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The Village Beautiful



Kinderhook



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KINDERHOOK, N. Y., THE VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL

THE STORY OF TO-DAY



SOME five miles east of the Hudson River, in the heart of Columbia County, on a high rolling plateau overlooking the valley of the Hudson, nestles the village of Kinderhook. Nature has adorned the site with a lavish hand. Scenes more beautiful are rarely found in any region, for here God and man have striven together in all that combines to make a haven of rest amid the splendors of rural surroundings.

The village is bordered on every side with large productive farms, where modern methods prevail in cultivating the soil. The Kinderhook Creek, famed in song and story, flows along its eastern border from its source in the Taconic Mountains on its winding way to where it empties into the majestic Hudson.

The streets are wide and well laid, overarched by the lordly elm and stately maple. In the center of the village a triangular granite-bordered park adds to the attractiveness of the business section of the community.

Here the main state roads diverge east and west from the Berkshire Hills to the Catskill Mountains, and north and south from Albany to New York. Touring parties in their autos from all over the Empire state pass through the village on their journey to and fro.

Bordering the main streets, concrete sidewalks extend in every direction, and electric arc and incan-

descent lights dispell the gloom of night. The air of modern progress, combined with rustic charm, is a pleasure to all.

The third rail electric system of the New York and Southern Railroad Company connects with the village and its adjoining hamlets. The line to Albany and Hudson, covering an hour's ride to the Capitol City and thirty minutes to Hudson, is at either end with the Boston and Albany, the New York Central, and other trunk lines which traverse the state.

Village life in Kinderhook leaves nothing to be desired. With a population of one thousand, its people enjoy all the social advantages of a large part of an aristocratic community, where the luxuries and fumes of industrial plants are lacking.

The Lindenwald Grange Hall, formerly the Kinderhook Academy, serves as a meeting place for recreation and lecture auditorium for the town or more members of the Grange.

The Village Hall, besides being the headquarters of the Fire Department, which is one of the best in the state, also serves as a place for social entertainment.

Religious worship is a conspicuous feature of village life. The different churches having a larger attendance than those in many communities of similar population. The various denominations are the Dutch Reformed, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, and A. M. E.

The Kinderhook High School among rural institutions ranks with the best in the state, and is housed in a well constructed building, and is devoted not only to the higher education of the children of the village but of the surrounding farms.

Kinderhook Chapter, No. 264, R. A. M., was organized February 22, 1872, and is one of the largest organizations of Masons in the county. It is comfortably quartered in the Lindenwald Hotel, and here the local chapter Eda, of the Eastern Star, also maintains its quarters.

Three hotels for the accommodation of tourists and commercial travelers add to the bustle of the village.

The National Union Bank organized in 1853 has a capital of two hundred thousand dollars, serves Kinderhook and many of the adjoining villages, and the neighboring territory in a financial way.

The Kinderhook Knitting Company, which occupies a modern electrically equipped three story

brick building on the village square, produces the highest grade of knit goods which find a market throughout the entire country. Textile manufacturing gives employment to many who prefer an industry to the tilling of the soil.

Telephone and telegraph service cover the village and farms and the general trade street is up-to-date in every respect.

There has lately been completed the modern fireproof garage between Albany and Kinderhook, capable of housing thirty machines, with an expert repair department attached.

So Kinderhook, charms the tourist as well as of to-day. And as in the days of old, it has the heartstrings of those who have gone before, it maintains a warm spot in the hearts of those who leave its borders now, and follow pursuit.

WILL

KINDERHOOK --- THE CHILDREN'S CORNER THE STORY OF YESTERDAY



SEVERAL STONES, according to our Shakespeare, are sometimes found in stones; and so we turn to the houses and streets of our towns and villages to learn the story of the days of long ago.

The founding of Kinderhook harks back to the early days of the settlement of New Amsterdam by the Dutch. Perhaps it was in the generation following the discovery by Hendrick Hudson in 1609 of the river that now bears his name.

The word "Kinderhook" signifies in the Dutch tongue "The Children's Corner" and is supposed to have been applied to this locality by Hendrick Hudson himself on account of the many Indian children, who had assembled on the bluffs along the river to watch his strange vessel sailing up the stream.

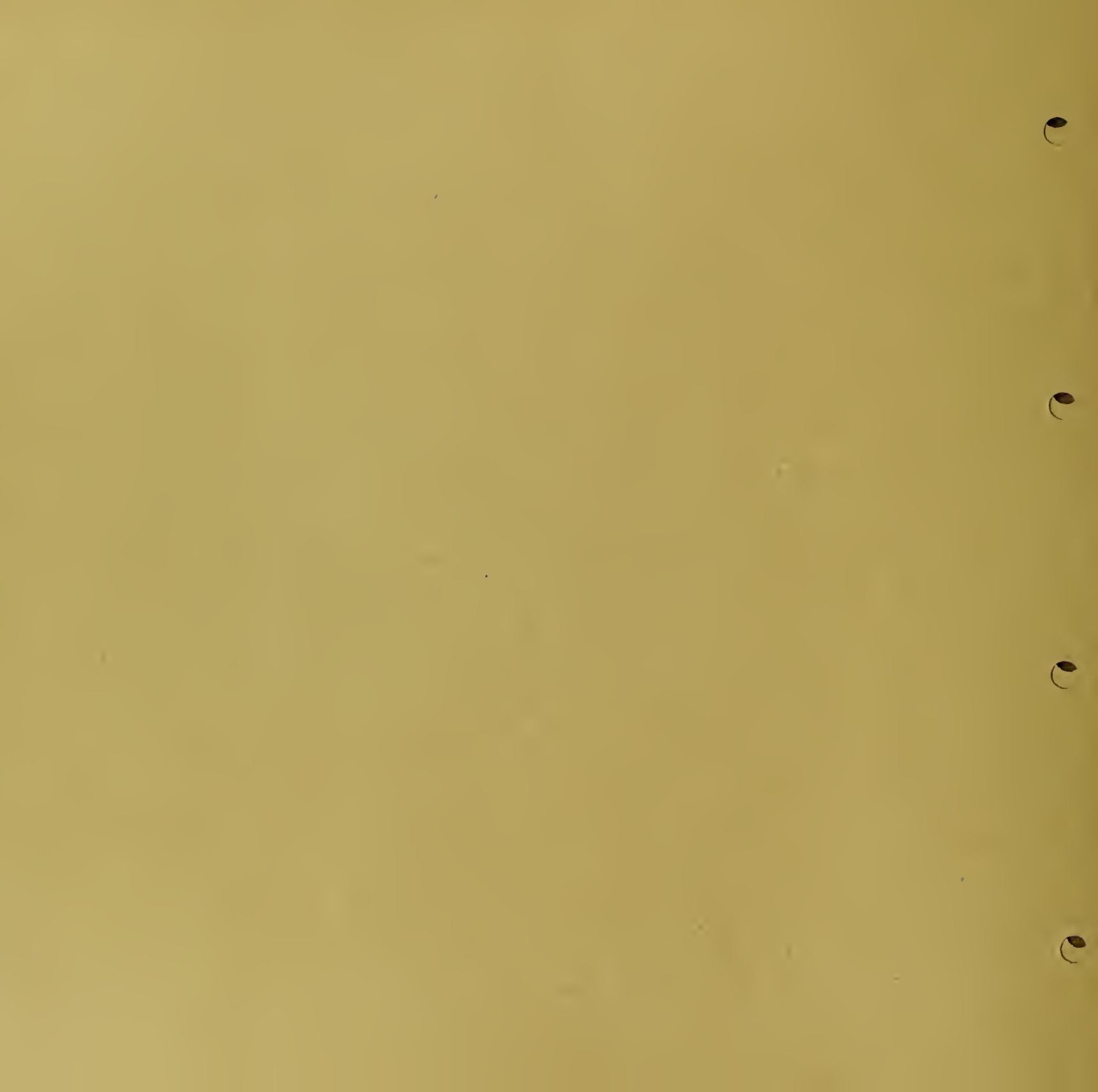
However, the name of Kinderhook appears on a map of New Netherland as early as 1614. In 1656 a traveler

from Holland wrote of Kinderhook as being one of the principal settlements along the Hudson.

The settlers who were mostly Hollanders and Swedes, built their houses along the river front along the banks of the Stockport, Kinderhook and Creeks.

In its early days Kinderhook embraced all the territory between the Stockport and the Hudson, and had at that time about double its present area, some twenty thousand eight hundred acres. It was about double its width, and extends from the Hudson about eight miles.

Previous to the settlement of the territory by the Dutch, a man, presumably about 1640, the country was occupied by a tribe of the Mohican Indians, under a chief who possessed the entire tract, inclusive of the present village site.



Owing to many adversities the settlement grew but slowly. In 1714 its population including children and slaves, numbered in all about 325 souls.

Shortly after this period some of the houses still standing in the village were built, with huge oaken timbers hewn from the forest on the premises and of brick brought from Holland. The two earliest of these bear the dates, 1721 and 1737.

The Dutch church traces its history as far back as 1660. For fifty years thereafter a pastor from Albany held irregular services there.

In 1712 the church was formally organized, and the first permanent structure built about 1730. In 1813-15 the second structure was built on the site of that now occupied. This building was destroyed by fire in 1867, and reconstructed in 1869. The Methodist church was organized in 1843, and a meeting house built in 1844. In 1871 the present church was dedicated. St. Paul's Episcopal church was organized in 1850. Its building dedicated in 1852, was remodeled and enlarged in 1872. The Bethel A. M. E. Church was organized in 1851.

The first school master in Kinderhook was Hendrick Abelsen. He combined with his duties the office of church precentor, and the term of his service was some time previous to 1700. In 1778 Andrew Mayfield Carshore opened an English school, which later became the Kinderhook Academy. In 1823 a new building was erected, which later became inadequate, and a larger one was built in 1836, which is now used as the Grange Hall. The present Grammar and High School was built in 1877.

The history of the old houses of Kinderhook would fill many a page. The Centennial Mansion, built by David Van Schaack in 1774 entertained many men prominent in American history. In 1777 General Burgoyne passing through here as a prisoner of war, was entertained at the mansion. Later Aaron Burr was a guest. In Martin Van Buren's time, Henry Clay, Washington Irving, Thomas H. Benton, Silas Wright, William H. Marcy, Samuel Tilden, and many others, were visitors here.

