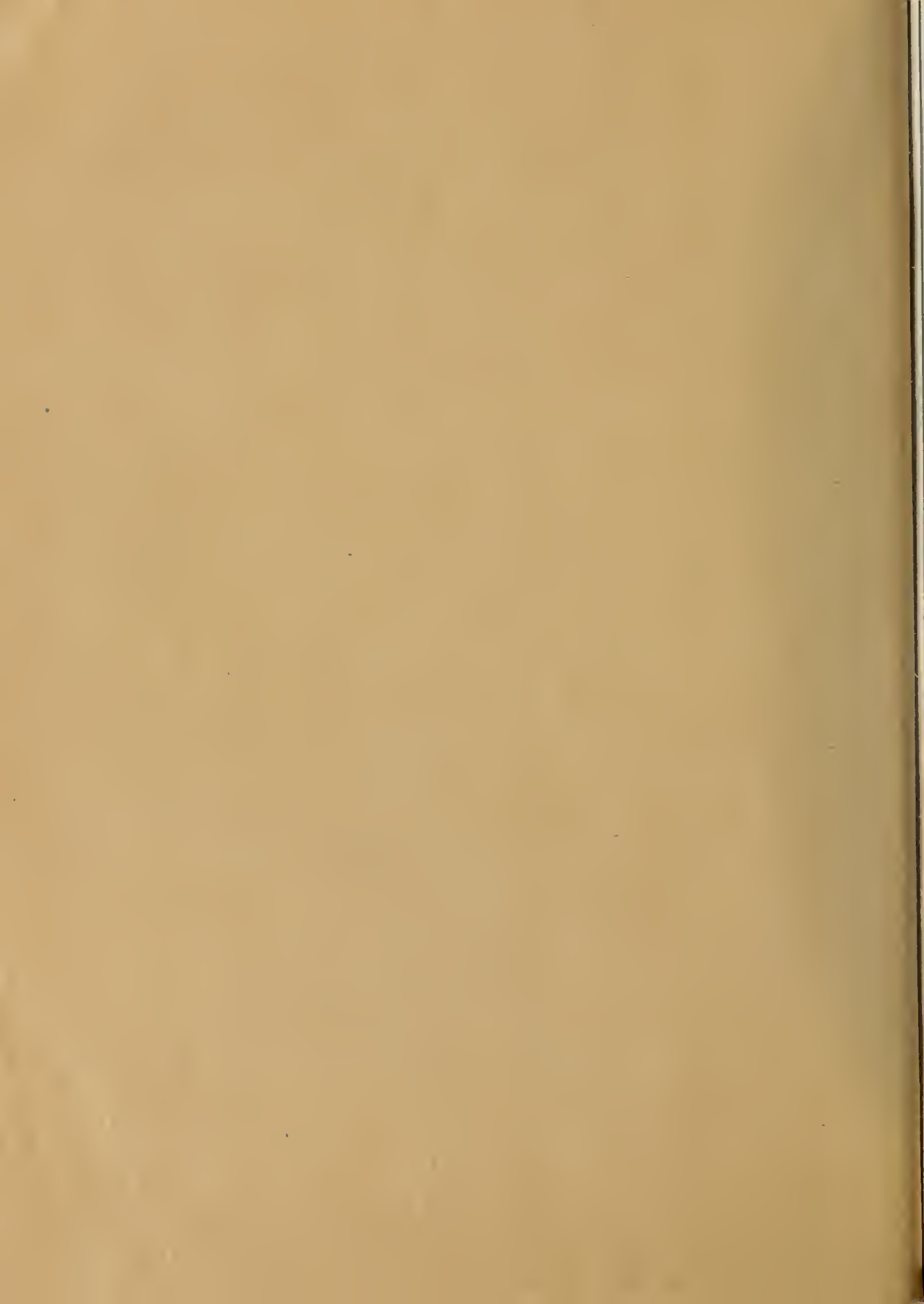


OLD COLONIAL BRICK HOUSES *of* NEW ENGLAND



PUBLISHED BY ROGERS AND MANSON COMPANY
BOSTON NEW YORK





OLD COLONIAL BRICK HOUSES
OF NEW ENGLAND

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OLD COLONIAL
BRICK HOUSES
OF
NEW ENGLAND

Edited and published with the purpose of furthering
a wider knowledge of the beautiful forms of Do-
mestic Architecture developed during the time of the
COLONIES and the early days of the *REPUBLIC*



PUBLISHED IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
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MCMXVII



DETAIL OF THE HENRY LADD HOUSE, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

BUILT ABOUT 1815



OLD COLONIAL BRICK HOUSES *OF NEW ENGLAND*

THE architecture of the Colonial period in America is characterized by its adherence to the European traditions brought over by the colonists, although, within the limits imposed by these traditions, it shows a remarkable degree of initiative. The earlier work derives from a Jacobean tradition, the later follows closely Georgian precedent. This following of tradition was natural and inevitable in the case of colonies whose population was being constantly renewed by fresh arrivals from Europe, and the importation of large quantities of building materials further increased this tendency.

On the other hand, the American architects and builders of the period, when they encountered unfamiliar problems, were able to solve them with great ingenuity. The abundance of wood and its ease of working produced a remarkable growth of wooden houses entirely different from any European type. But besides these wooden houses, brick houses were also built, though they were always less numerous, because of their greater cost. The oldest examples were built with bricks imported from England and Holland, but at a rather early period a flourishing brick-making industry grew up, particularly in the neighborhood of the larger cities.

In general it may be stated that the brick houses in America follow European tradition more closely than those of wood — due to the importation of much of their material, the fact that they were built in many cases by European workmen, and their location in centers of trade, usually in or near seaports where contact with Europe was more general and intimate. Salem, Newburyport, and Portsmouth, all flourishing ports in the days of the clipper ships, show many houses of this type, while in such centers as Boston and New York they were formerly very numerous, but have largely been demolished to make way for later types of building.

Of the houses here illustrated, two belong to the earlier or Jacobean type, while the others follow more or less closely Georgian models. The Cradock house at Medford, known also as the Peter Tufts house, is probably the oldest brick house standing in New England, although its traditional date, 1634, is certainly erroneous. It is definitely known that Matthew Cradock, first Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, had established a farm at Medford before this date, although he himself never visited it. But the contemporary maps, while they show a group of buildings at Medford, show nothing on the site of the particular house in question. It seems certain, therefore, that the Cradock house was really of later date than that of tradition, and it may be stated with reasonable probability that it was built nearly half a century later.

One of the unusual features of the Cradock house is the existence of small round windows, formerly used as loopholes in case of attack by the Indians.

The cornice has only a very slight projection — a general characteristic of the period. Other peculiarities are the relieving arches over the windows and the use of moulded brick in the base and string courses. The porch and dormers are modern additions.

The Hazen Garrison, or General Eaton house, at Haverhill, Massachusetts, is nearly contemporaneous with the Cradock house, and very similar in style. The small windows at the ends of the front suggest the loopholes of the other example, and are probably due to a survival of the same necessity. The wood cornice is slightly more important, but the general appearance of the house is simpler, a stone base being used, and decoration being entirely absent. The window spacing is less pleasing than that of the Cradock house; but a feature of some interest is the treatment of the chimneys with arched panels, the arches being segmental, similar to the relieving arches over the windows. The diamond-paned casements are a recent restoration, having replaced double hung windows of the ordinary type.

The other houses shown in this monograph were built under the Georgian influence and show a more advanced stage of building. The Richard Derby house, built in 1761 and the oldest brick house in Salem, located at 168 Derby Street, preserves certain characteristics of the earlier period, notably the relieving arches over the first-floor windows, and has a general air of heaviness that is more usual in earlier than in later American work. Moulded bricks are used in the base and in the band course at the level of the second-floor beams. The doorway, however, is quite Georgian in treatment, and is based closely on classic precedent. The cornice also shows the classic influence that was becoming important at this period, though simpler than later examples. The building is now used as a tenement house and is in a very bad state of preservation.

The Hildreth house, built in 1763, at Concord, Massachusetts, is very similar in character to the above. The design of the doorway is very nearly the same, apart from the use of a complete architrave and the omission of the transom. The window spacing is similar and the band course is stopped in the same way, though the relieving arches have disappeared. The chief differences are in the greater refinement of detail and in the treatment of the roof and cornice, the roof being hipped and the cornice more elaborate than in the previous example, and resembling more closely the classic stone cornice from which it was derived.

The Johnson house, at 35 Federal Street, Newburyport, Massachusetts, is of the same general type and very similar in proportion. It has a hipped gambrel roof of peculiar form, showing a rudimentary monitor. The doorway motive has in this case been developed into a porch with free-standing columns and a complete Doric entablature and pediment, while the cornice is almost identical with that of the Hildreth house. This house was built by Nicholas Johnson on ground which he had bought in 1782, and remained in the possession of his heirs until 1876.

The Cutler Bartlett house, at 32 Green Street, Newburyport, is similar to the Johnson house, except for the addition of a third story. The roof and entrance porch are of similar design, and the house is of the same period and very probably by the same builder. It was bought from the estate of Jonathan

Milliken by John Balson in 1782, when in process of construction, and in 1810 was divided into two separate houses, occupied by different families.

The two houses at Danvers, Massachusetts, although later in date, show a continuation of the same arrangement, and are even simpler in character. The greatest difference between them is in the window spacing. The Samuel Fowler house, dating from 1809, has its windows spaced almost equally across the front, while the other house, of unknown date, has a grouping of windows that is more varied and pleasing. Both houses have the same type of doorway, a modification of the Palladian motive, with a door and side-lights grouped under a semi-elliptical fan-light. This type of doorway was much used in Salem at this period, an example being the three-story Mansfield-Bolles house, No. 8 Chestnut Street, built about 1795. This house has an interesting form of cornice, with a brick bed-mould, and that of the Fowler house is also of brick, painted white, with a soffit of tile. In these three houses the brick wall is carried over the window heads with no visible arch or lintel, a treatment seldom used at the time. This fact, coupled with their similarity in other respects, indicates that they may have been the work of the same builder.

The same type of doorway was used by Samuel McIntire, the best known of Salem architects, in many of his works, of which the Gardner-White-Pingree house, at 128 Essex Street, built about 1810, is an excellent example. Here the doorway is preceded by a semi-circular portico, similar to those built by the same designer on a number of other houses in Salem. The balustrade and the white marble lintels and band courses form horizontals that add to the repose and the domestic character of the building, and this effect is further enhanced by the equal spacing of the windows.

Another front very similar to this in its proportion, though more simply handled, is that of the Rice house at Portsmouth, N. H. The portico at the entrance is of an unusual type, with coupled columns. The balustrade around the deck at the top of the roof is a feature often found in this and other New England seaports.

The Henry Ladd house, on Middle Street, Portsmouth, built about 1815, is one of the most remarkable, not only in this series but in all New England. While the type of roof is similar to the Rice house, the front resembles certain types of Southern work. The wide spacing of the windows, effective as it is, denotes a Southern influence, and must cause very poor lighting in the interiors. The door-frame is of marble, an unusual luxury for the period, and the entire work is carried out with considerable richness of detail, though the repetition of the same window treatment on the two main floors, with only the omission of the side-lights on the second floor, tends to an appearance of monotony.

During the nineteenth century the early American work suffered from great neglect, and it is only within recent years that its excellent qualities have again received proper appreciation, not only from the house-building public, but from the architectural profession as well. The drawings illustrating this monograph have been carefully made and reproduced to a uniform scale, so as to render them of the greatest possible use to architects who may employ them as documents in work that they are designing, and to show the relative size and importance of the various buildings.



AN INDEX TO PLATE ILLUSTRATIONS

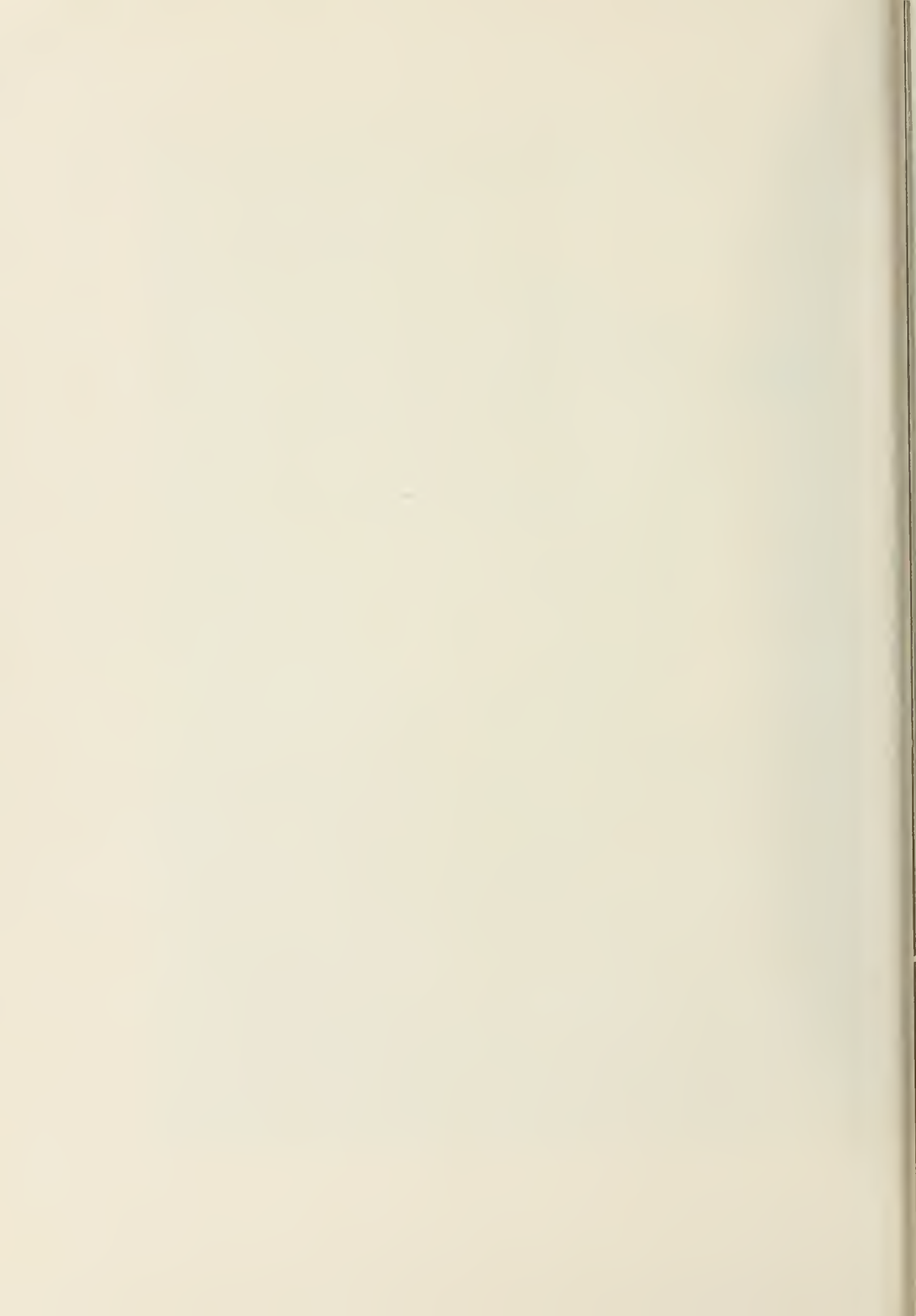
	<i>Page</i>
Detail of the Henry Ladd House, <i>Portsmouth, N. H.</i>	Frontispiece
Cradock House, <i>Medford, Mass.</i>	9, 11
Hazen Garrison House, <i>Haverhill, Mass.</i>	13, 15
Richard Derby House, <i>Salem, Mass.</i>	17, 19
Hildreth House, <i>Concord, Mass.</i>	21, 23
Johnson House, <i>Newburyport, Mass.</i>	25, 27
Cutler Bartlett House, <i>Newburyport, Mass.</i>	29, 31
Samuel Fowler House, <i>Danvers, Mass.</i>	33, 35
House at <i>Danvers, Mass.</i>	37, 39
Mansfield-Bolles House, <i>Salem, Mass.</i>	41, 43
Gardner-White-Pingree House, <i>Salem, Mass.</i>	45, 47
Rice House, <i>Portsmouth, N. H.</i>	49, 51
Henry Ladd House, <i>Portsmouth, N. H.</i>	53, 55

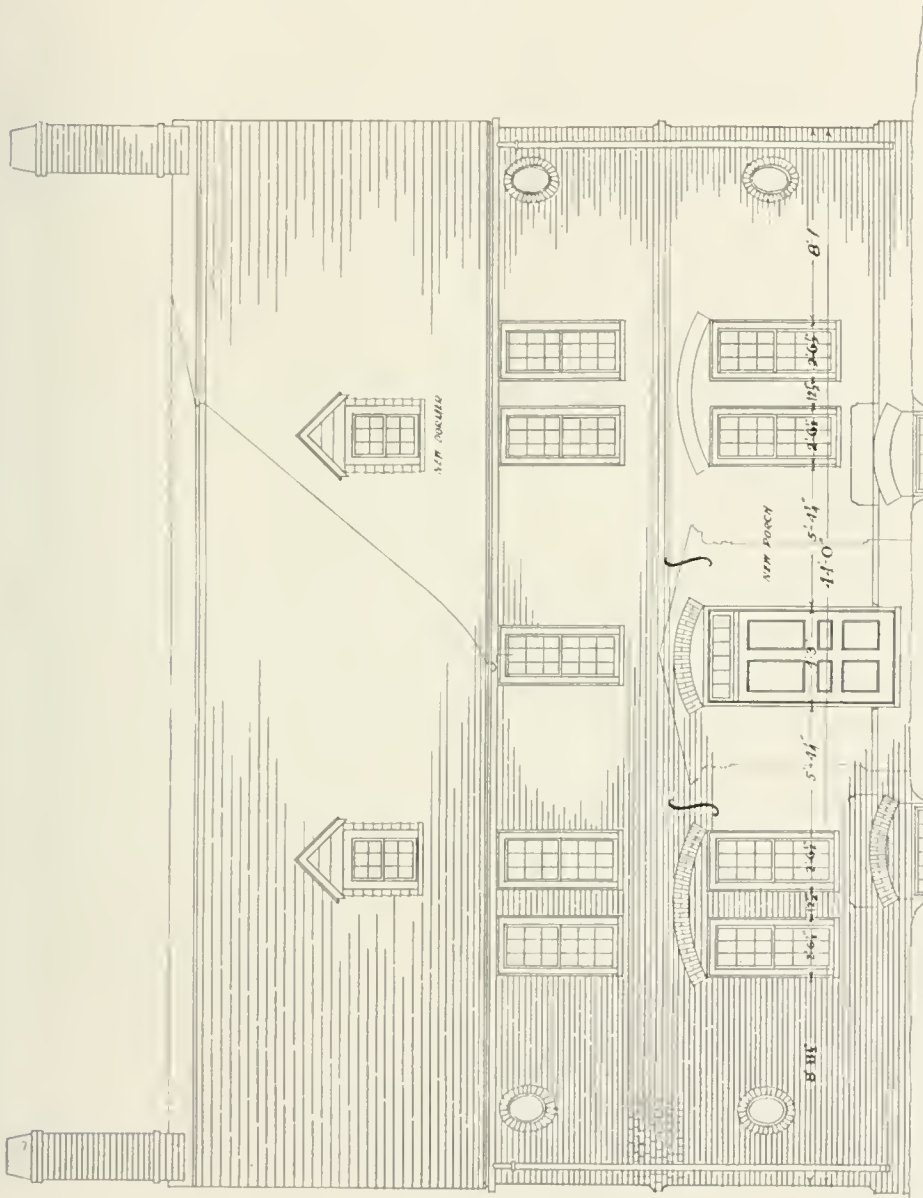


CRADOCK HOUSE, MEDFORD, MASS., BEFORE RESTORATION

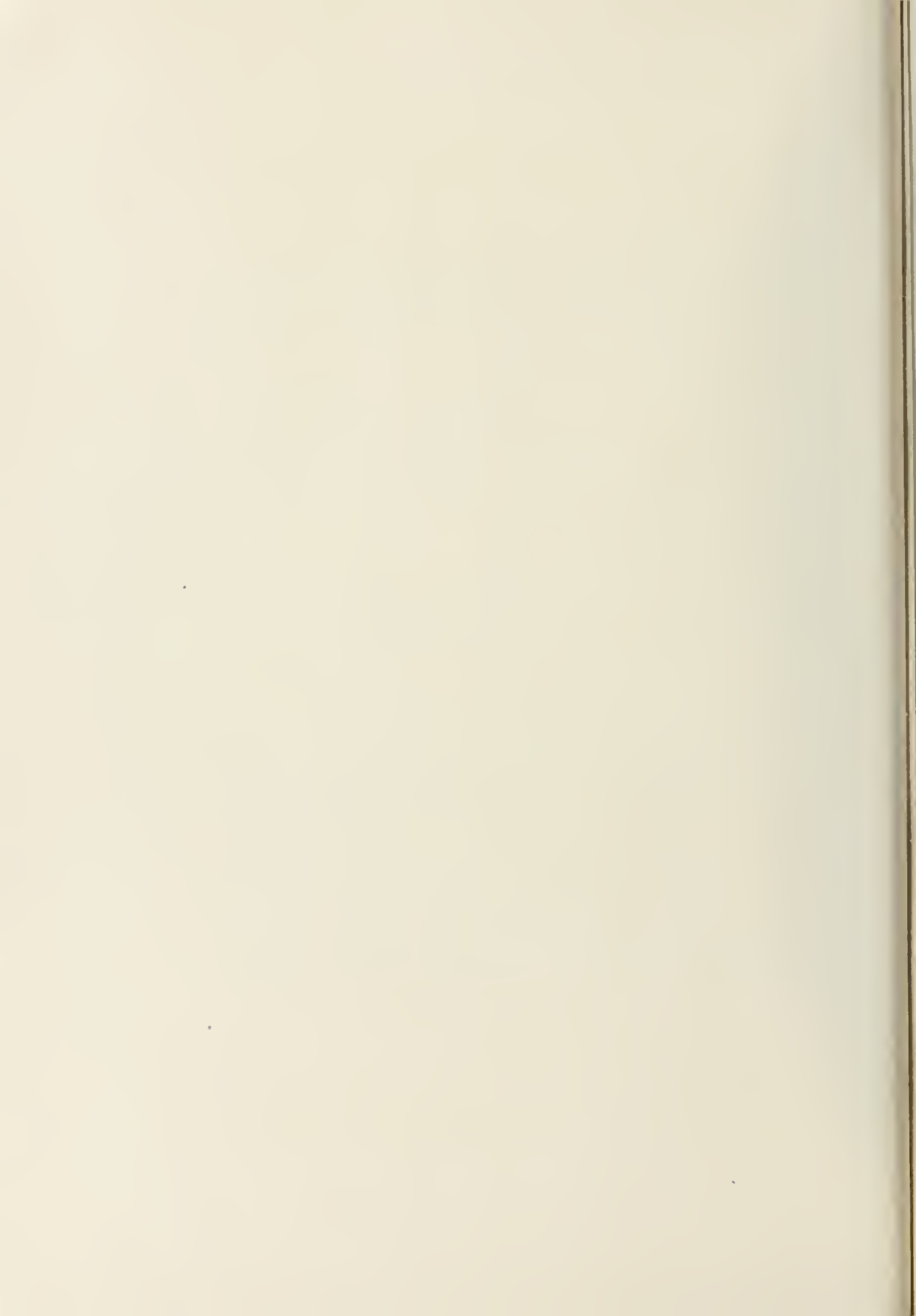


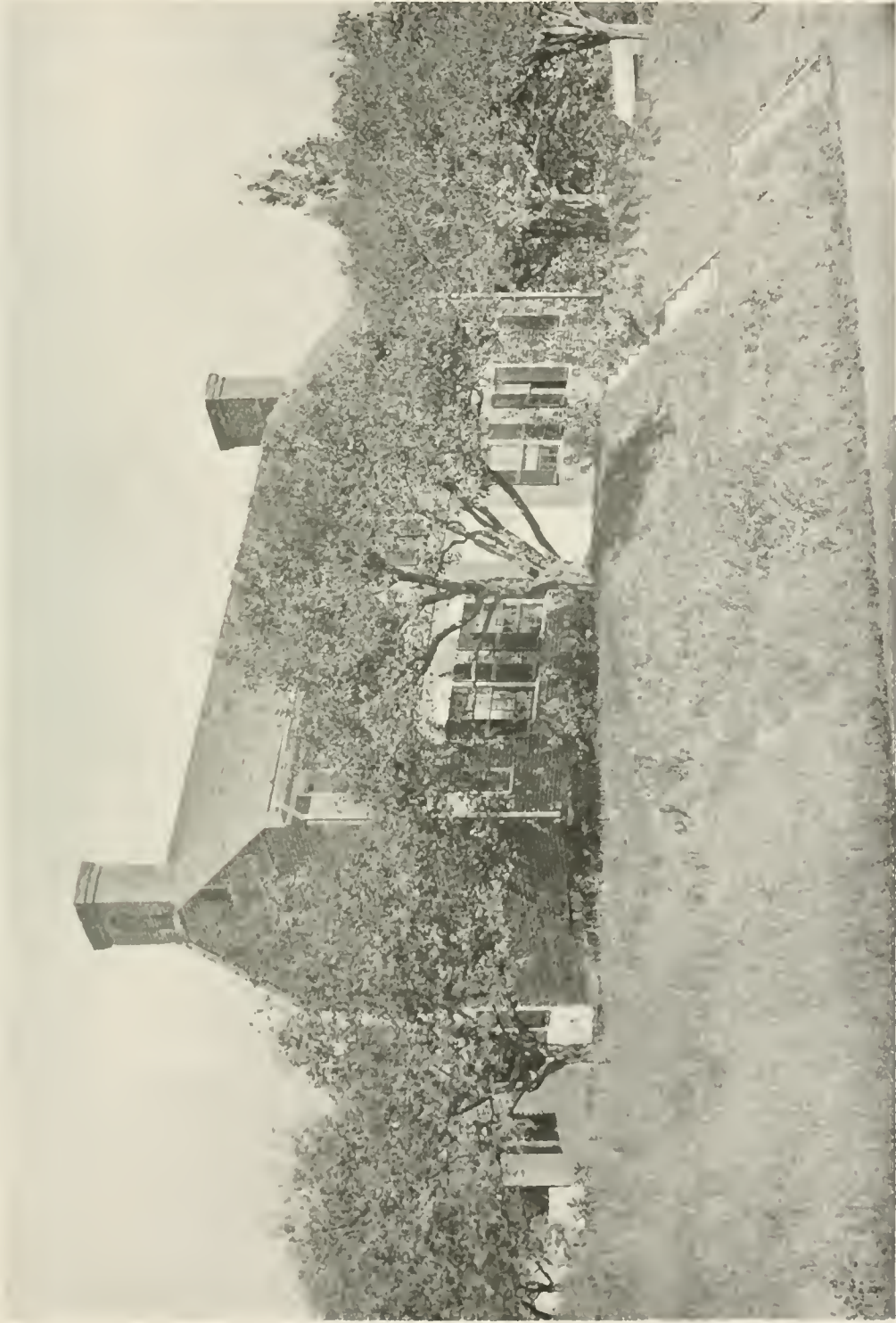
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DATE UNKNOWN



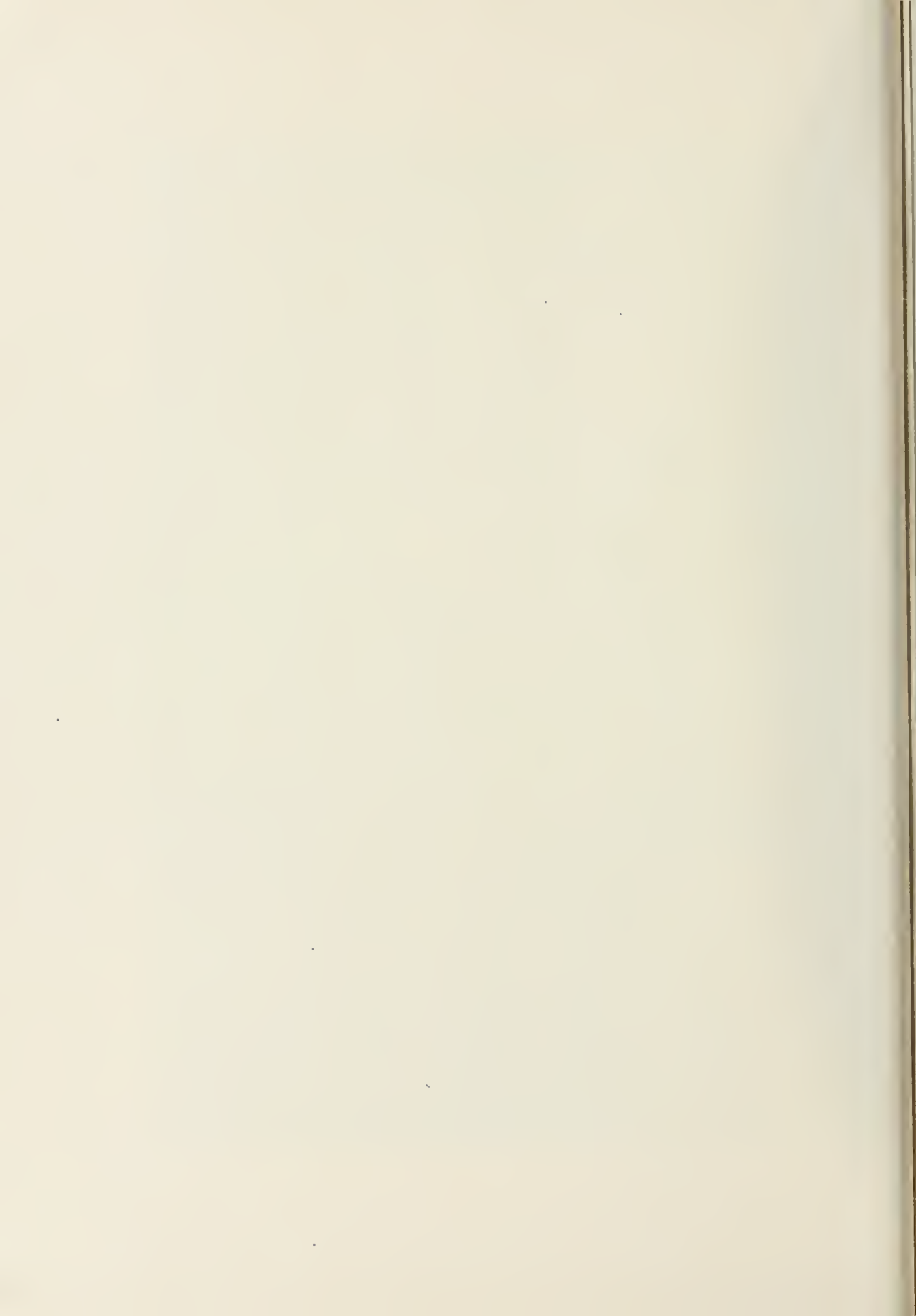


FRONT ELEVATION, CRADDOCK HOUSE, MEDFORD, MASS.
MEASURED AND DRAWN BY GEORGE H. HIGGINS AND EDWIN J. HEPKINS
SCALE: ONE-EIGHTH INCH EQUALS ONE FOOT