The Van Alen Homestead near Lindenwald was built in 1737 and here was born the gifted Peter L. Van Alen, who was killed in a duel by William H. Crawford, afterwards Secretary of the Treasury under President Munroe. Here also lived Katrina Van Alen, the prototype of Katrina Van Tassel, the belle of Washington Irving's "Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Nearby stands the old white schoolhouse, on the very site of the school of Ichabod Crane, the original of whom in that tale was Jesse Mervin. It should be remembered that it was here, while Irving was a guest of Judge

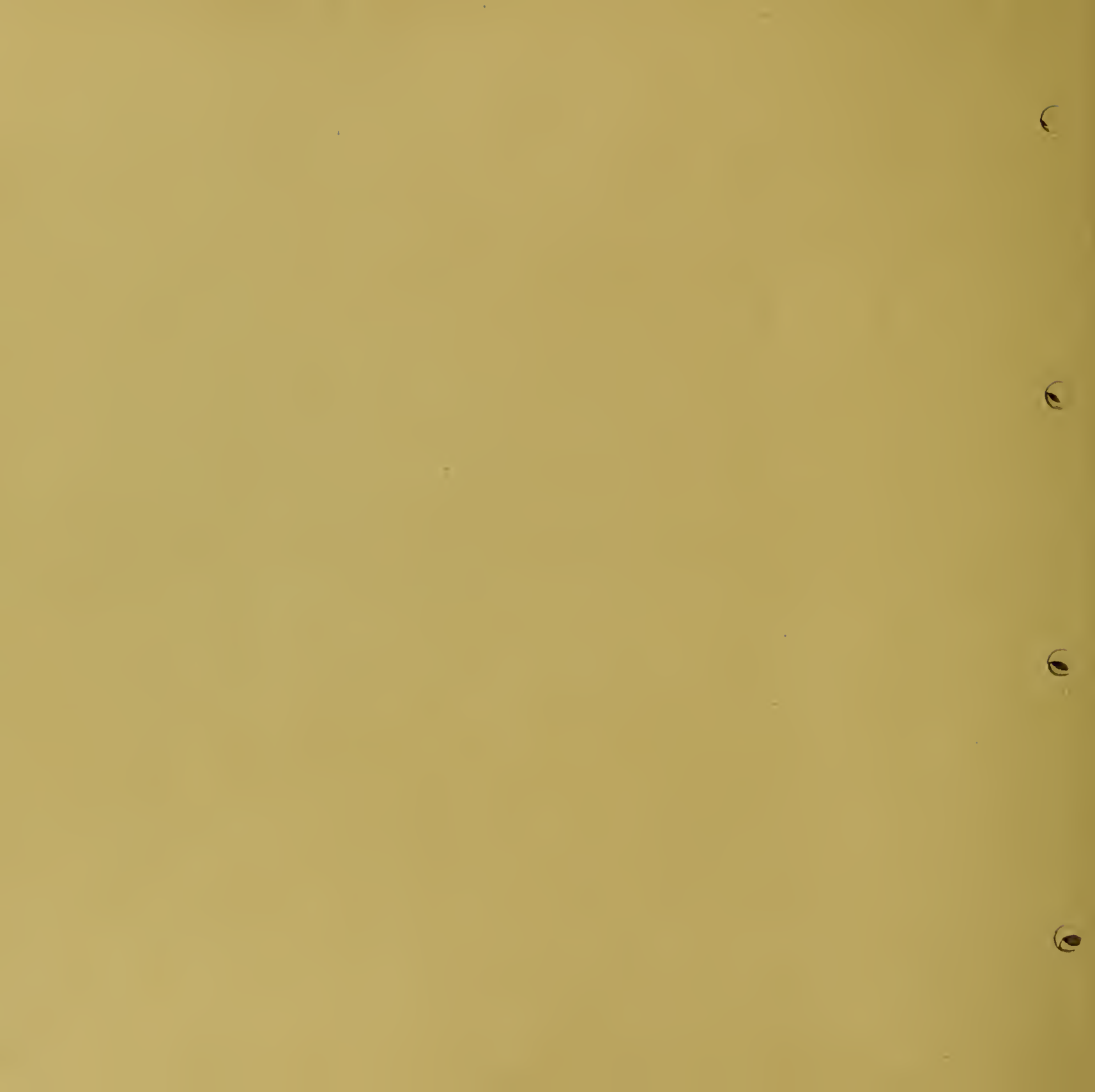
Van Ness at Lindenwald in 1809, he found the characters in that famous story.

Lindenwald Mansion was built in 1797 by Van Ness, who was an officer in the French war, and afterward a commander of the regiment at the battle of Red Bank in 1777. One of his sons, William P. Van Ness, succeeded him as master of the homestead, was a friend of Aaron Burr and was the bearer of the challenge and was also Burr's second at the duel with Hamilton.

Martin Van Buren, the eighth President of the United States, was born in Kinderhook, December 5, 1786. His rudely constructed house conducted in part as a school, stood on a knoll on the old Post road near the corner. The site of this house is embodied in another on the same site. Van Buren was the first American-born President. His predecessors were all born under the English flag and in Great Britain. He was also the first representative of the Empire State to occupy the White House. He was Vice-President nominated by a national convention. He held the same distinction in respect to the Presidency as more public offices of consequence than any other statesman. His years were freighted with distinction to his party and country. He was a strong character with gracious manners. The disciple of Jefferson, the friend of Jackson, the inspirer of Tilden. Van Buren holds a prominent place in the Democratic heart. When Van Buren retired from public life about 1841 he purchased a farm with its two hundred odd acres bordering on the Hudson, Judge William P. Van Ness, under whom he studied law in New York. Here he lived the life of a gentleman. The "Sage of Kinderhook," "The Fox," "The Little Magician" were some of the names he bore, and his home was the Mecca for many of the most prominent men of his day. At the age of eighty years of age he died at his home in Kinderhook, June 24, 1862, and rests in the village cemetery where a granite shaft marks the spot.

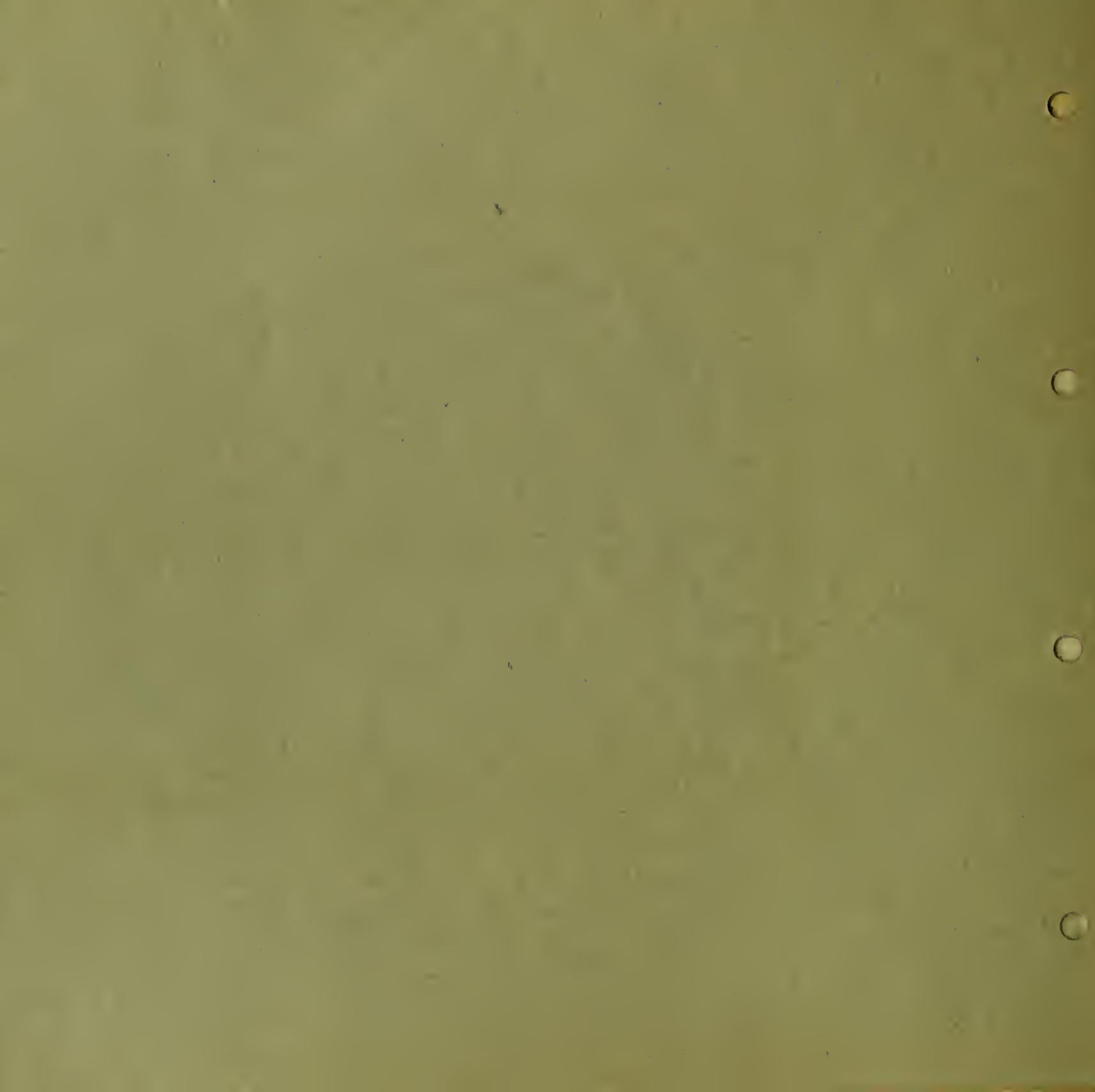
It is claimed that the town of Kinderhook has produced more public men than any other town in the country. Another special mention might be made of the late General John W. Philip, U. S. N., who was born in Kinderhook here, and for a long time resident of the village. His words when commanding the battleship Texas to the victory of Santiago, puts him by the side of the great knight, Sir Philip Sidney. Turning to his crew and the destruction of the Spanish cruiser Oquendo, he said: "Don't Cheer, Men—the Poor Devils Are Dying."