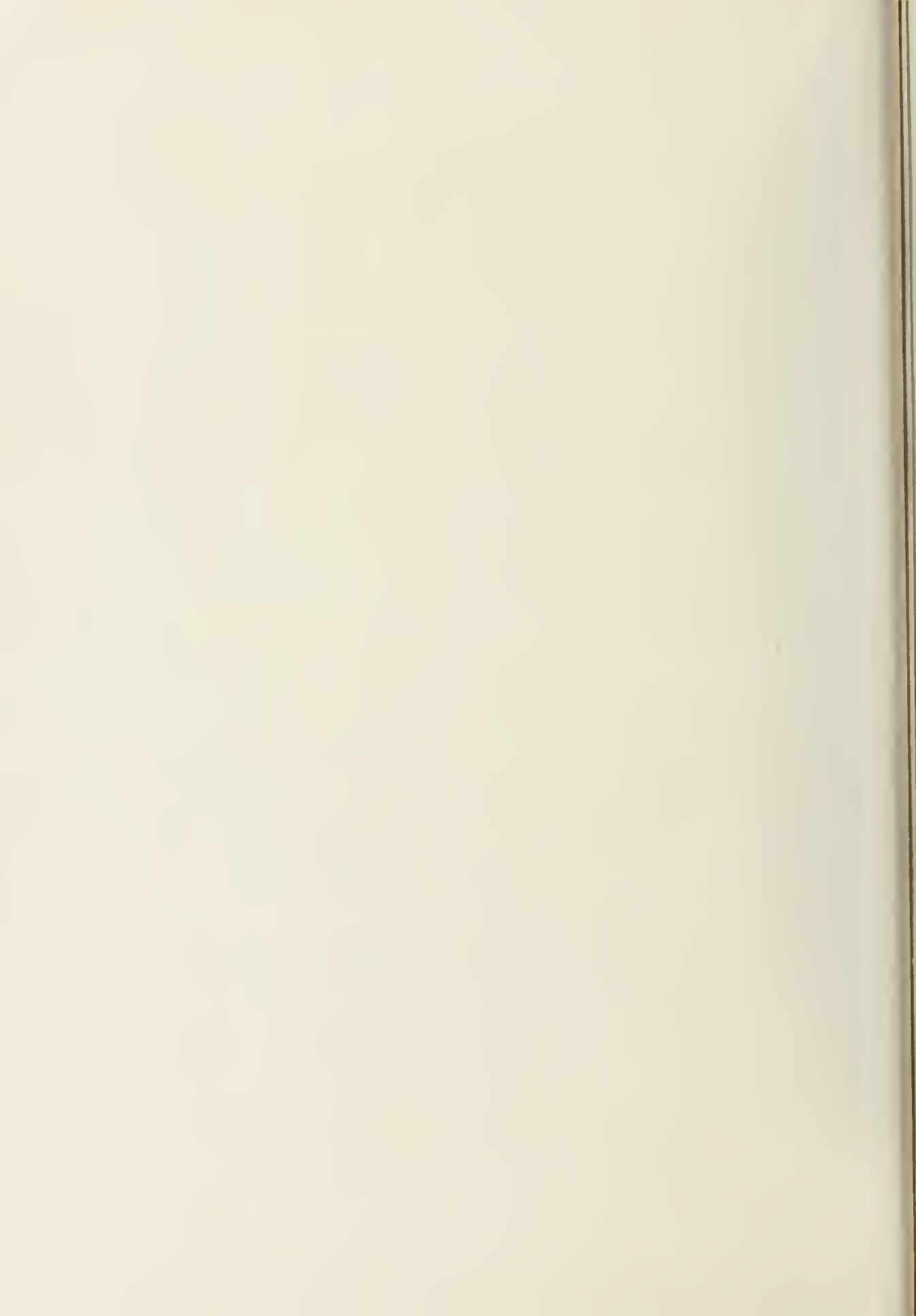
HAZEN GARRISON HOUSE, IIAVERHILL, MASS.
BUILT BETWEEN 1680 AND 1690. VIEW MADE BEFORE RESTORATION





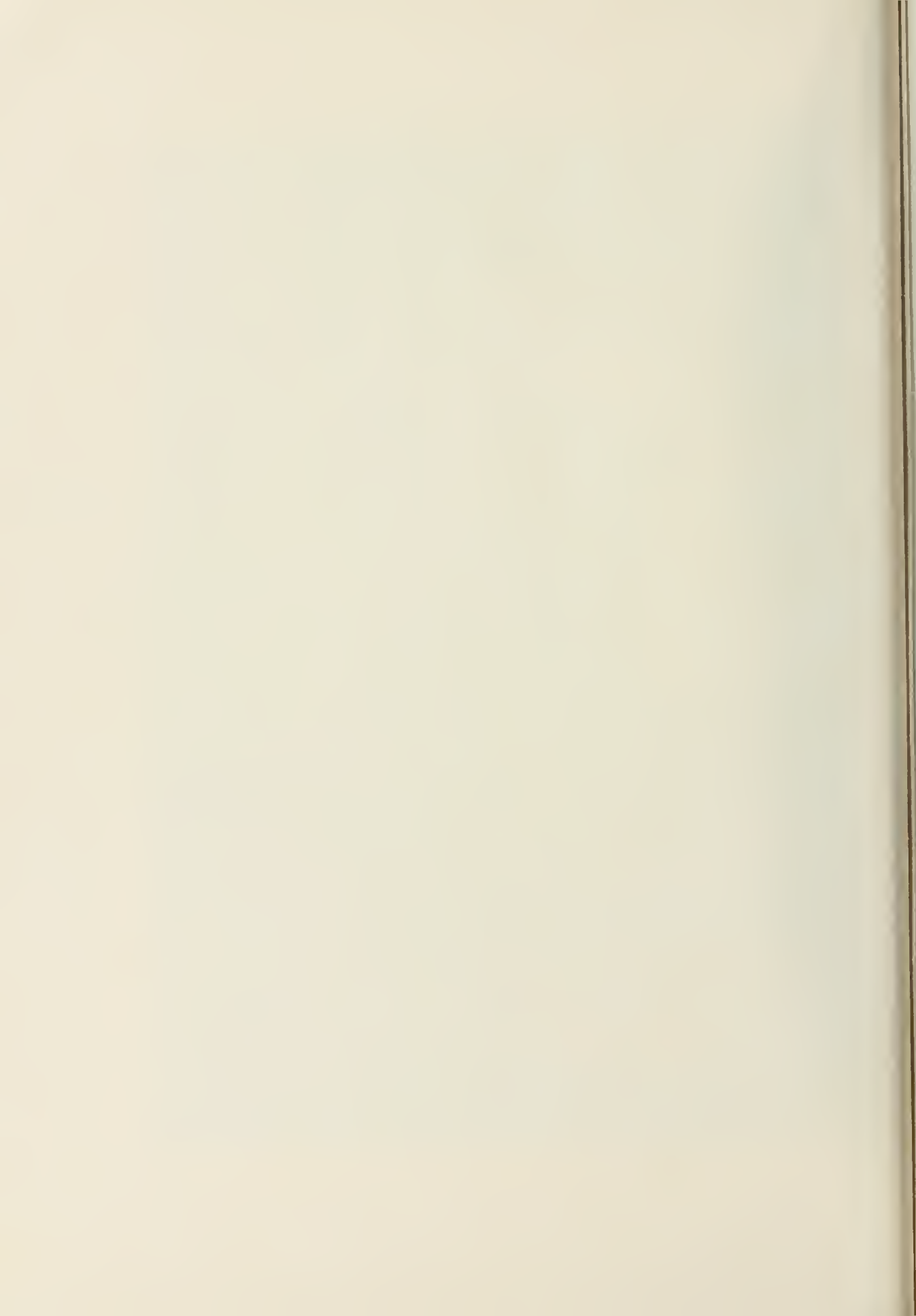
FRONT ELEVATION. HAZEN GARRISON HOUSE, HAVERHILL, MASS.
MEASURED AND DRAWN BY GEORGE H. HIGGINS AND EDWIN J. HOPKINS

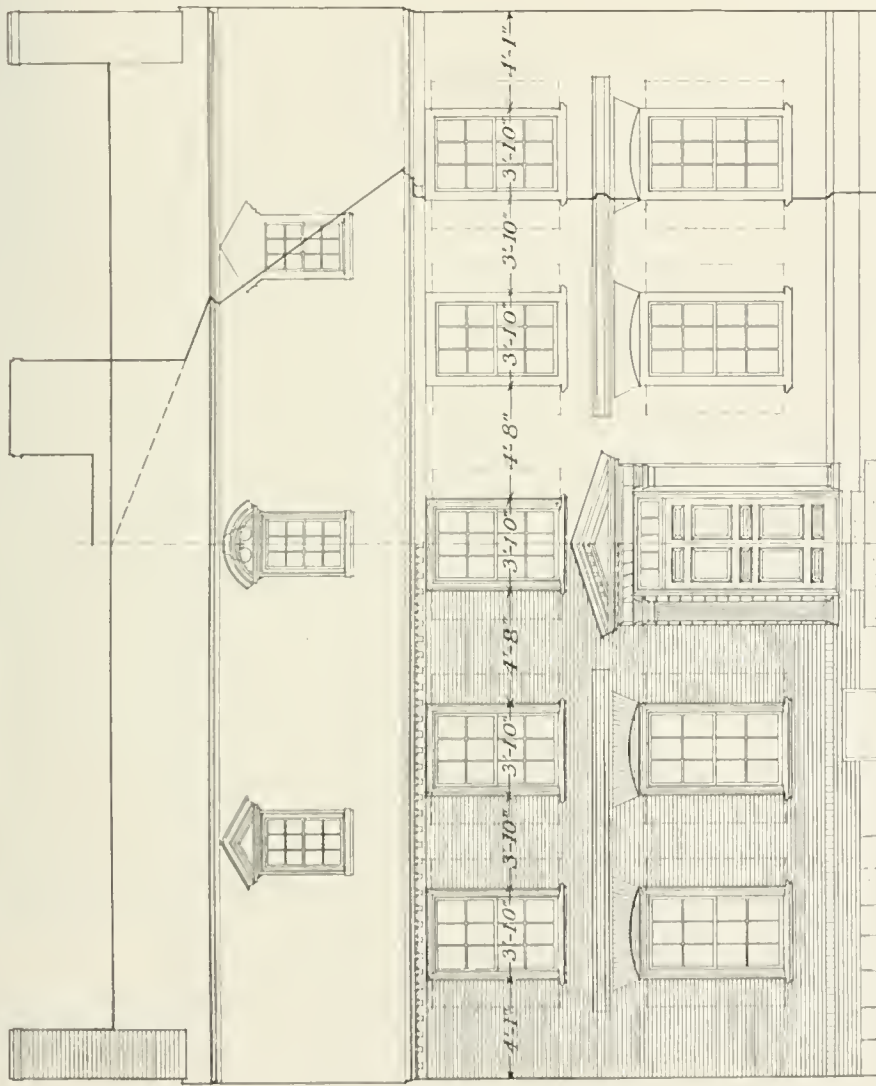
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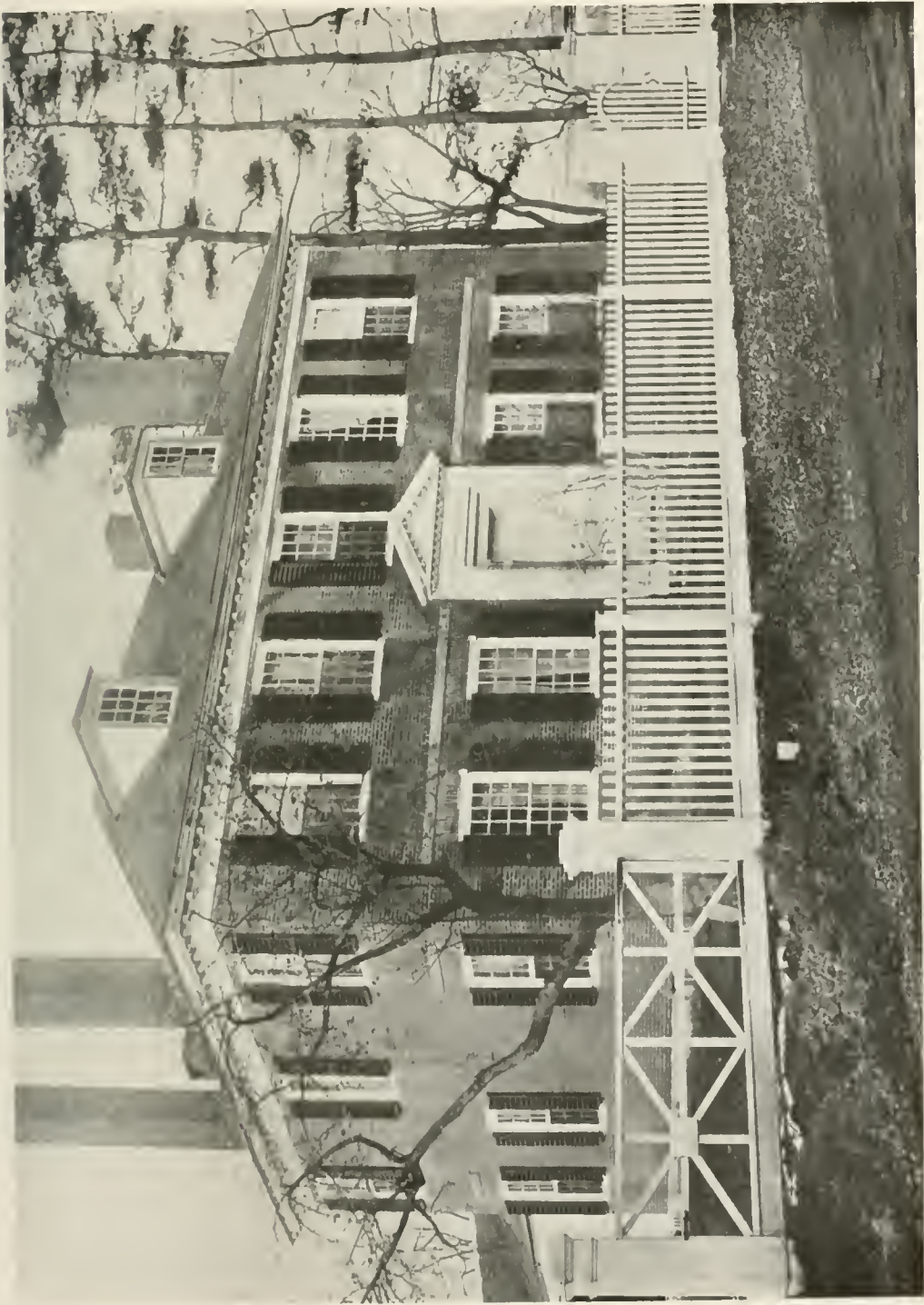