WILL





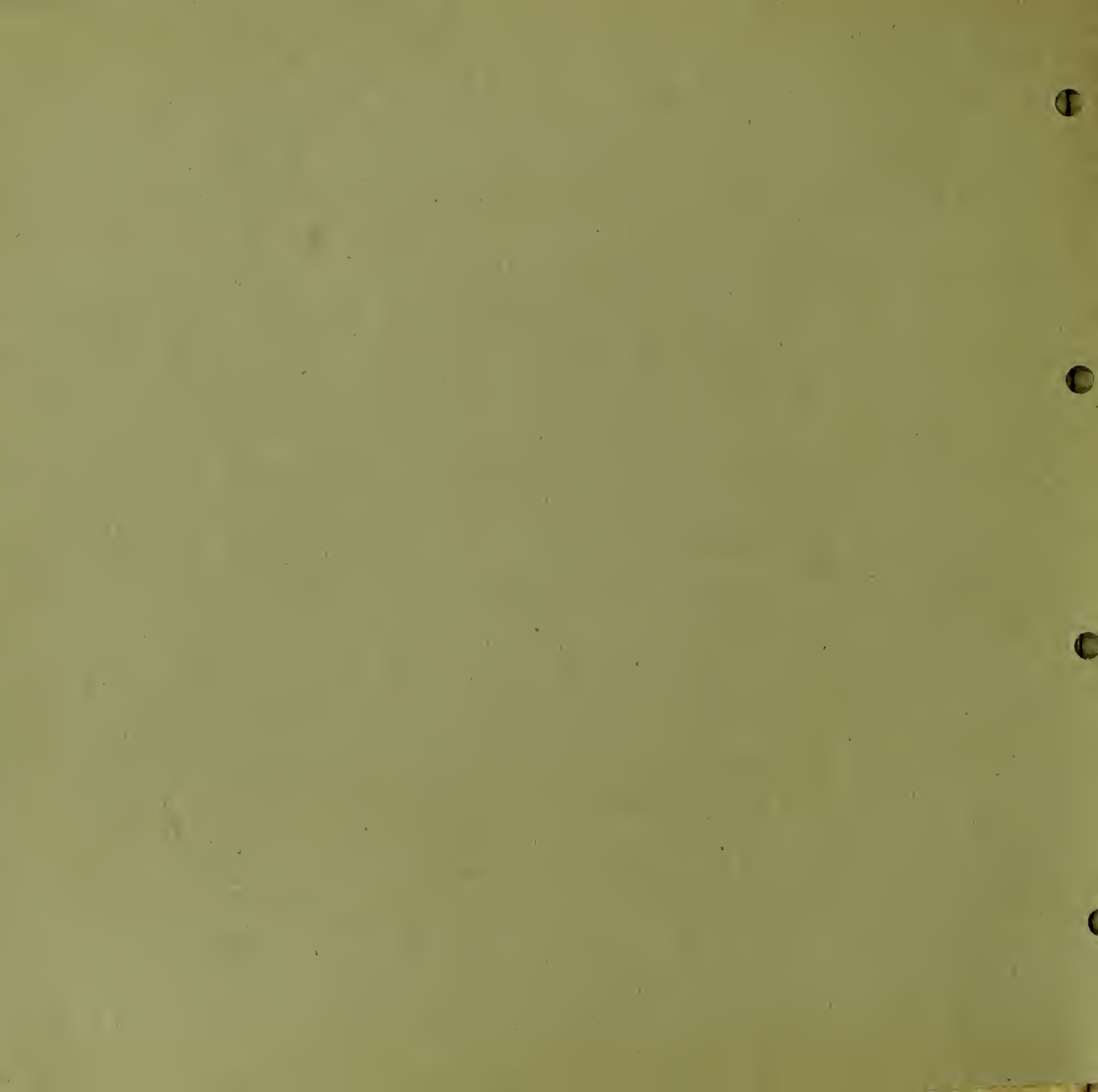
THE KINDERHOOK CREEK AND THE COVERED BRIDGES







THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS FROM LOVER'S LEAP, KINDERHOOK