RICHARD DERBY HOUSE, SALEM, MASS.
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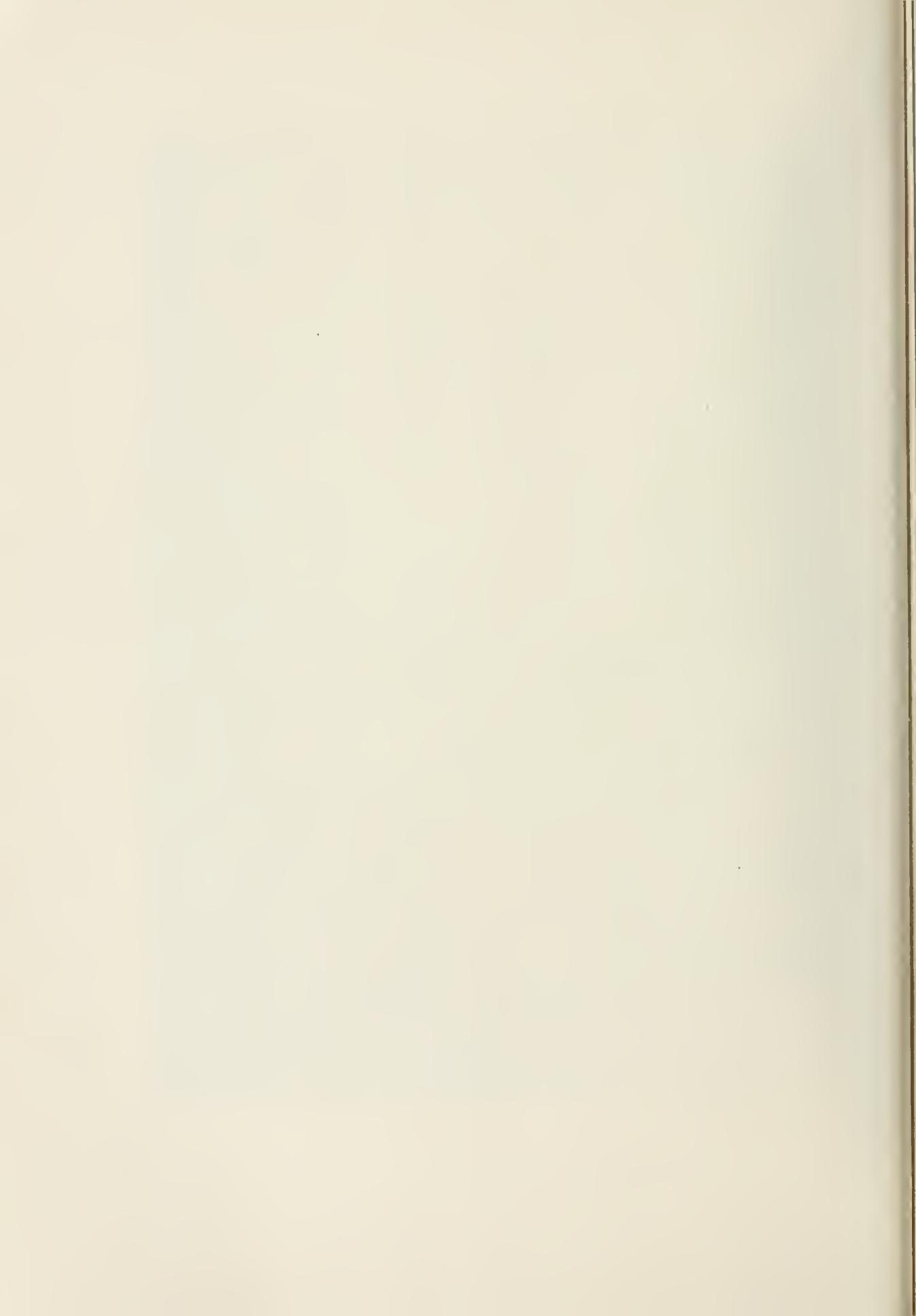


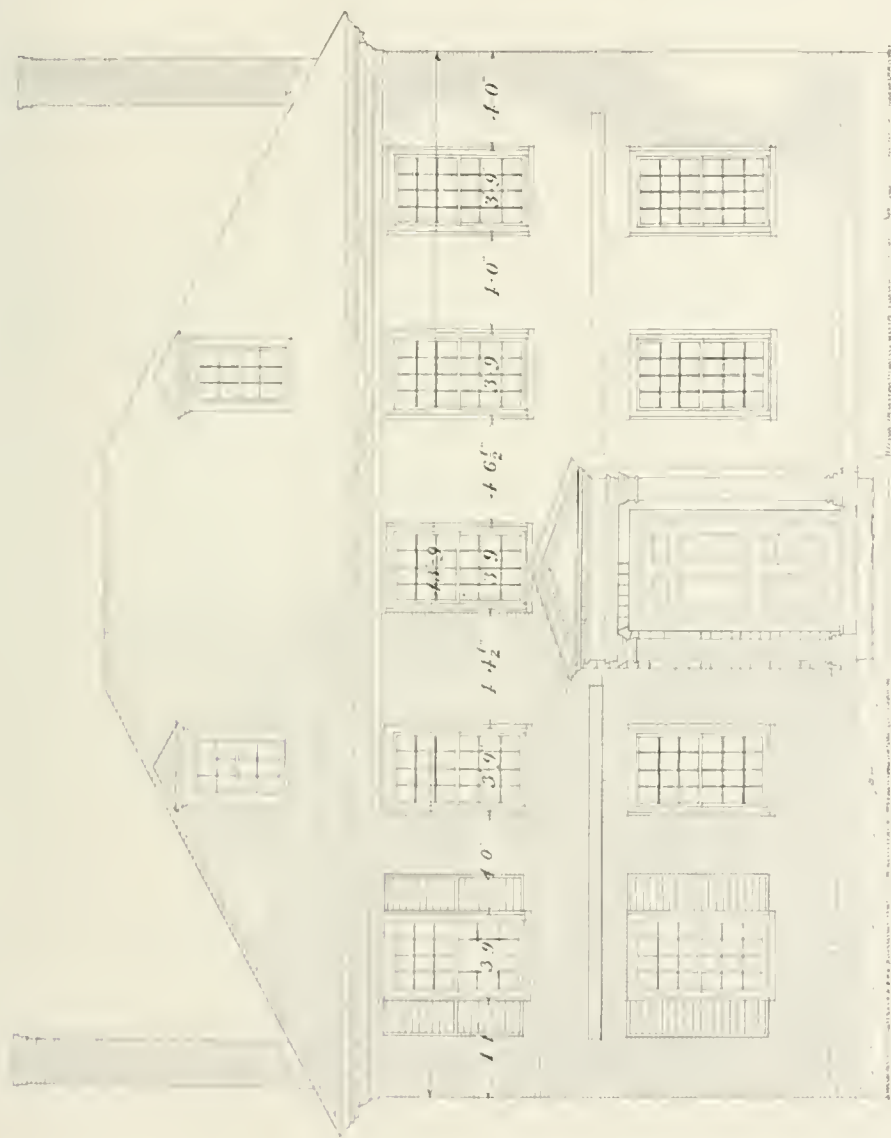


FRONT ELEVATION, RICHARD DERBY HOUSE, SALEM, MASS.
MEASURED AND DRAWN BY GORDON ROBB
SCALE: ONE-EIGHTH INCH EQUALS ONE FOOT



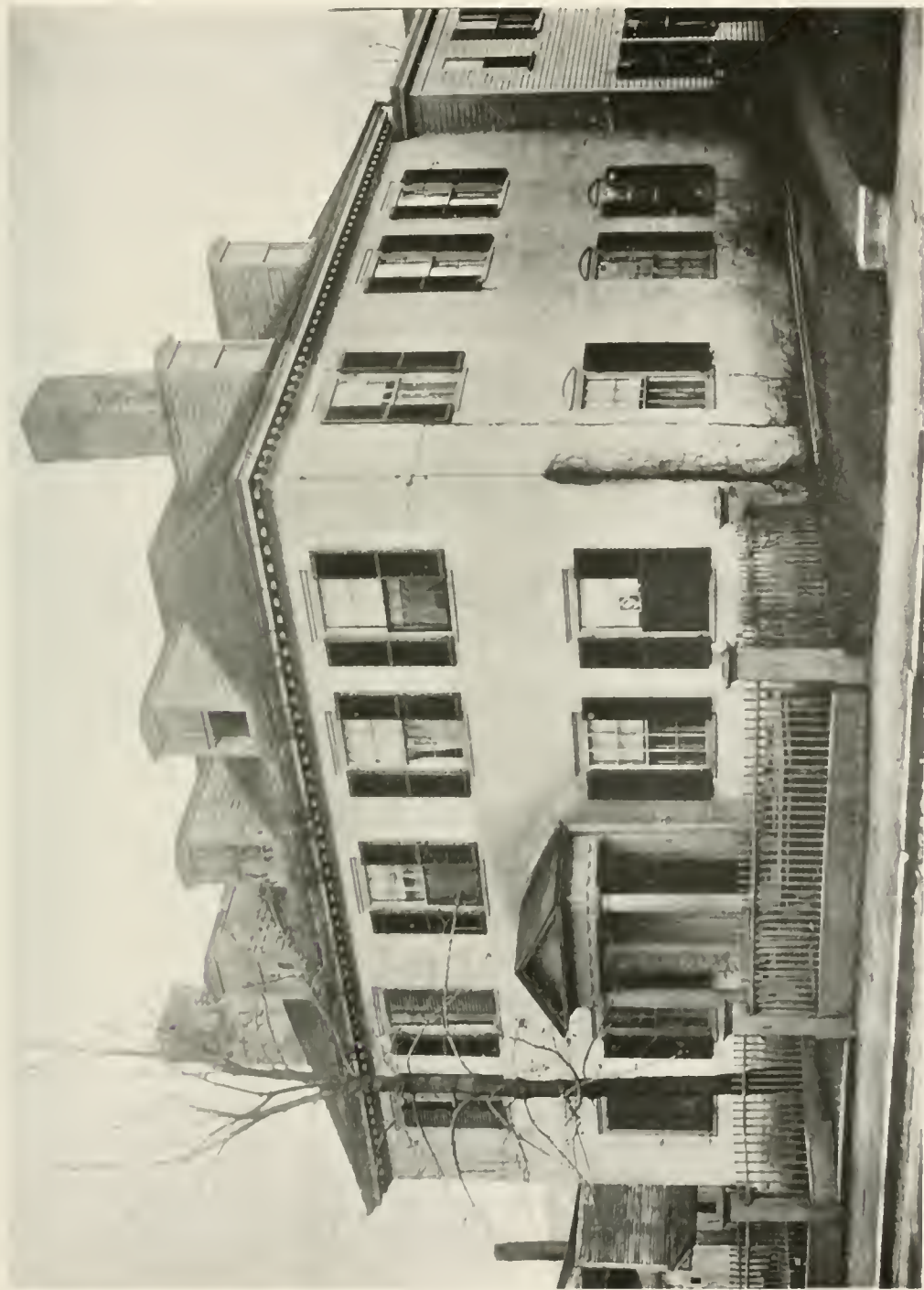
HILDRETH HOUSE, CONCORD, MASS.
BUILT IN 1763





FRONT ELEVATION, HILDRETH HOUSE, CONCORD, MASS.
MEASURED AND DRAWN BY GEORGE H. HIGGINS AND EDWIN J. HIPPKESS
SCALE: ONE-EIGHTH INCH EQUALS ONE FOOT





JOHNSON HOUSE, NEWBURYPORT, MASS.
BUILT ABOUT 1820





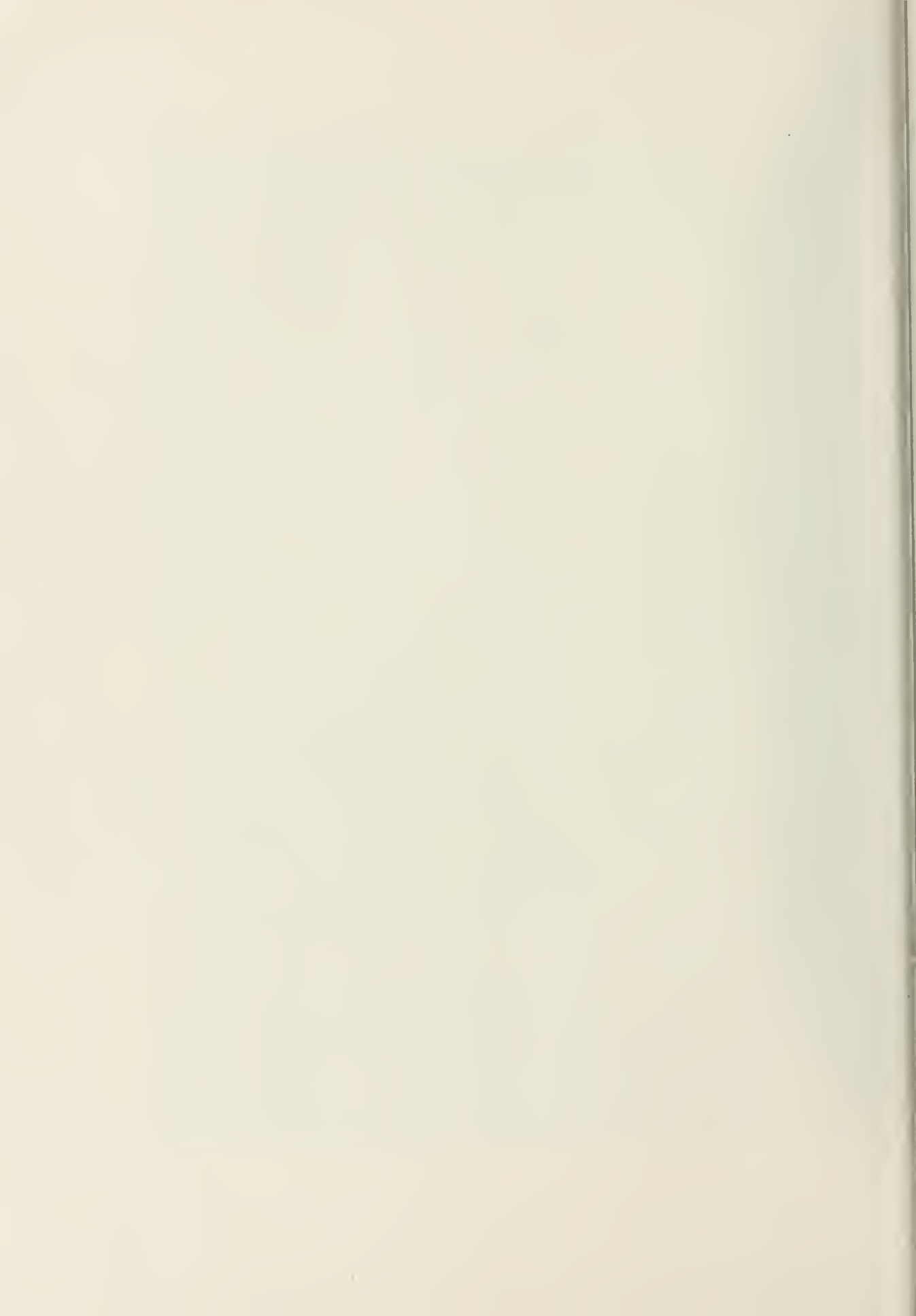
FRONT ELEVATION, JOHNSON HOUSE, NEWBURYPORT, MASS.
MEASURED AND DRAWN BY GEORGE H. HIGGINS AND EDDY J. HIGGINS
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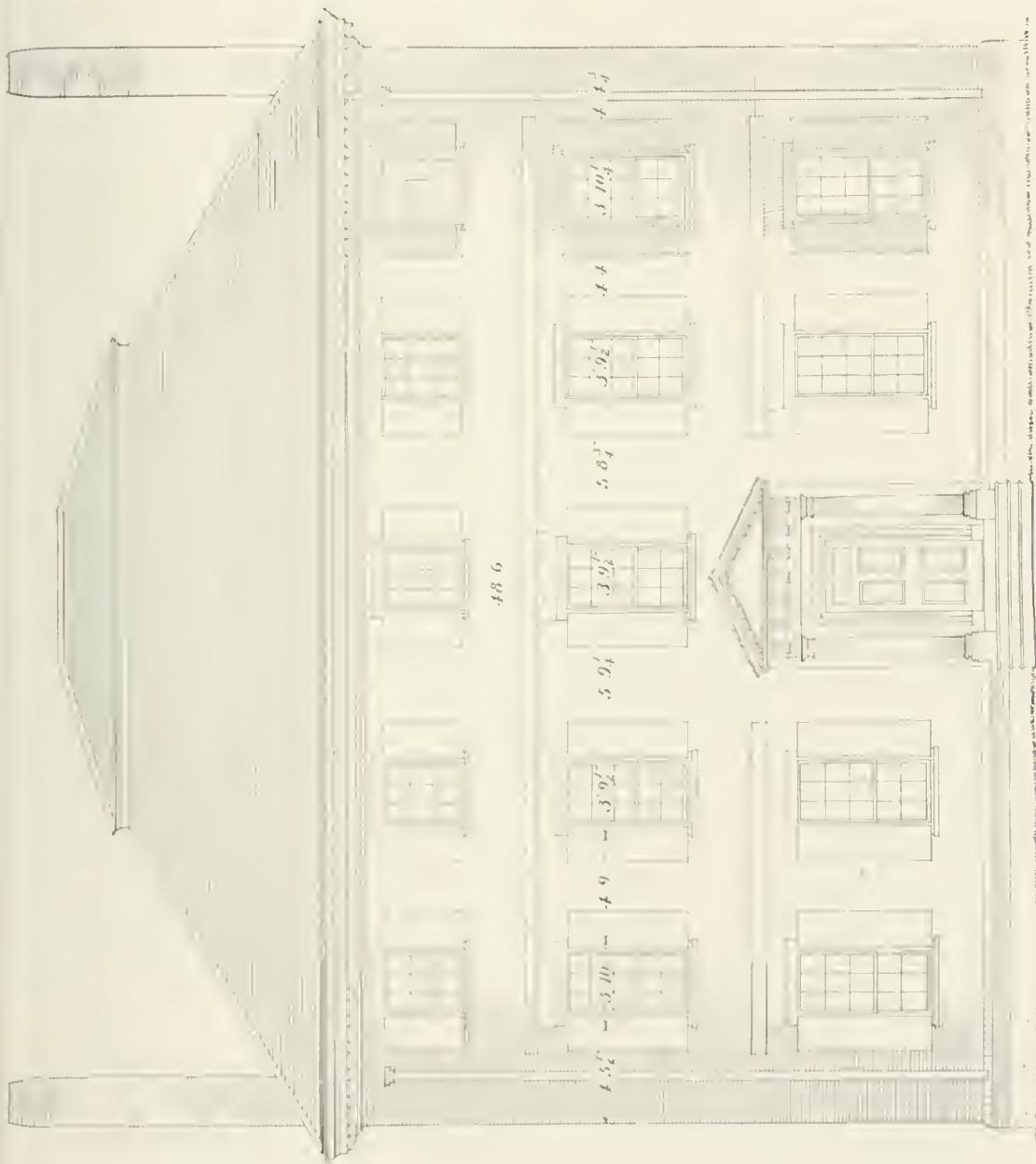