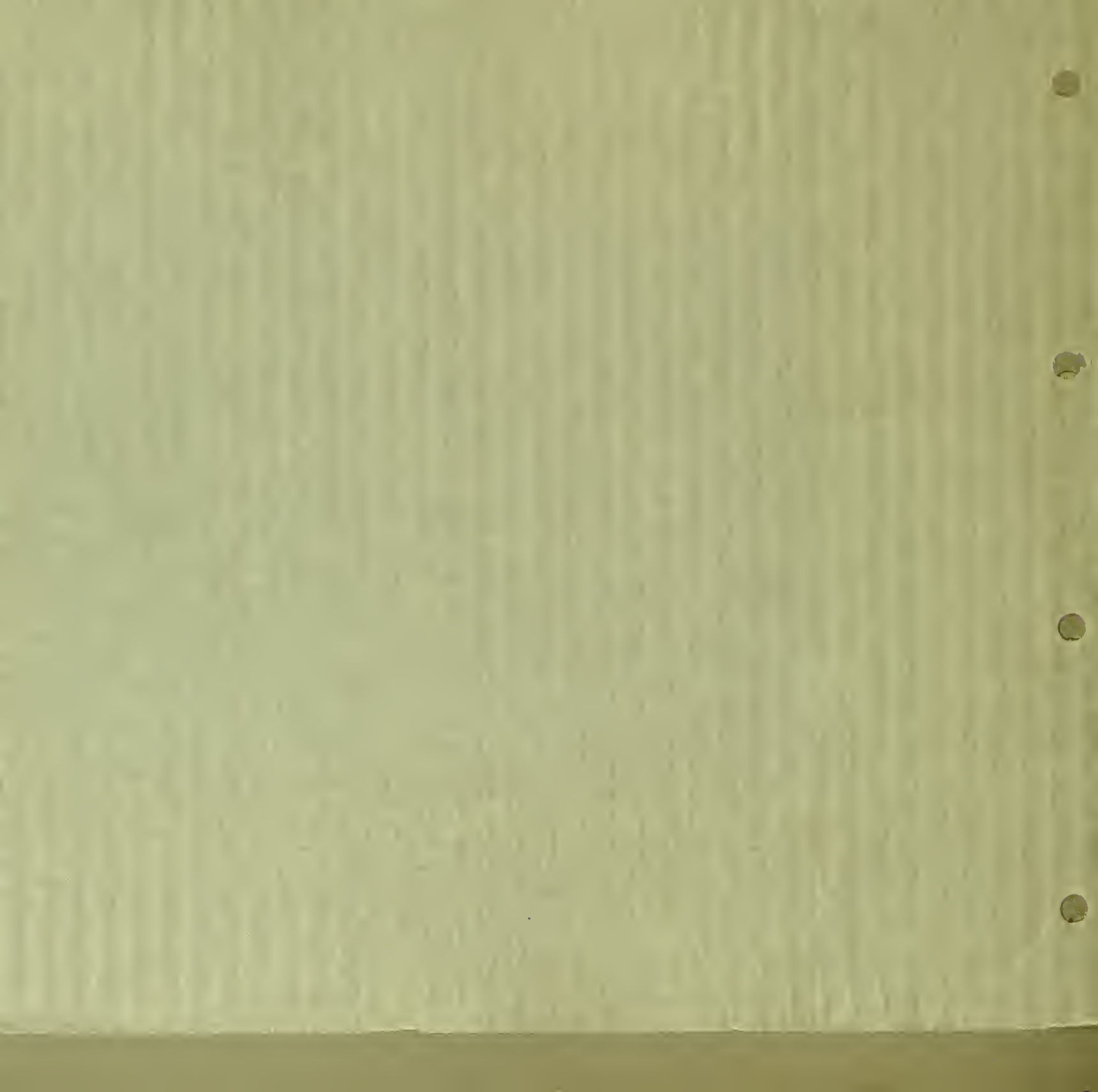






ACROSS THE VALLEY TO PROSPECT HILL

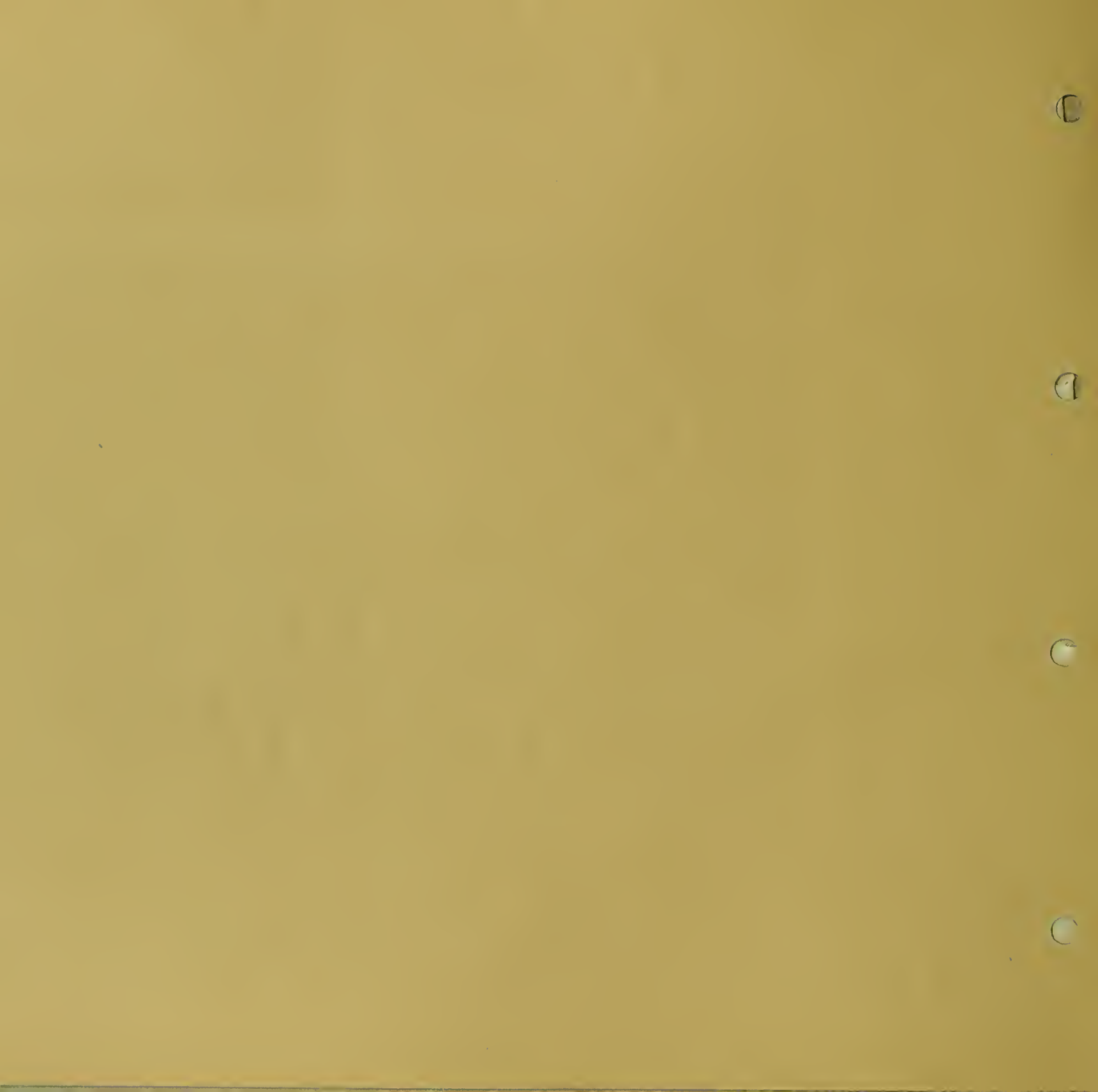


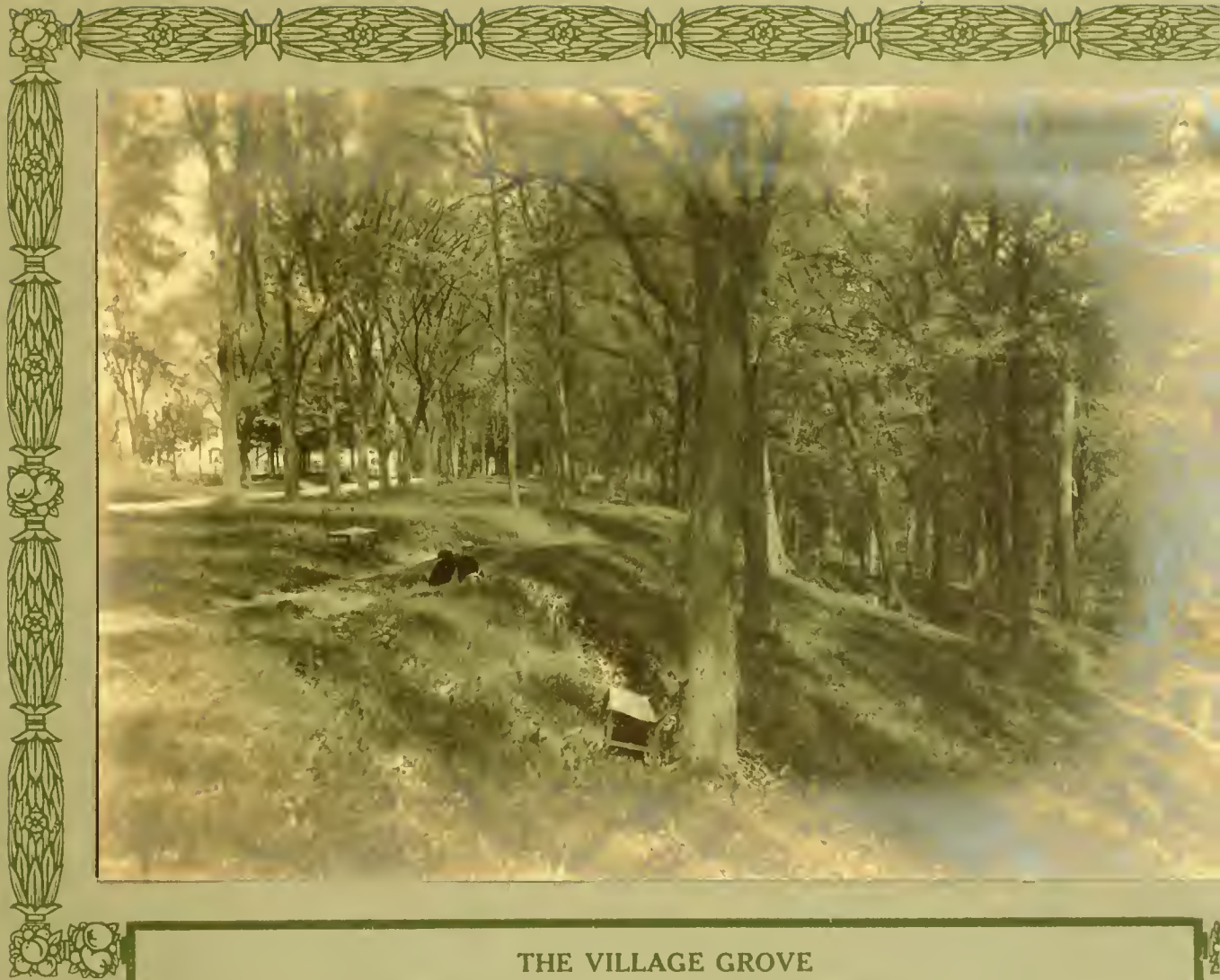




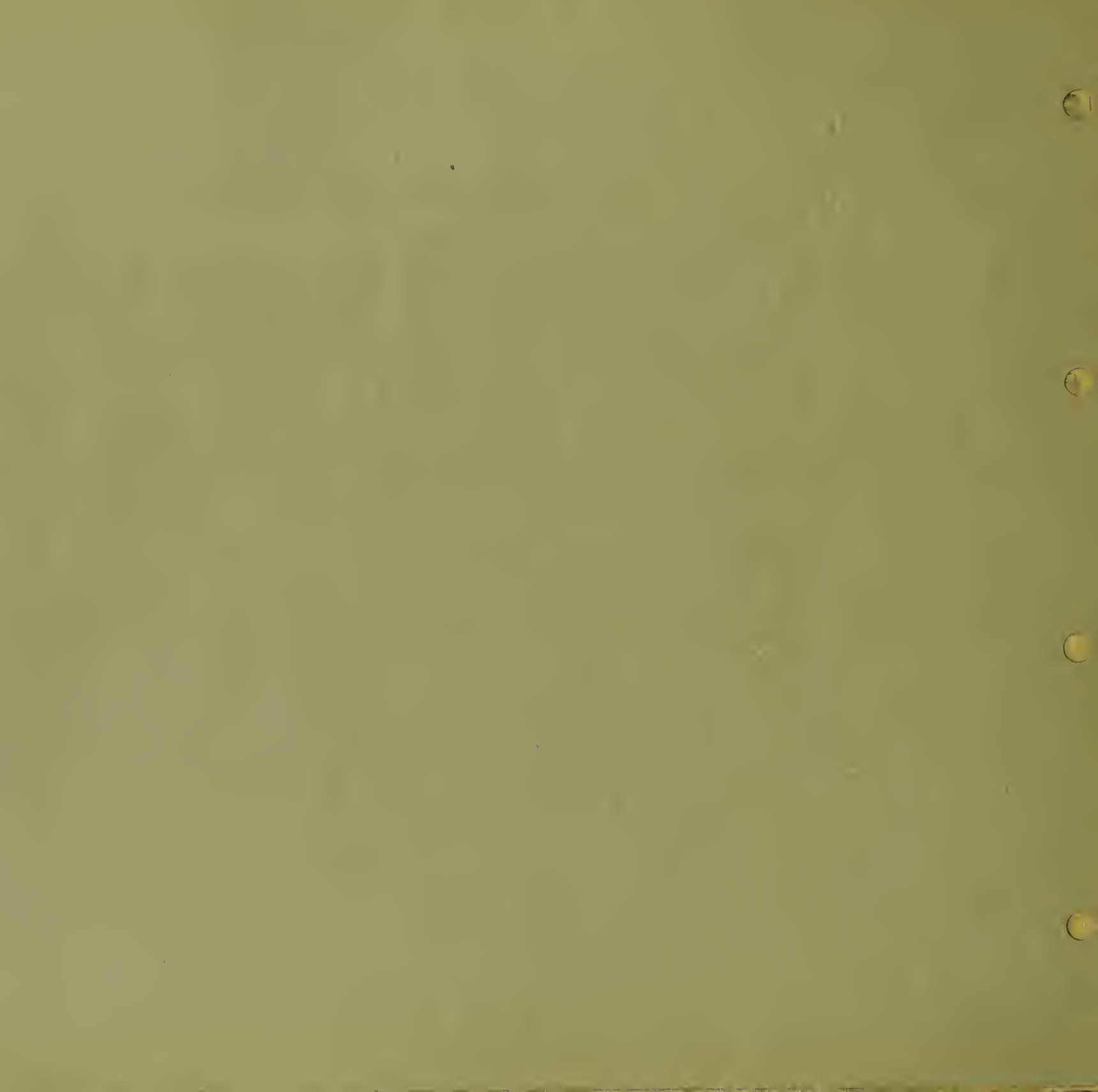
REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH





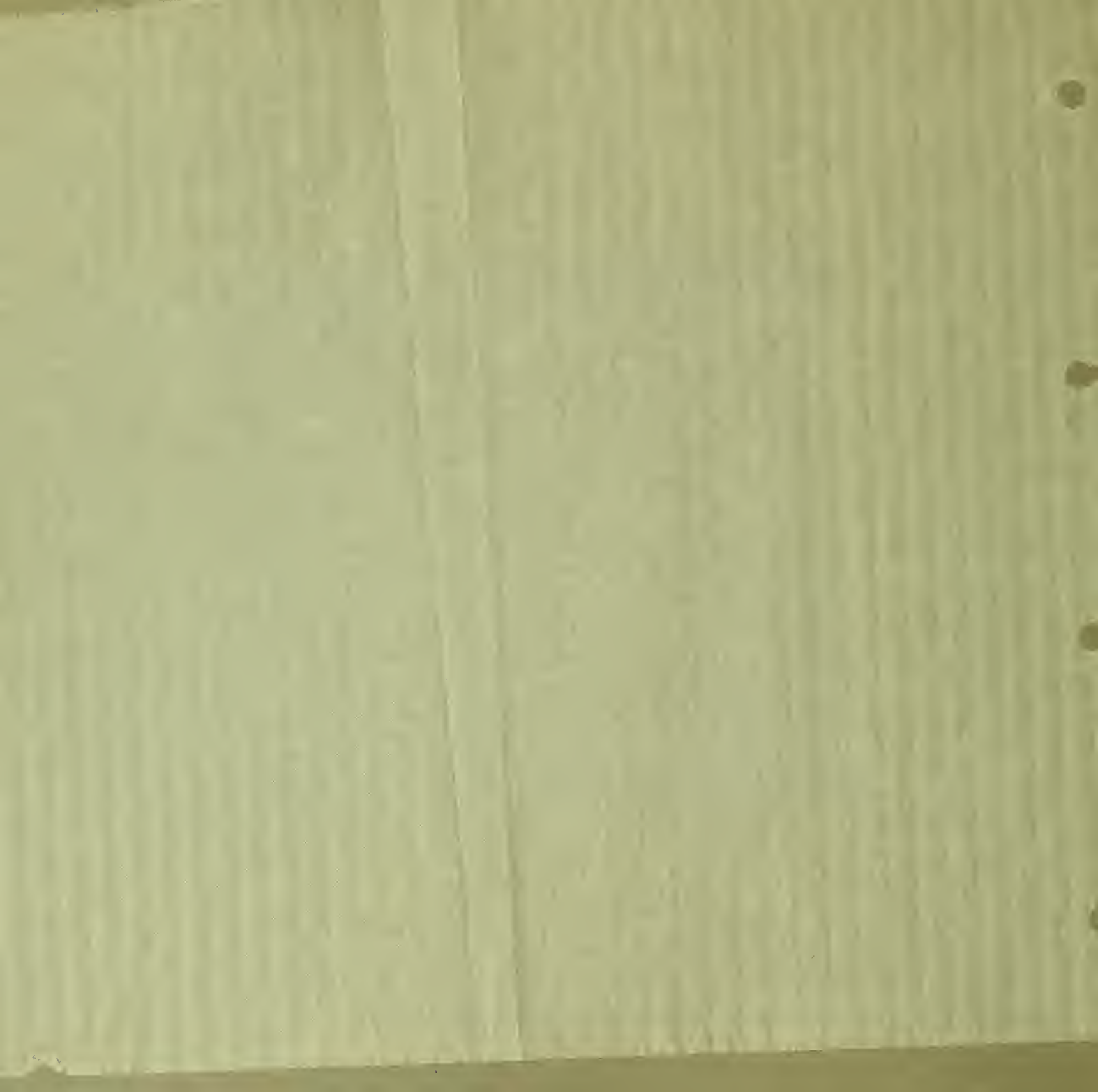
THE VILLAGE GROVE







THE VILLAGE SQUARE, LOOKING NORTH





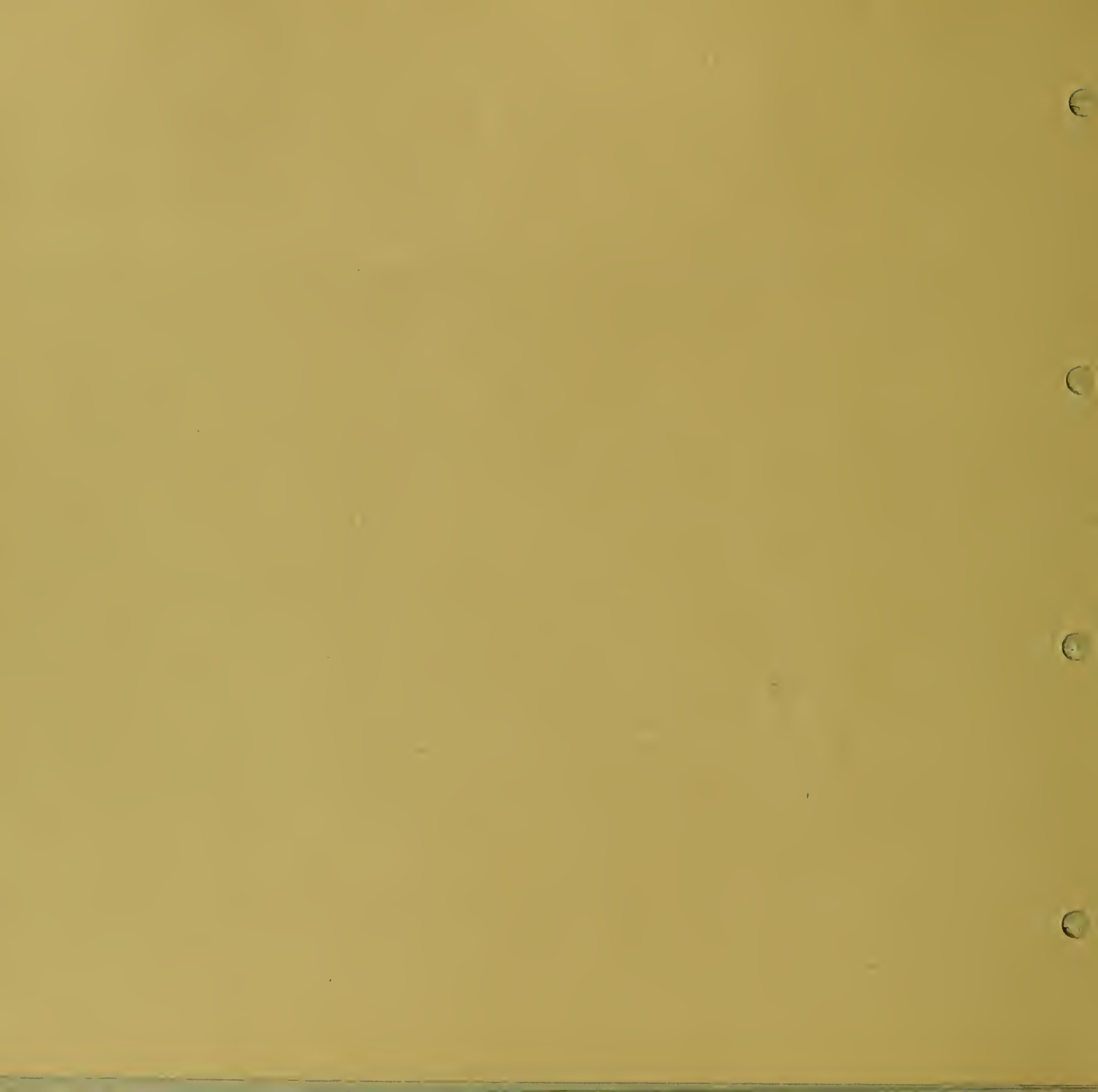
THE VILLAGE SQUARE, LOOKING SOUTH

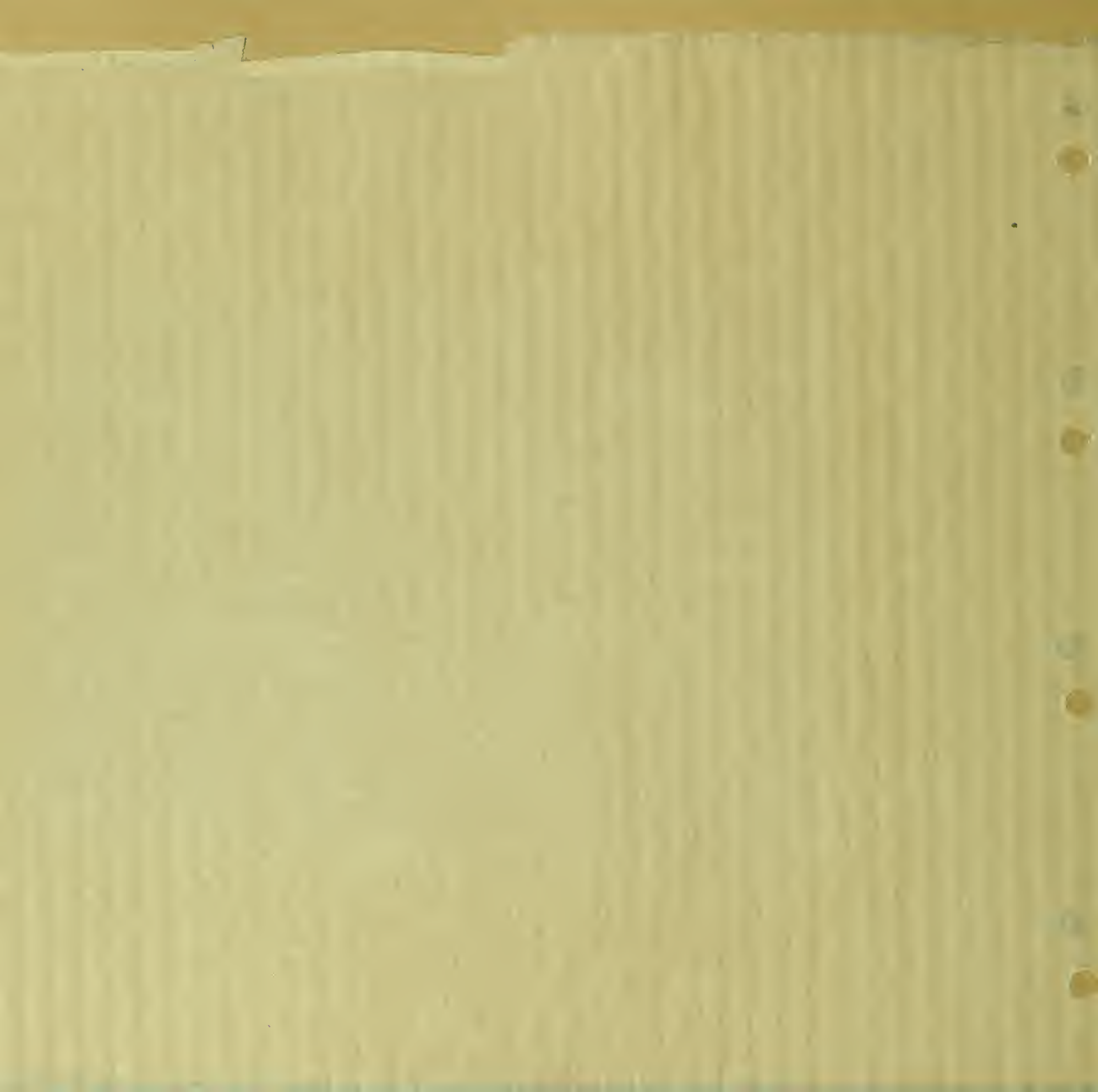




RESIDENCE OF MRS. GEORGE D. EARL
RESIDENCE OF MRS. AARON J. VANDERPOEL

RESIDENCE OF LEWIS L. MORRELL
RESIDENCE OF HON. CHAS. D. HAINES



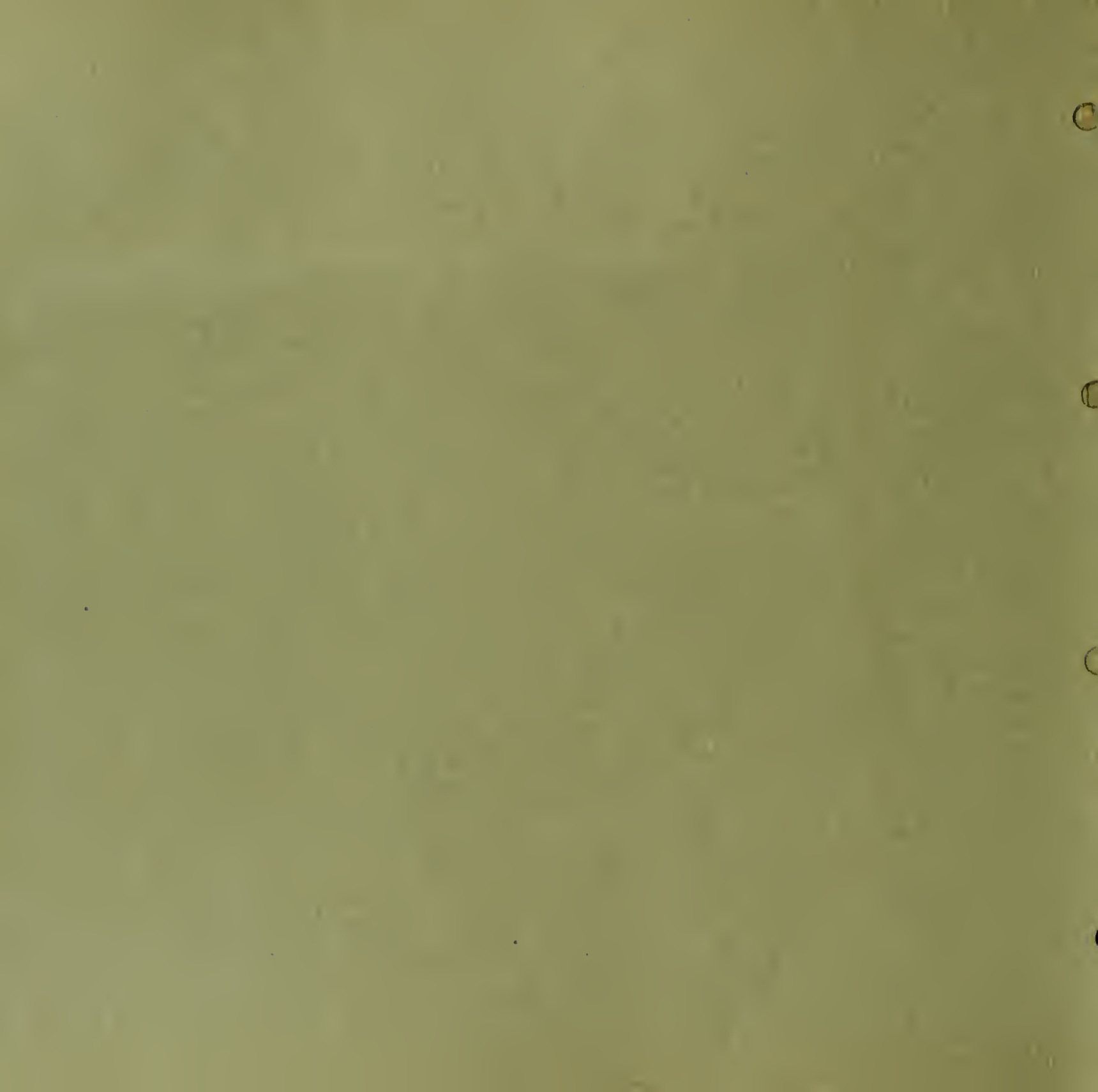


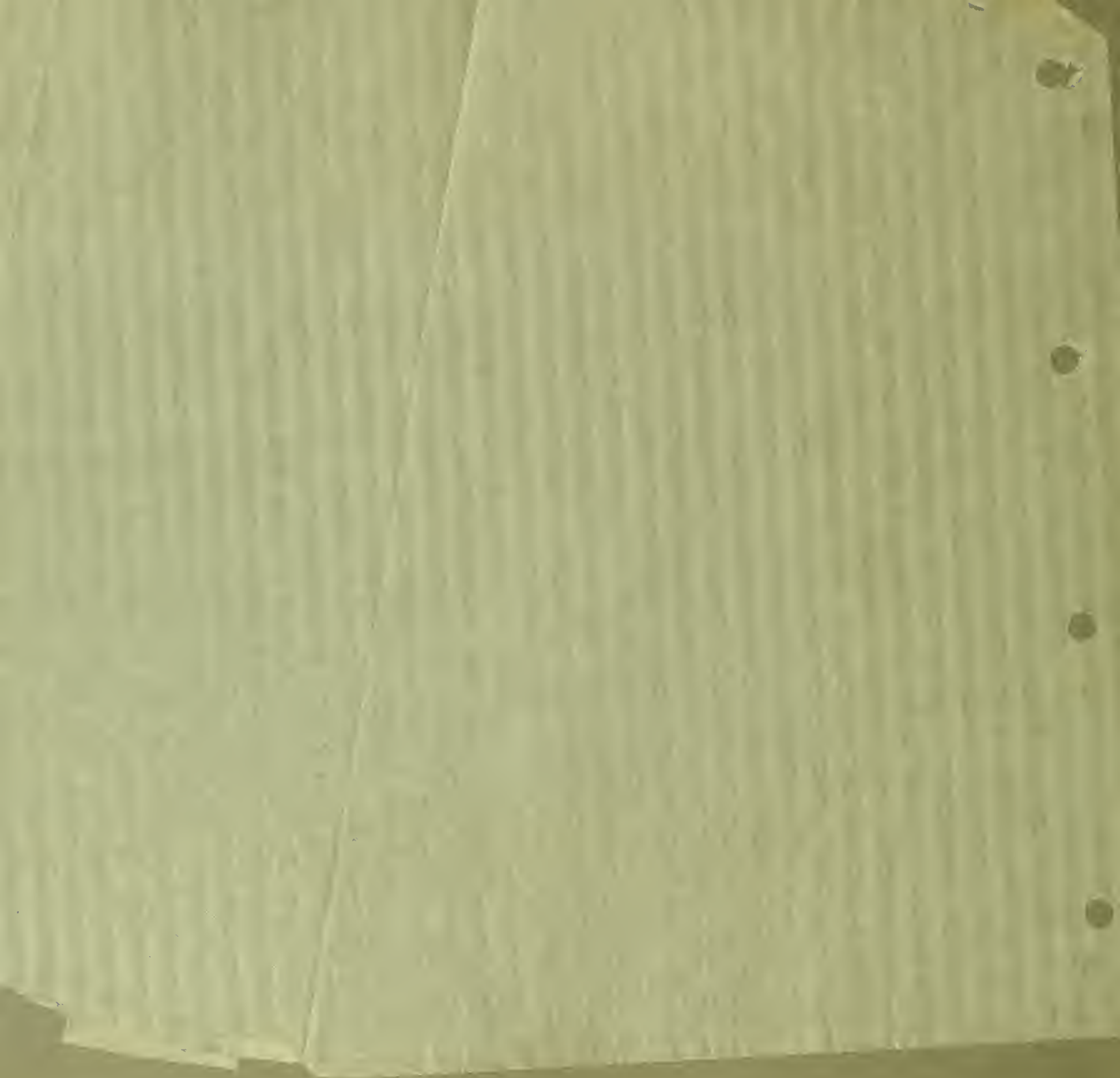


BROAD STREET, LOOKING WEST FROM THE SQUARE



"LINDENWALD" THE HOME OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
Built by Judge Peter Van Ness in 1797