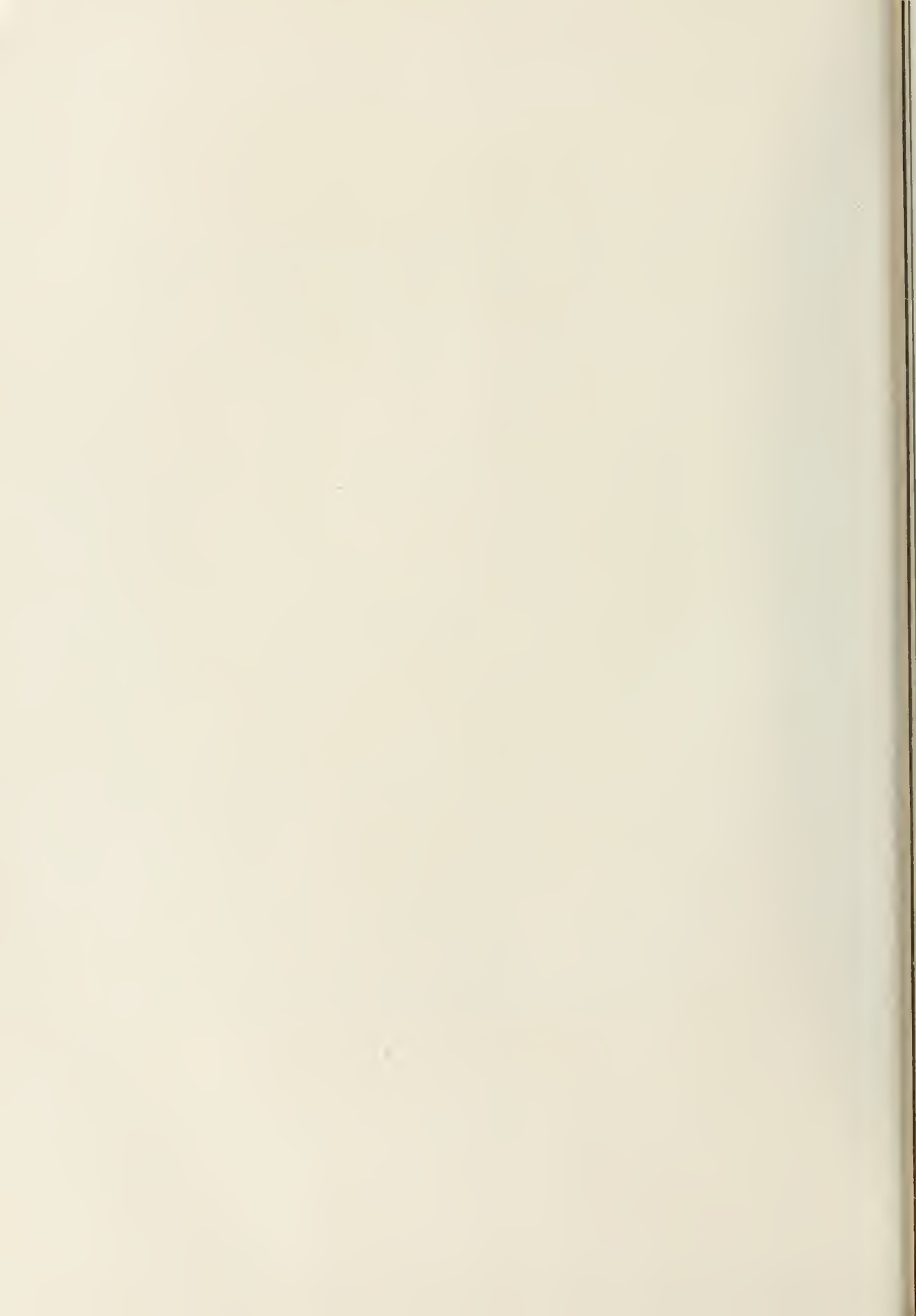
CUTLER BARTLETT HOUSE, NEWBURYPORT, MASS.
BUILT IN 1789

Photo. Copyright by Albert Hale



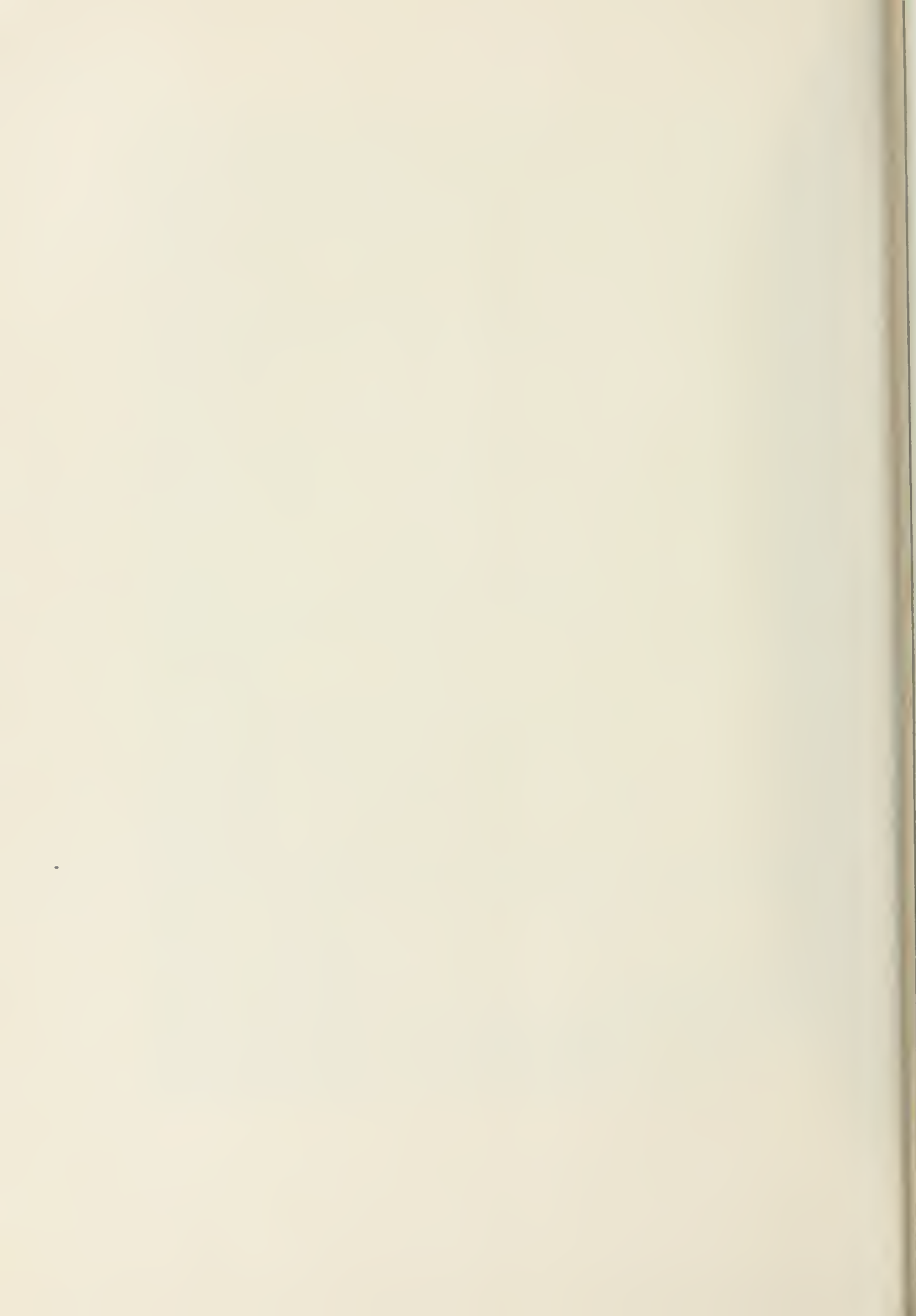


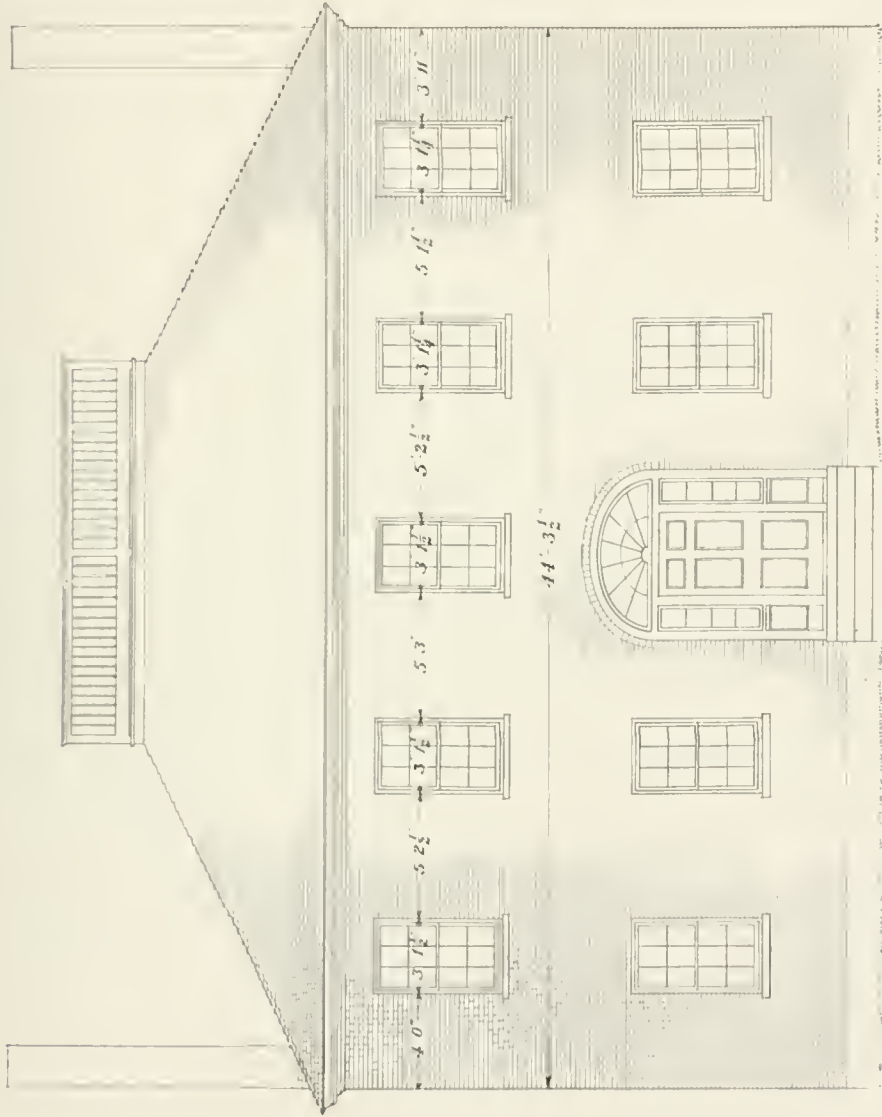
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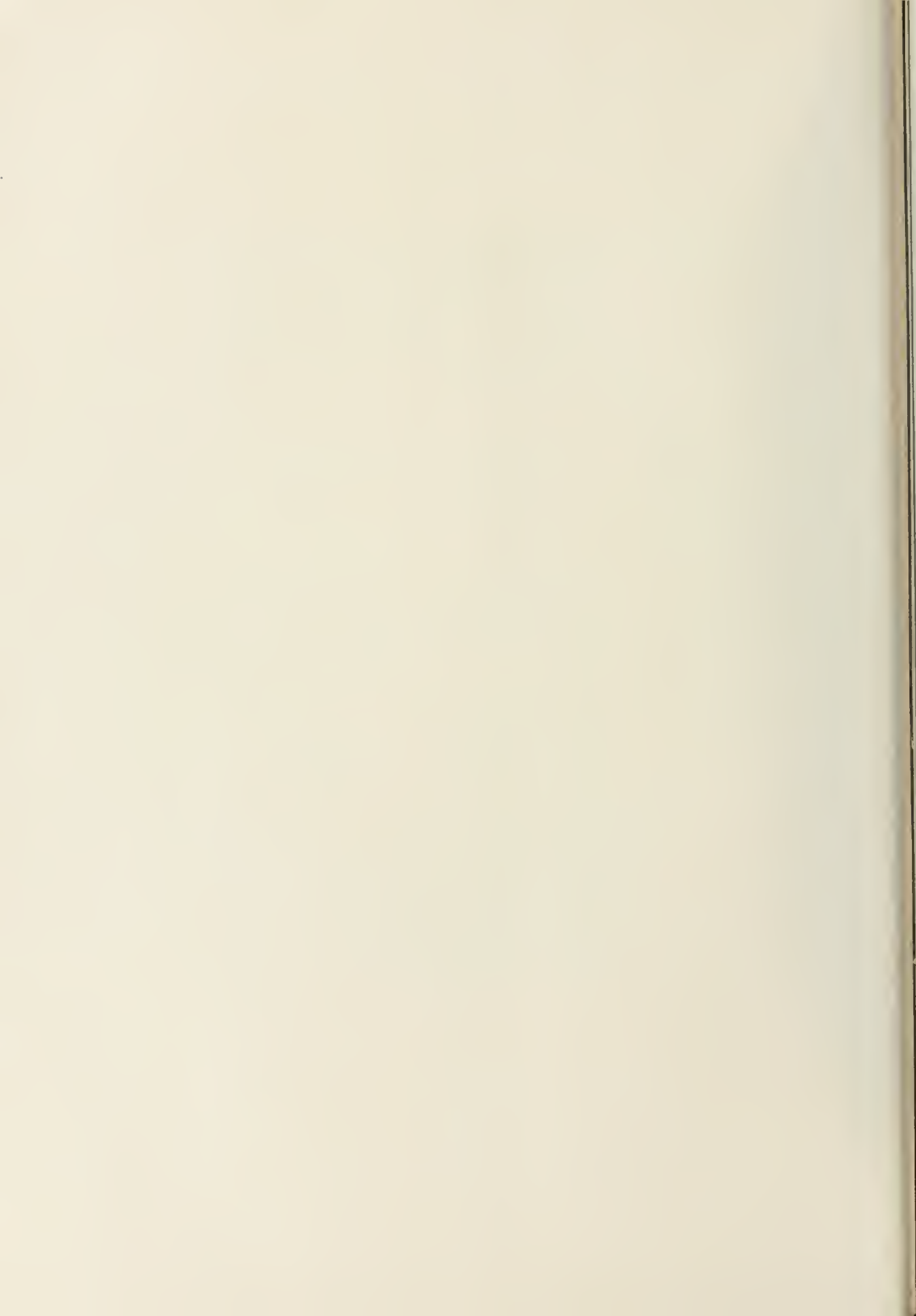
SAMUEL FOWLER HOUSE, DANVERS, MASS.
BUILT IN 1809





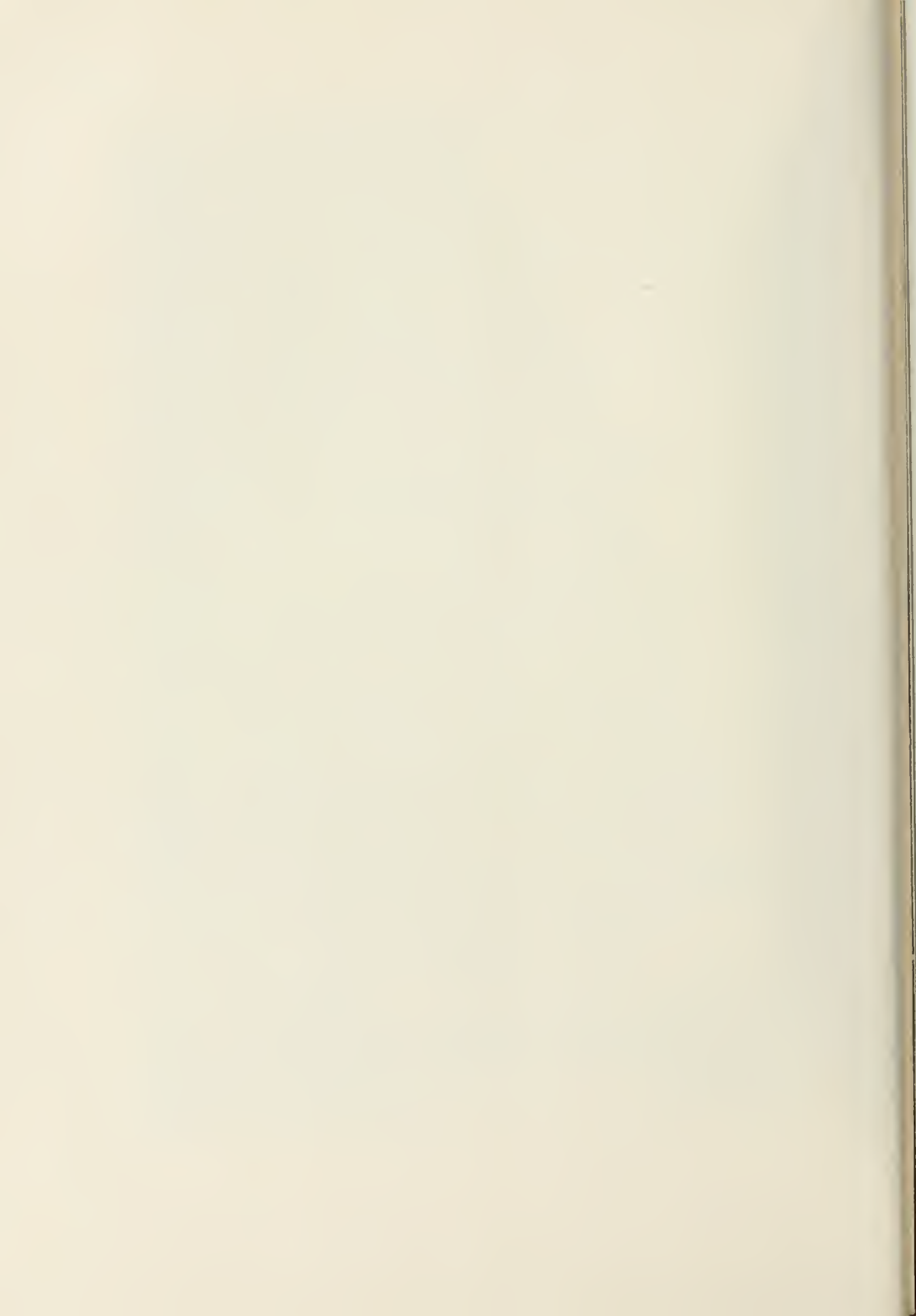
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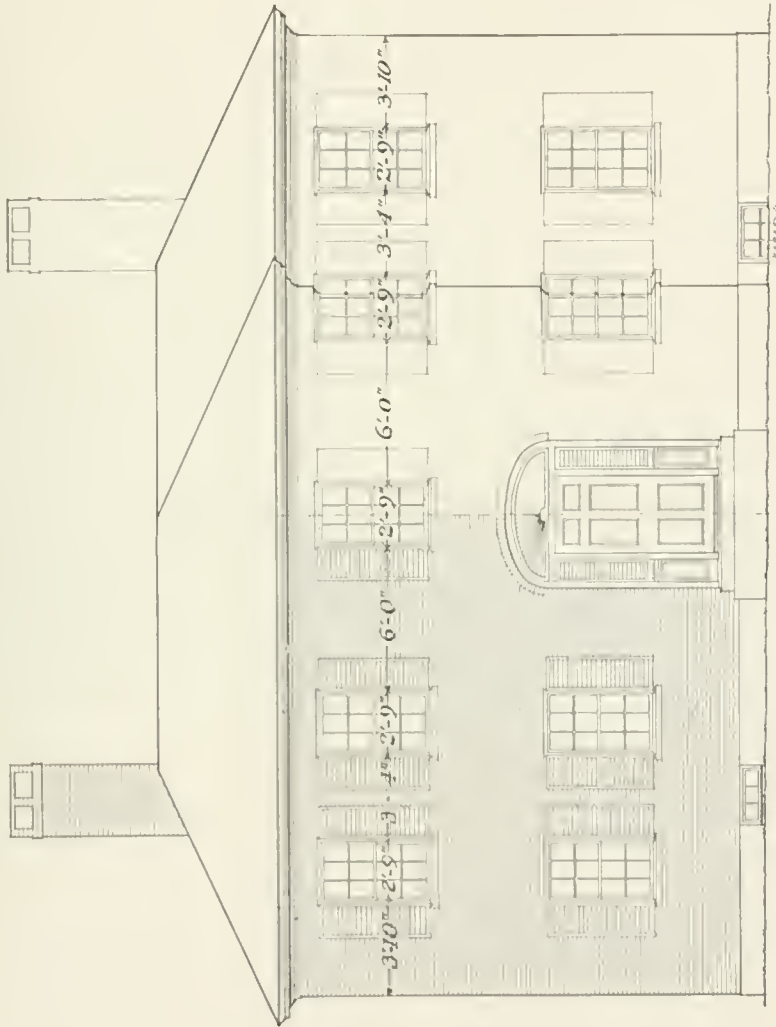
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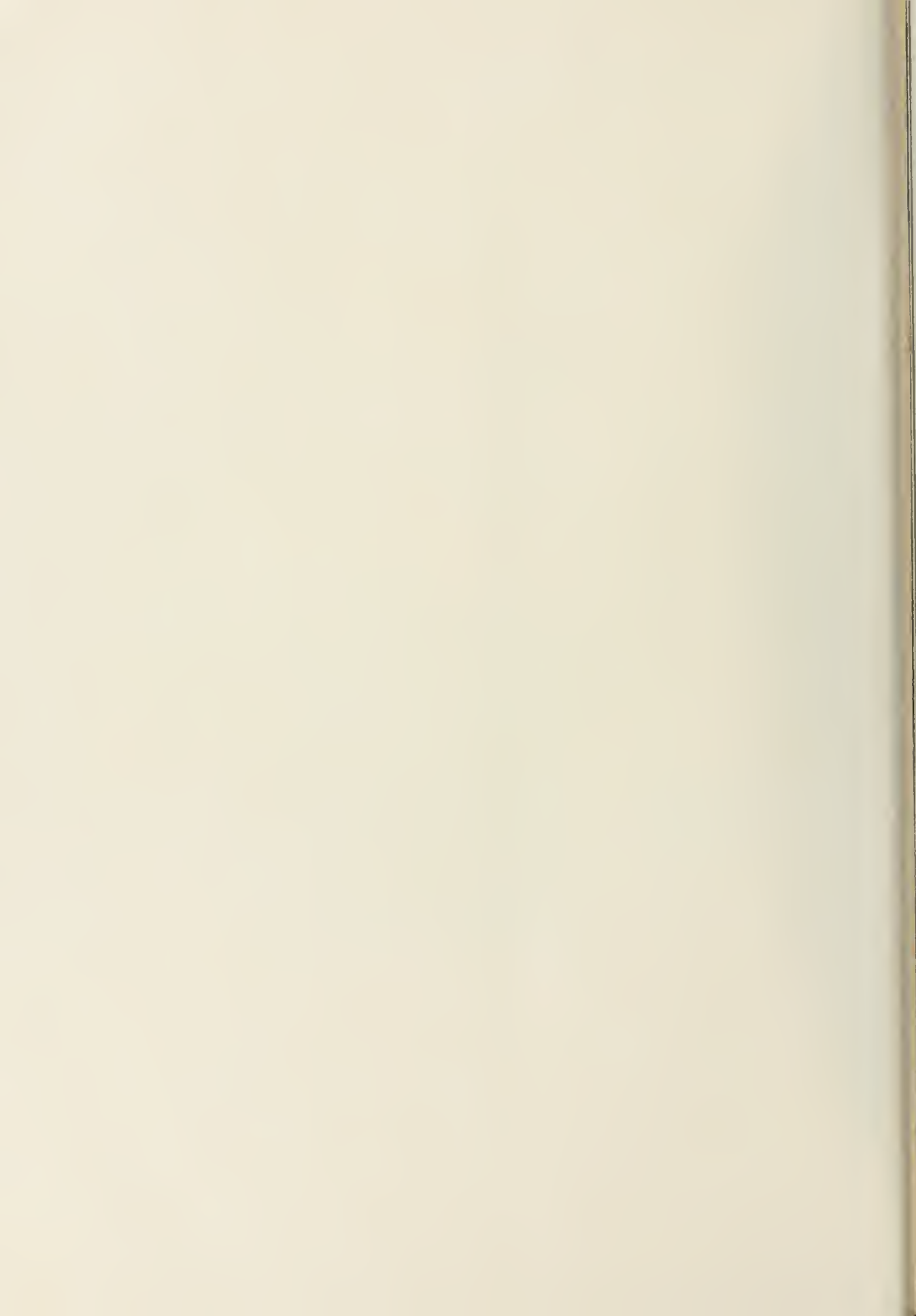