MARTIN VAN BUREN

EIGHTH PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES

Was elected United States Senator; Governor of New York 1828, Secretary of State under President Jackson; Minister to England; Vice-President with Jackson, second term. President one term, 1837-'41. Born at Kinderhook, N. Y., December 5, 1782. Died at "Lindenwald," his home at Kinderhook, July 24, 1862, aged 79 years.

The accompanying photograph was taken a few years before his death.

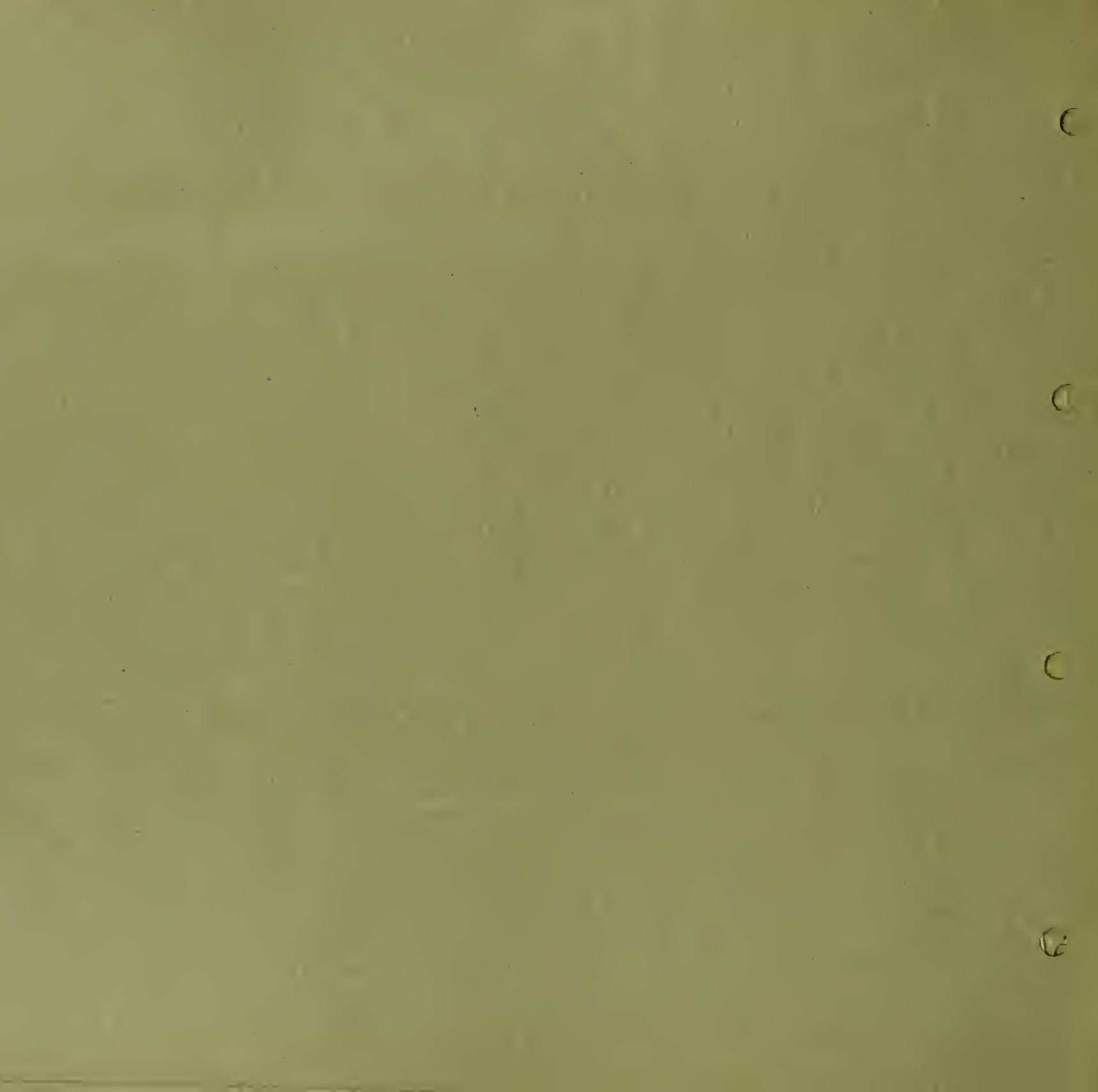


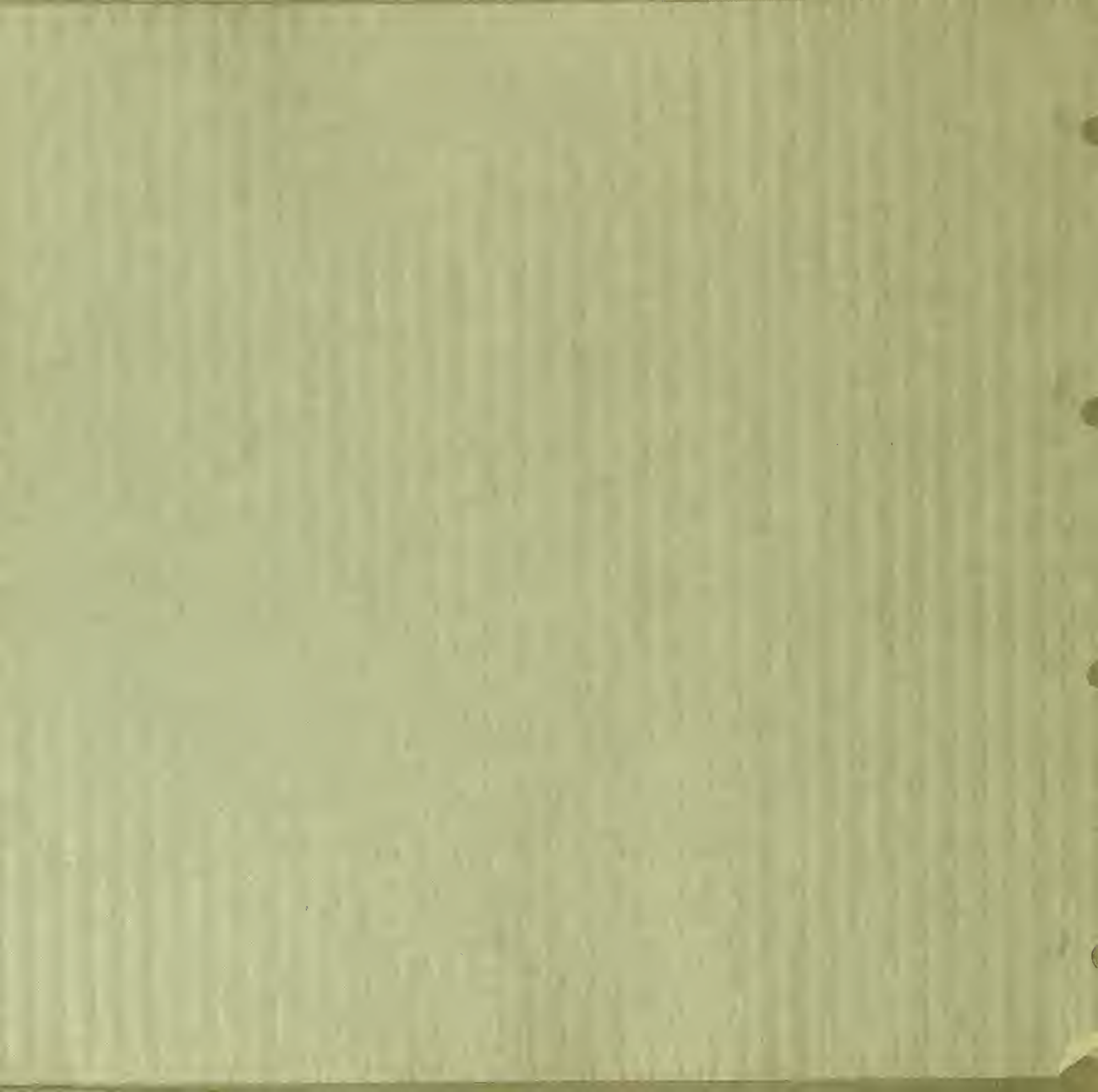
Birthplace of President Van Buren, Kinderhook.



PORTRAIT OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
THE HOUSE IN WHICH HE WAS BORN

HIS MONUMENT IN THE VILLAGE CEMETERY
THE PLACE AS IT IS TODAY







RESIDENCE OF JAMES ADGER REYNOLDS
RESIDENCE OF FRANK B. VAN ALSTYNE

RESIDENCE OF GERRIT S. COLLIER
RESIDENCE OF MRS. BARENT VAN ALSTYNE



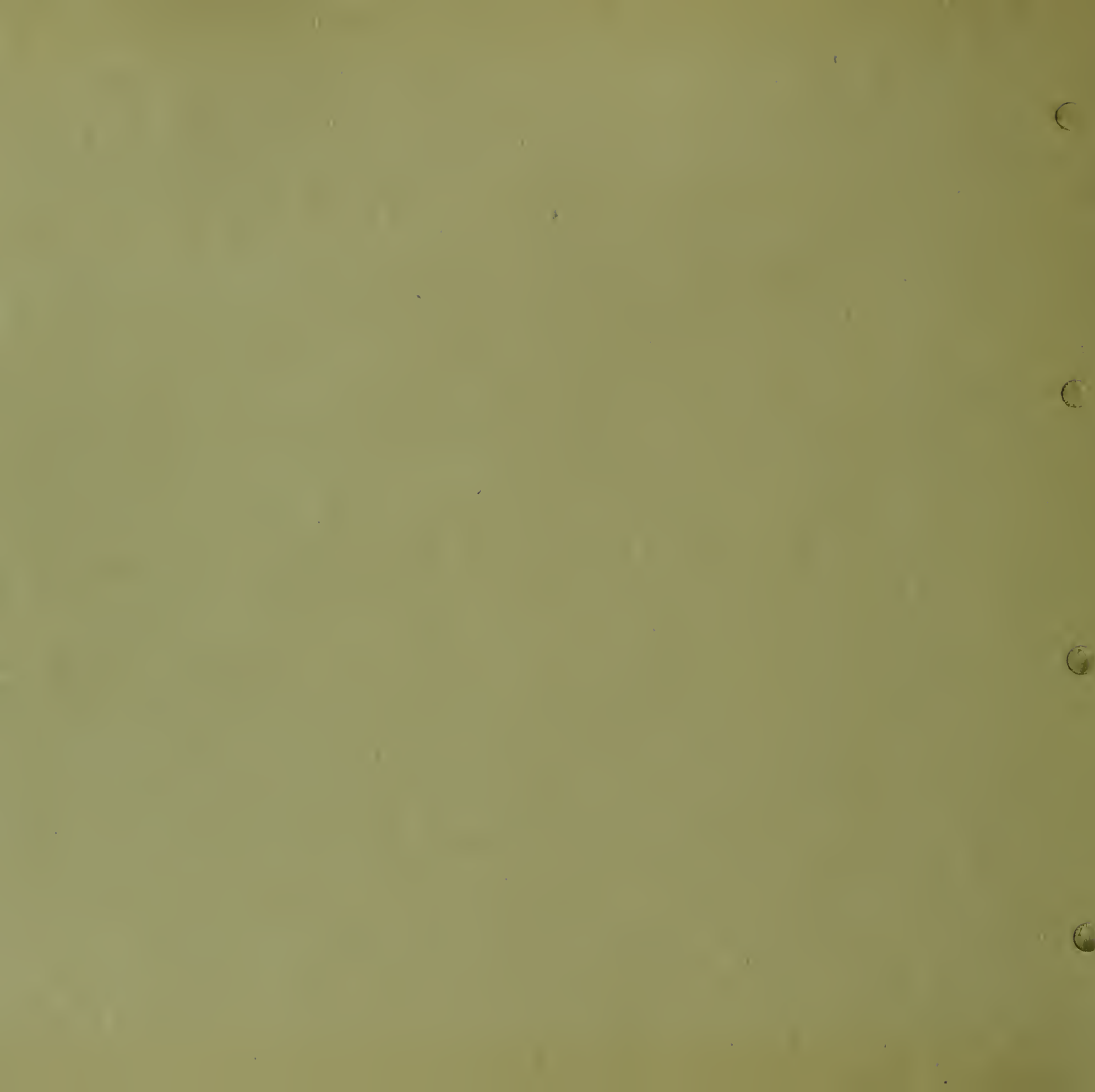


ALBANY AVENUE, LOOKING NORTH FROM THE SQUARE





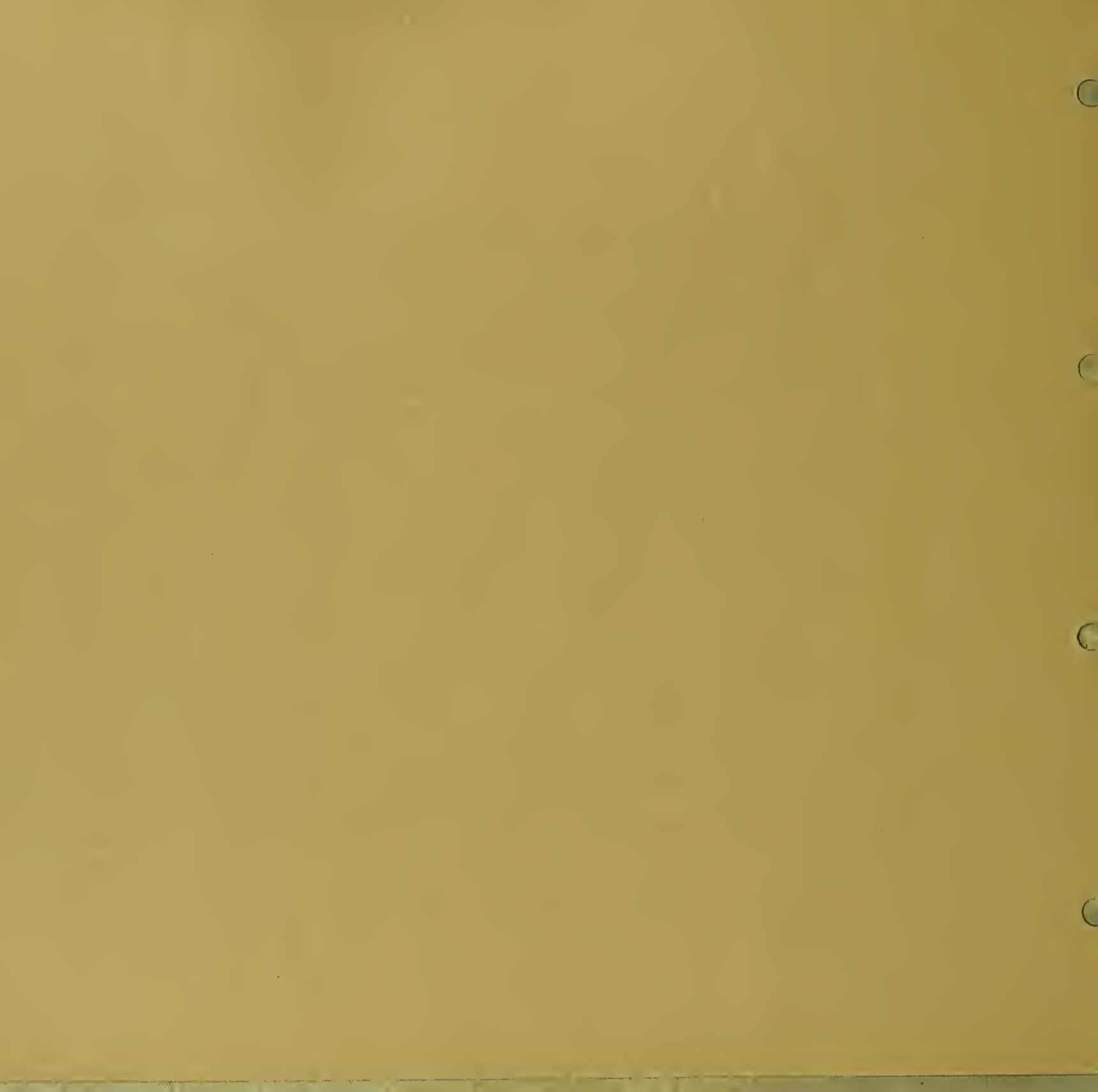
VILLAGE CEMETERY AND MONUMENT TO MARTIN VAN BUREN