HOUSE AT DANVERS, MASS.
DATE UNKNOWN



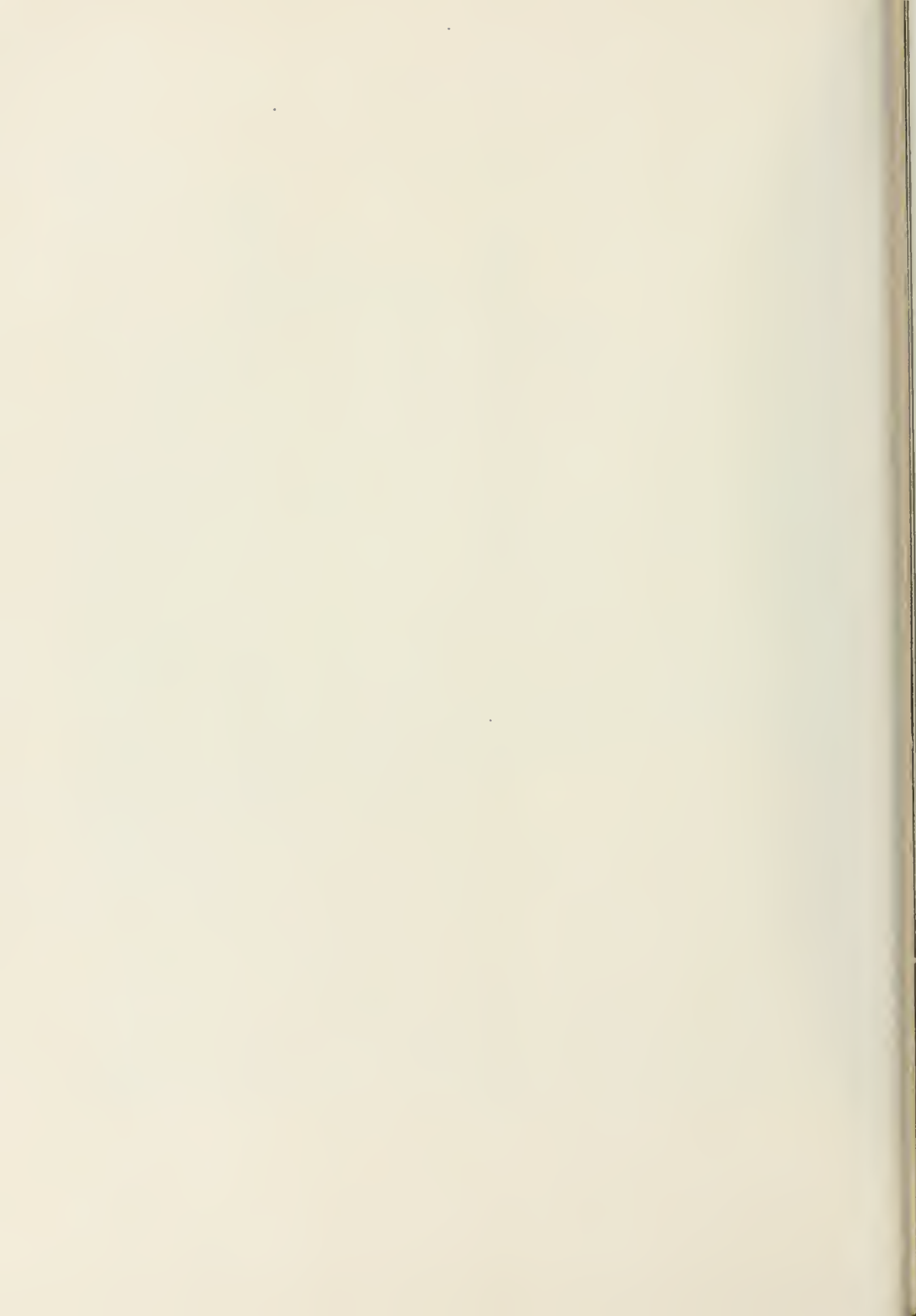


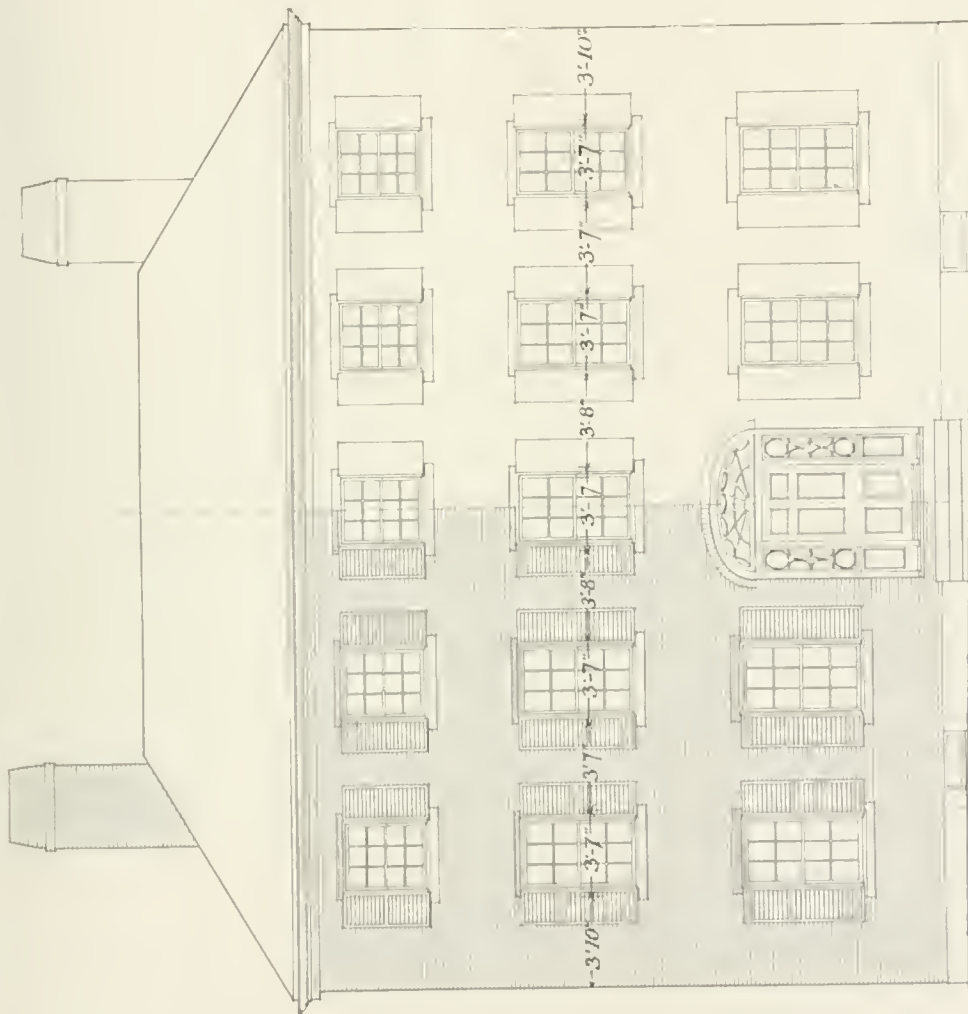
FRONT ELEVATION, HOUSE AT DANVERS, MASS.
MEASURED AND DRAWN BY GORDON ROBB
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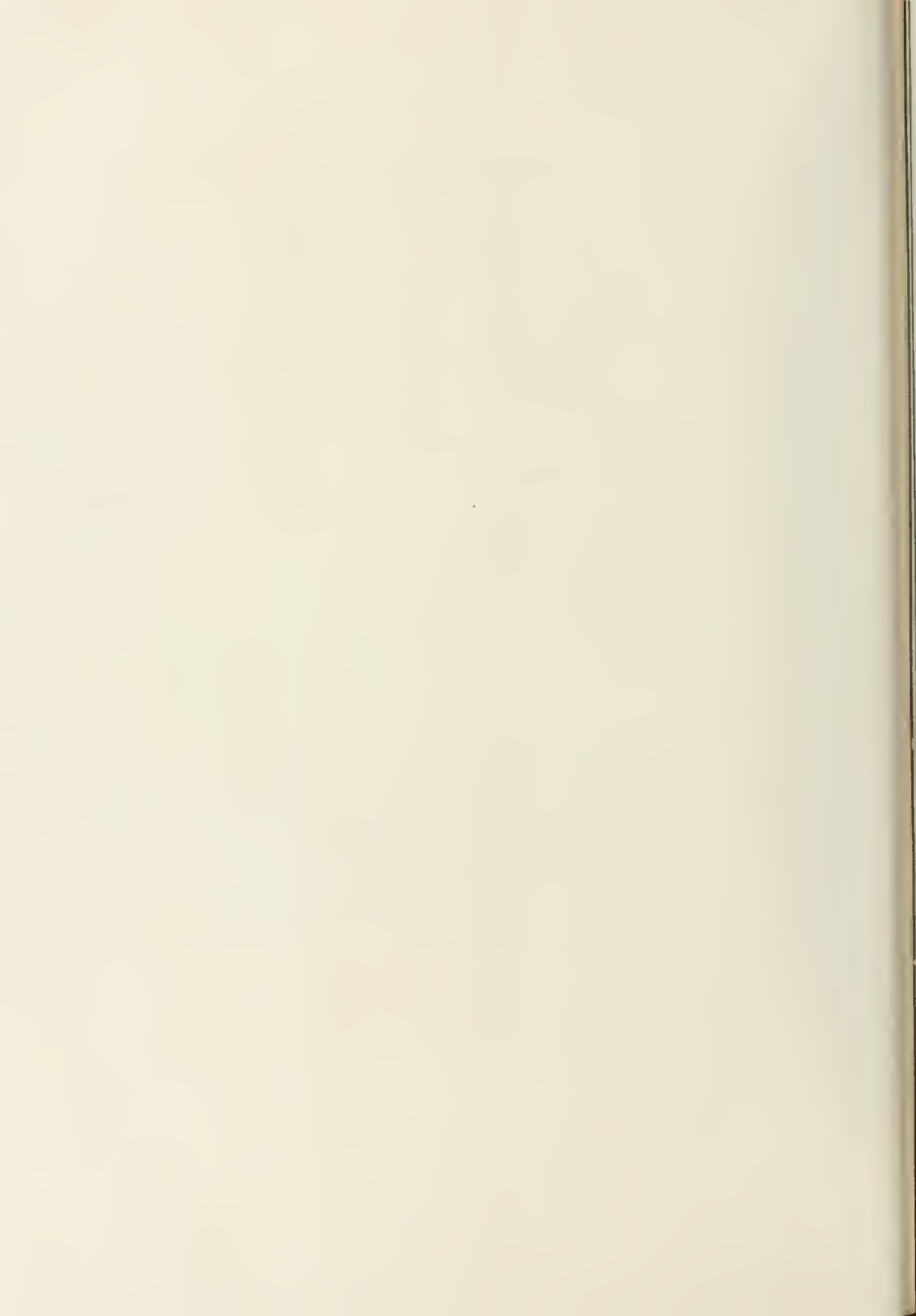


MANSFIELD-BOLLES HOUSE, SALEM, MASS
BUILT ABOUT 1795



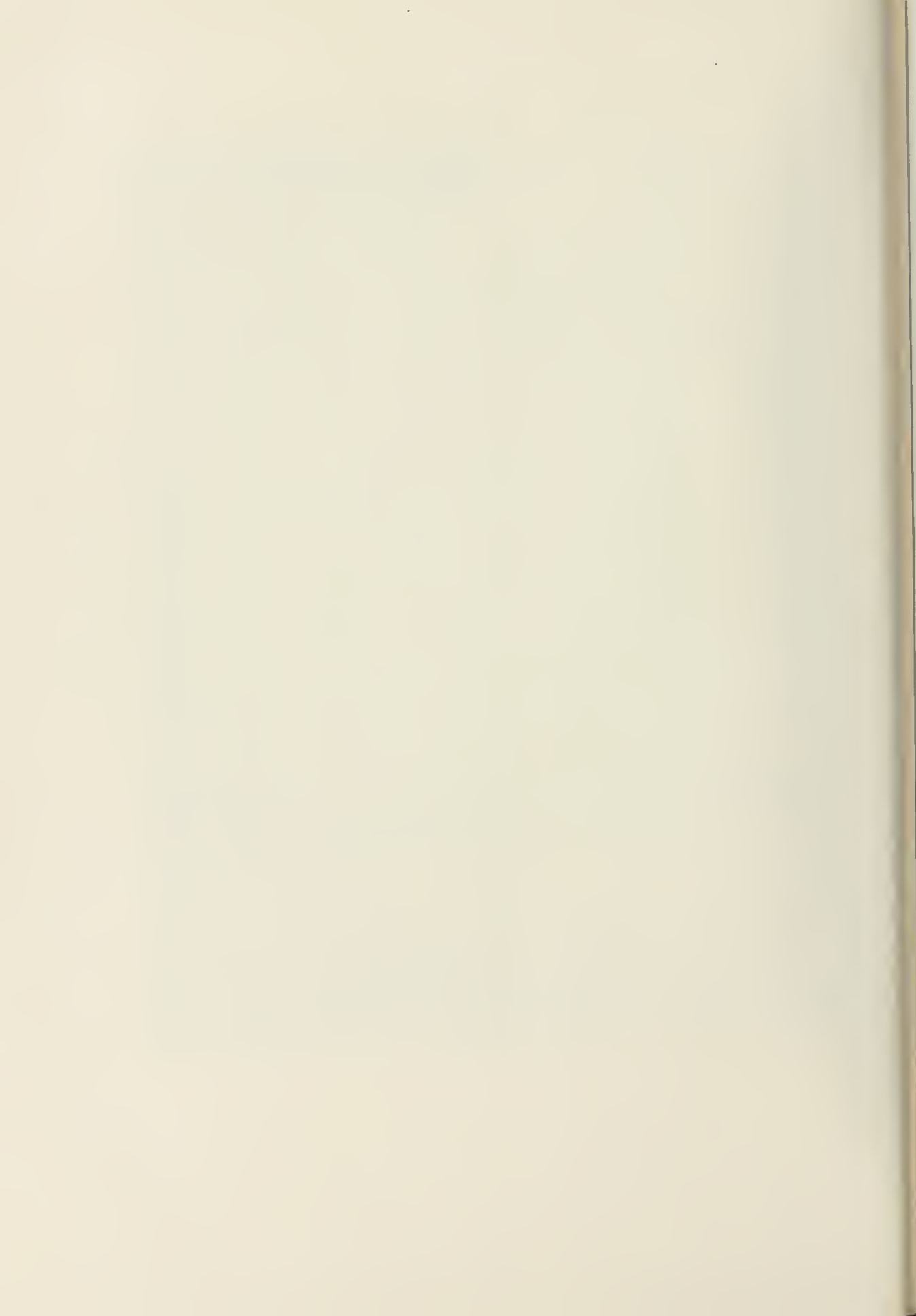


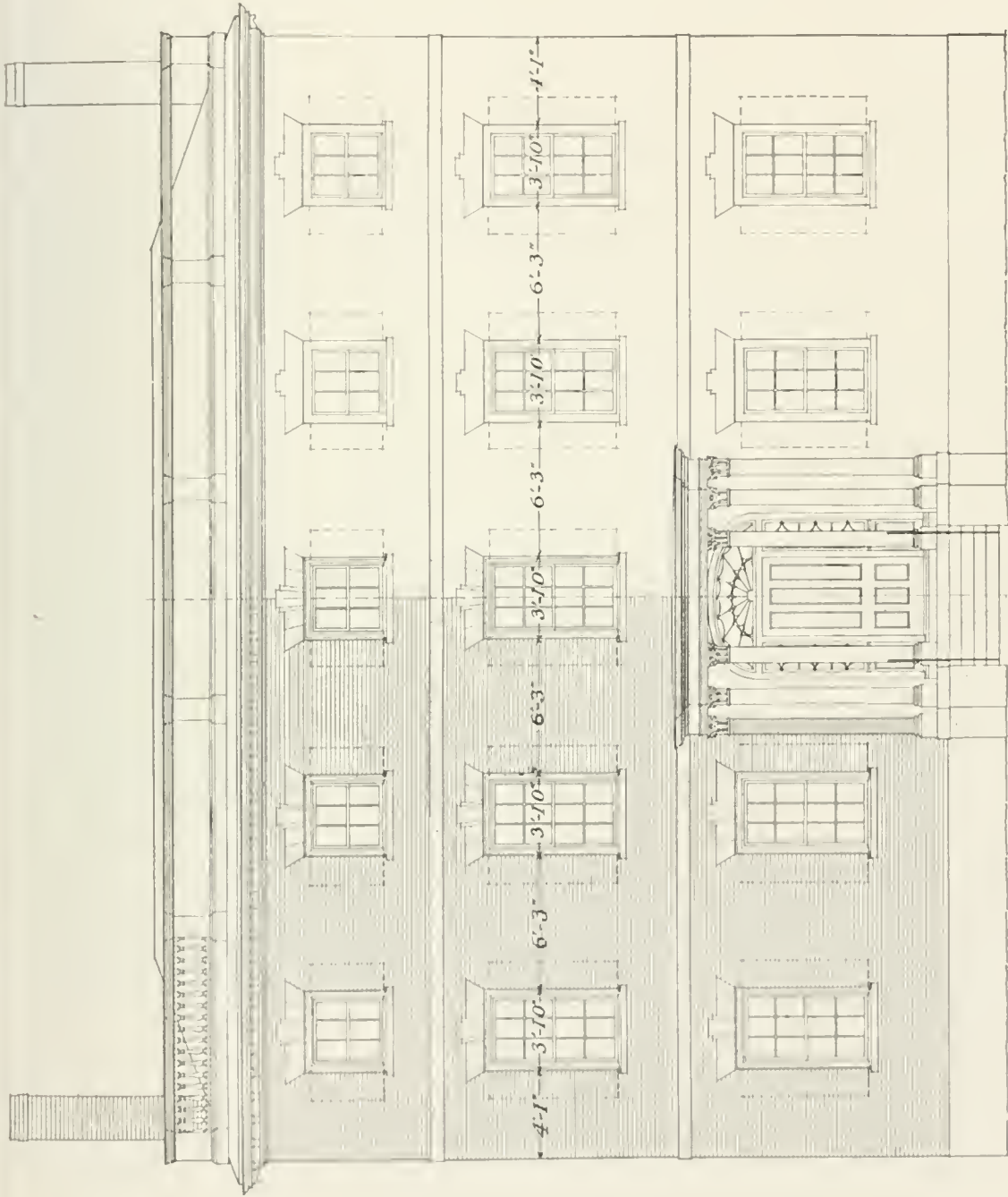
FRONT ELEVATION, MANSFIELD-BOLLES HOUSE, SALEM, MASS.
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GARDNER-WHITE-PINGREE HOUSE, SALEM, MASS.
BUILT ABOUT 1810. SAMUEL MCINTIRE, ARCHITECT





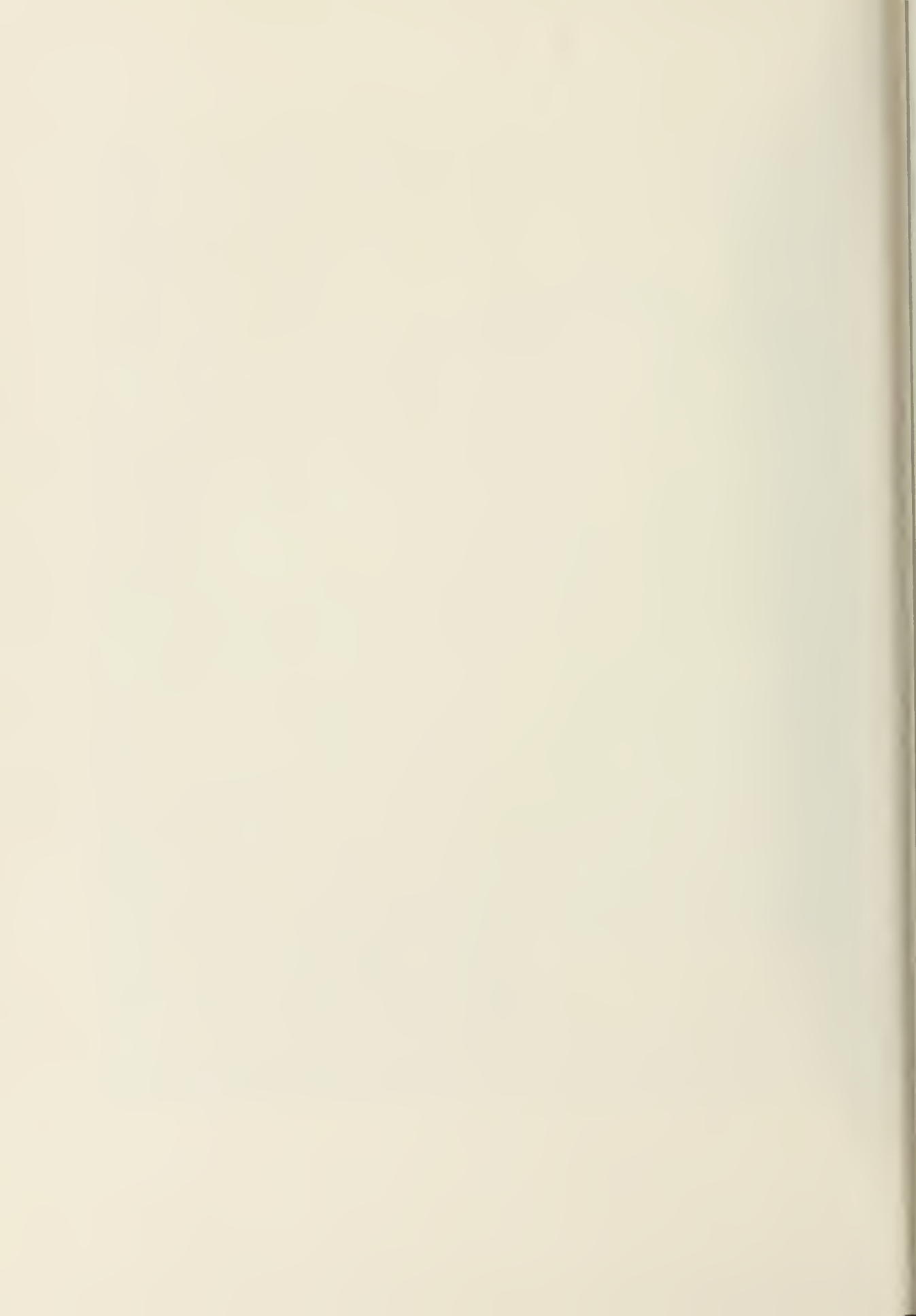
FRONT ELEVATION, GARDNER-WHITE-PINGREE HOUSE, SALEM, MASS.
SAMUEL MCINTIRE, ARCHITECT. MEASURED AND DRAWN BY GORDON ROBB

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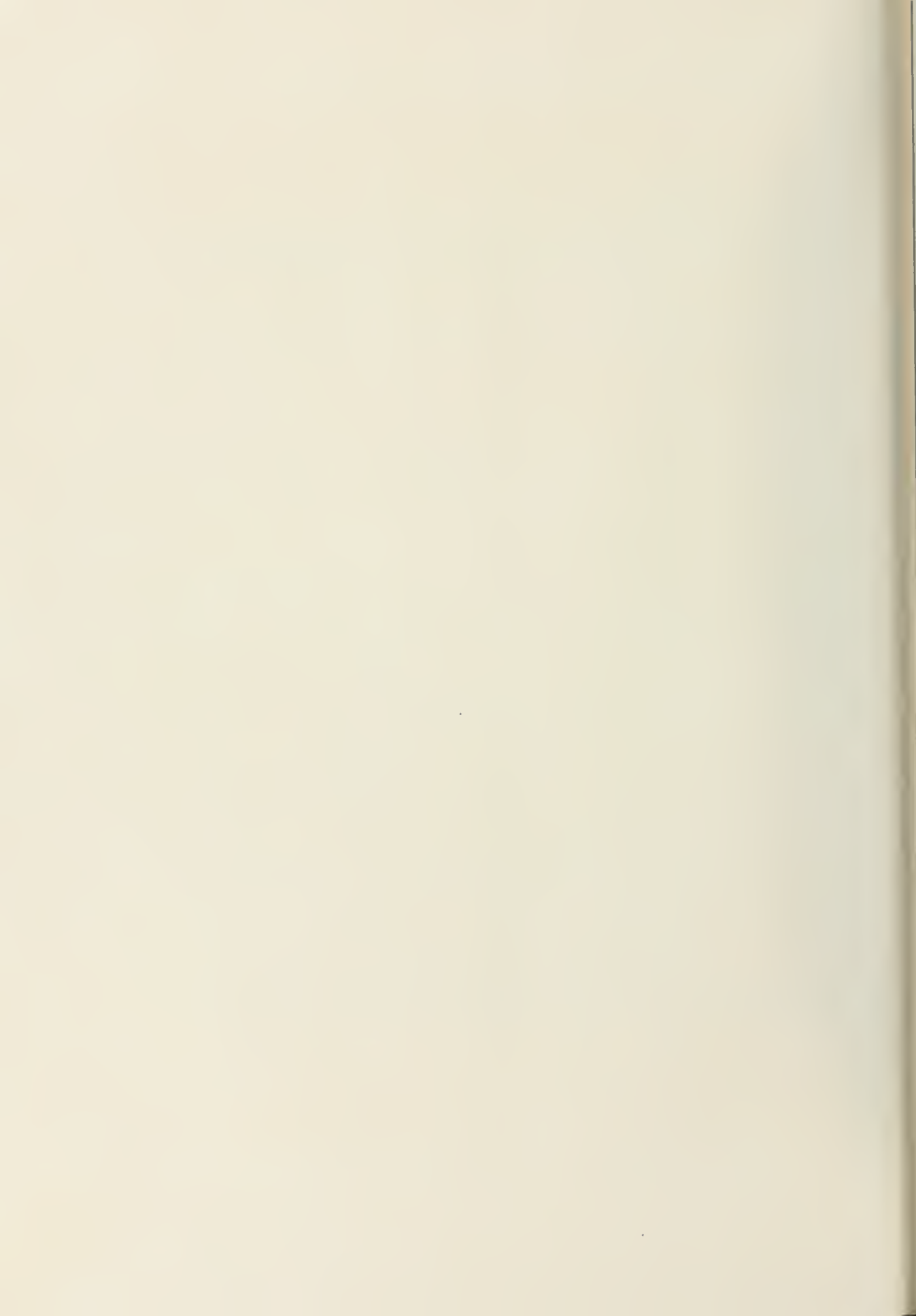


RICE HOUSE, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.
DATE UNKNOWN





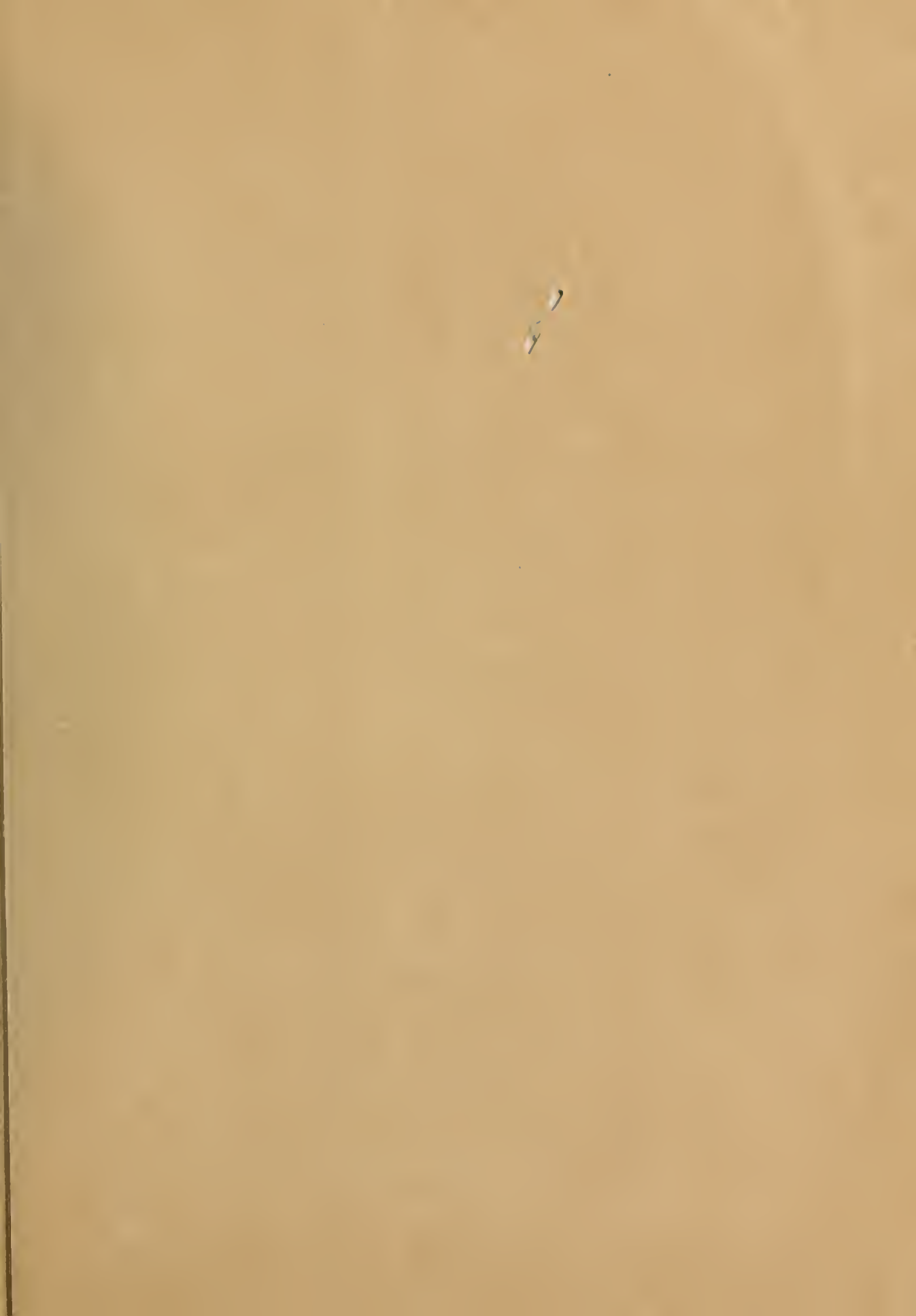
FRONT ELEVATION, RICE HOUSE, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.
MEASURED AND DRAWN BY GEORGE H. HIGGINS AND EDWIN J. HIPKISS
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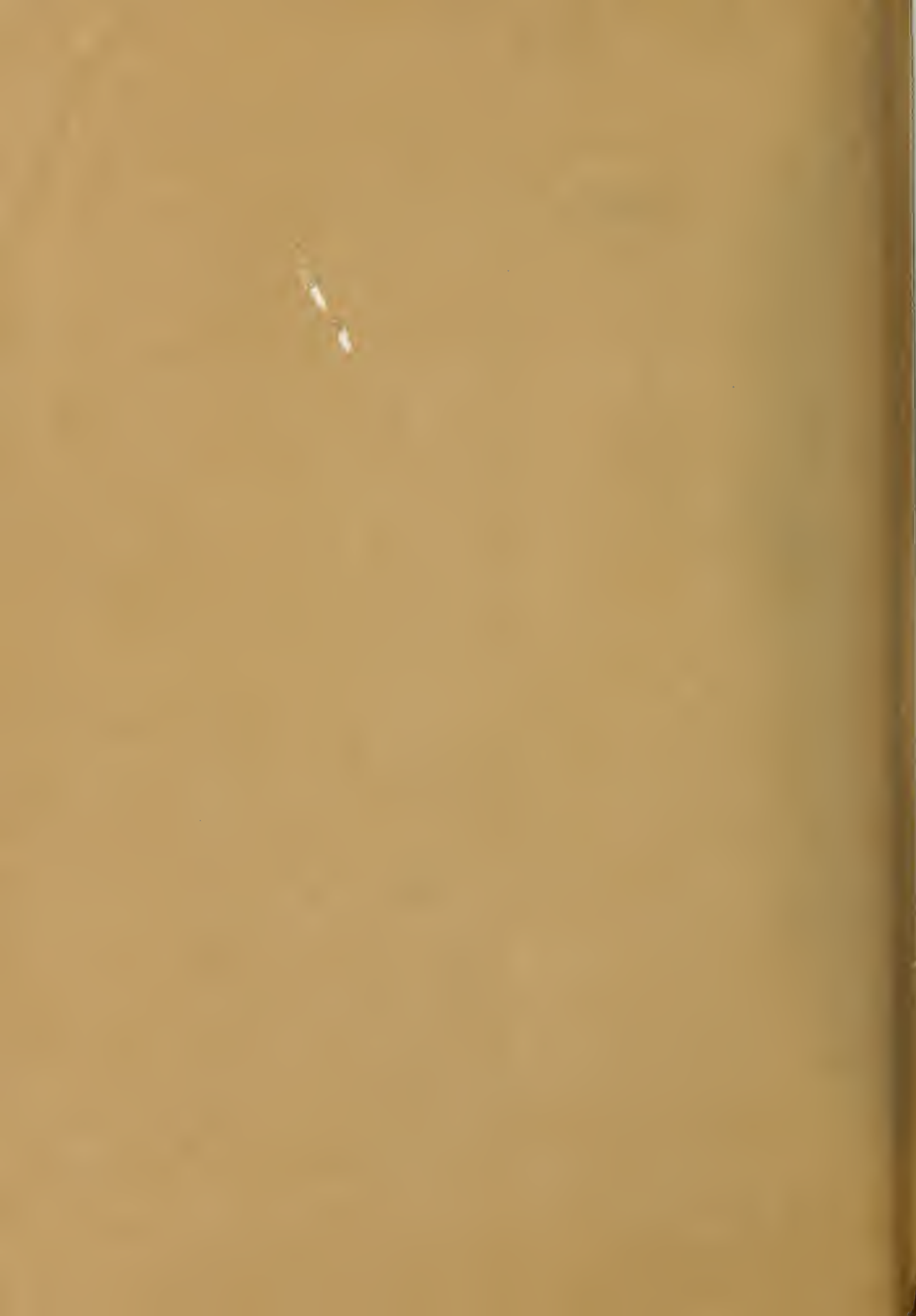




HENRY LADD HOUSE, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.
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