RESIDENCE OF FREDERICK W. HOWARD
RESIDENCE OF DATUS C. SMITH

RESIDENCE OF HON. ALONZO H. FARRAR
RESIDENCE OF MISS ELIZABETH WYNKOOP

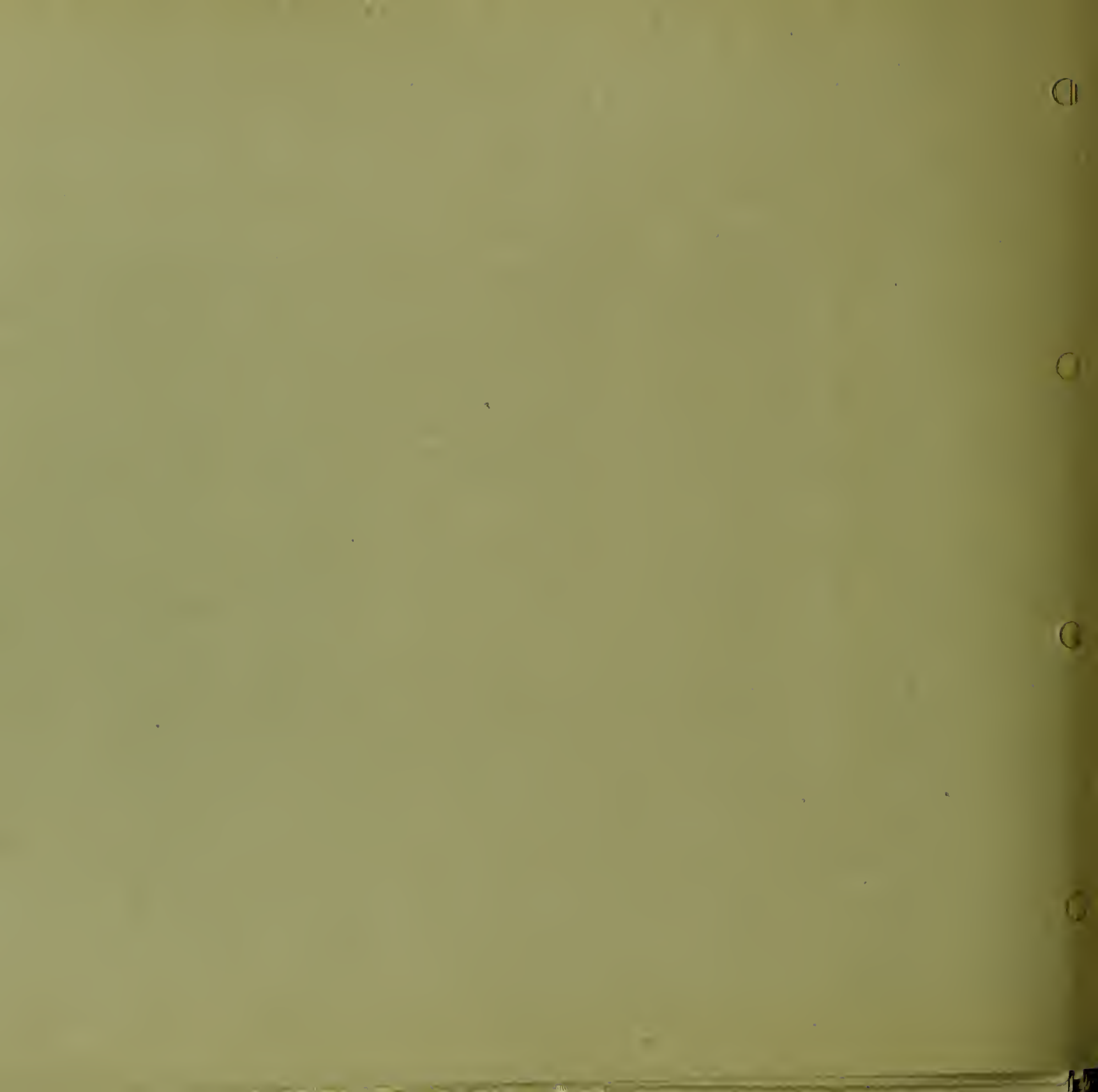




HUDSON STREET, LOOKING SOUTH FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH



POST OFFICE AND UNION SCHOOL, NO. 1

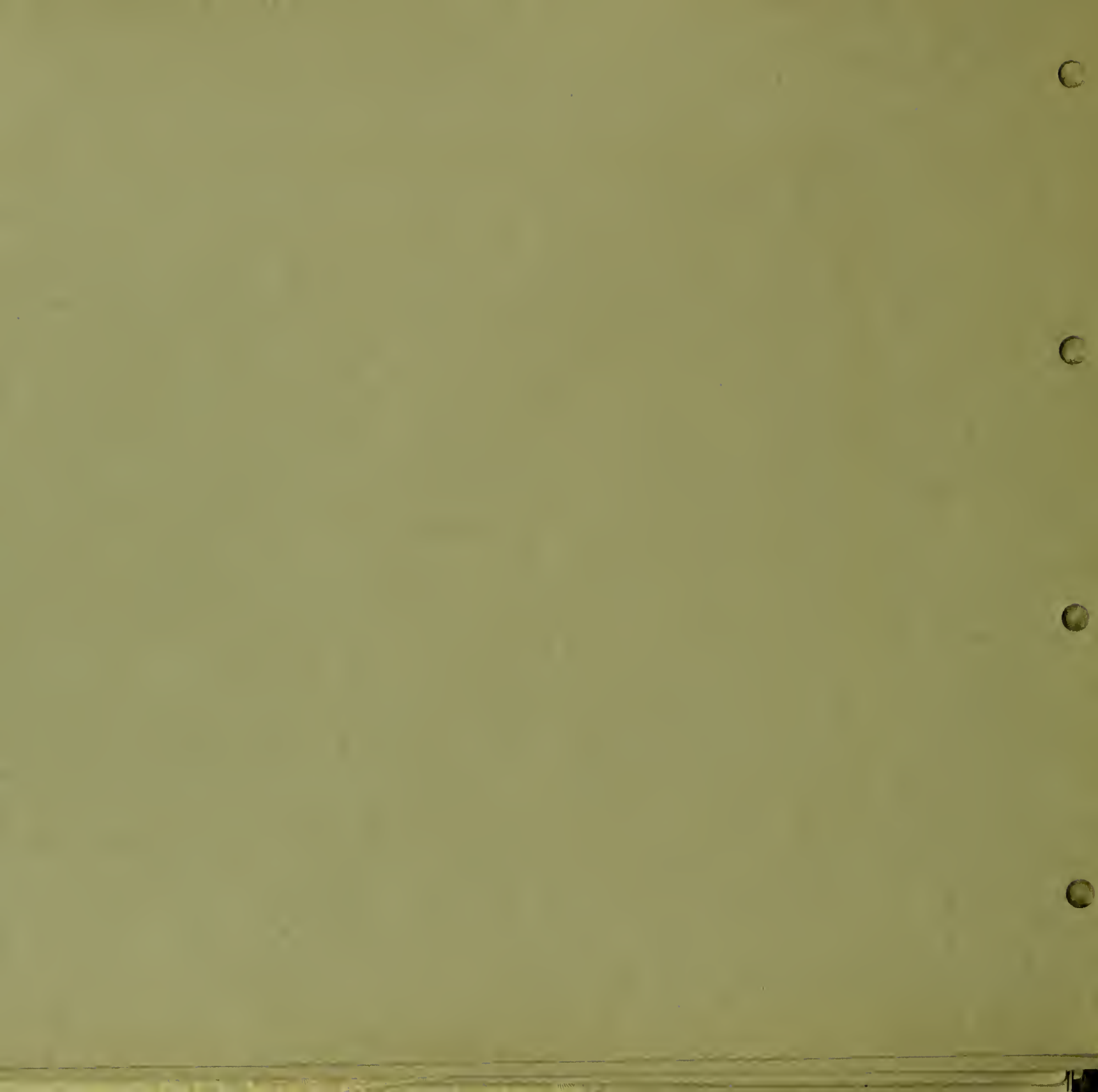






THE OLD VAN ALEN HOMESTEAD, Built in 1737

THE WHITE SCHOOLHOUSE ON THE SITE
OF THE ICHABOD CRANE SCHOOL OF THE "LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW"

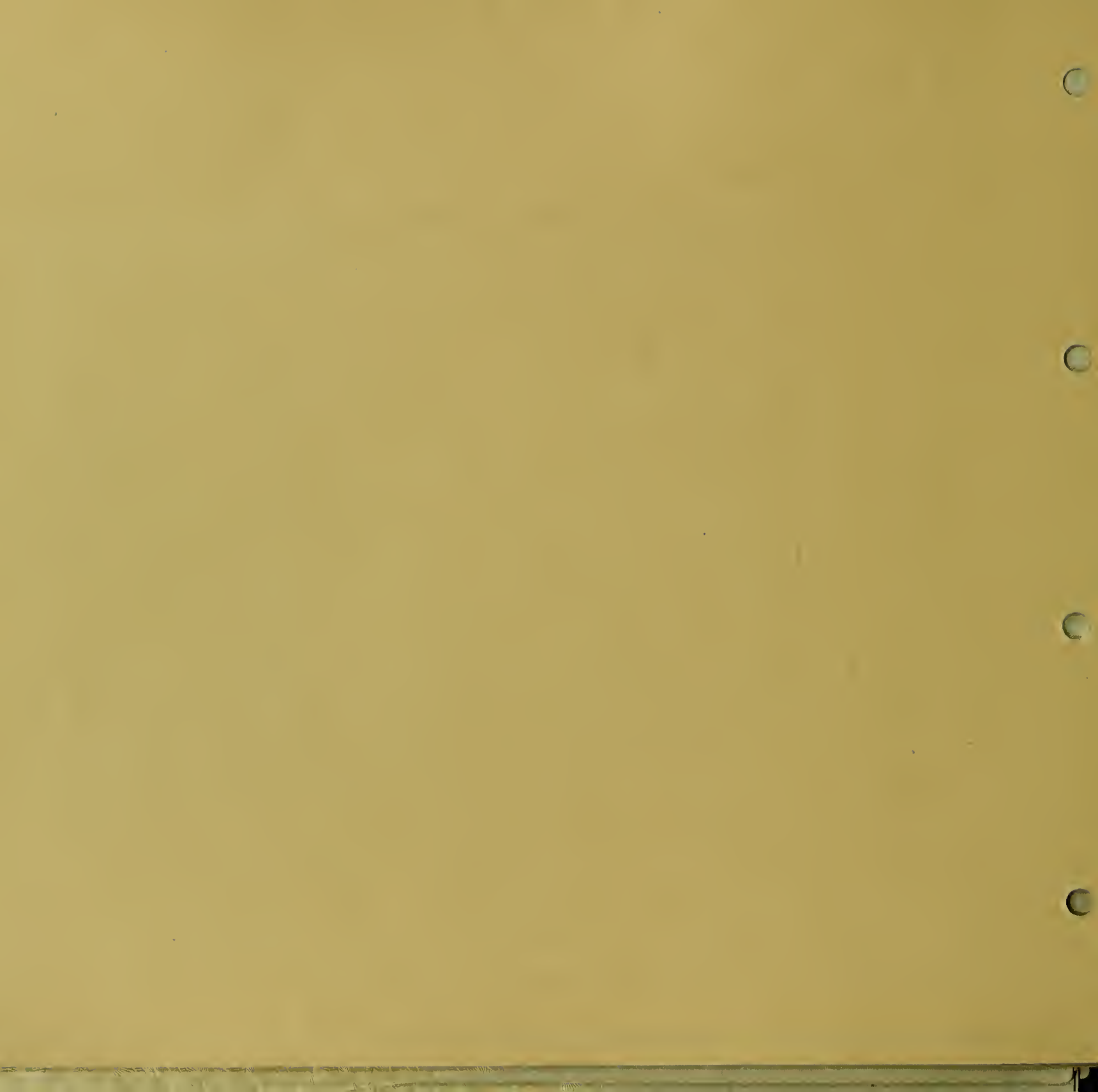






RESIDENCE OF EDWARD RISEDORPH
RESIDENCE OF FRANK PALMER

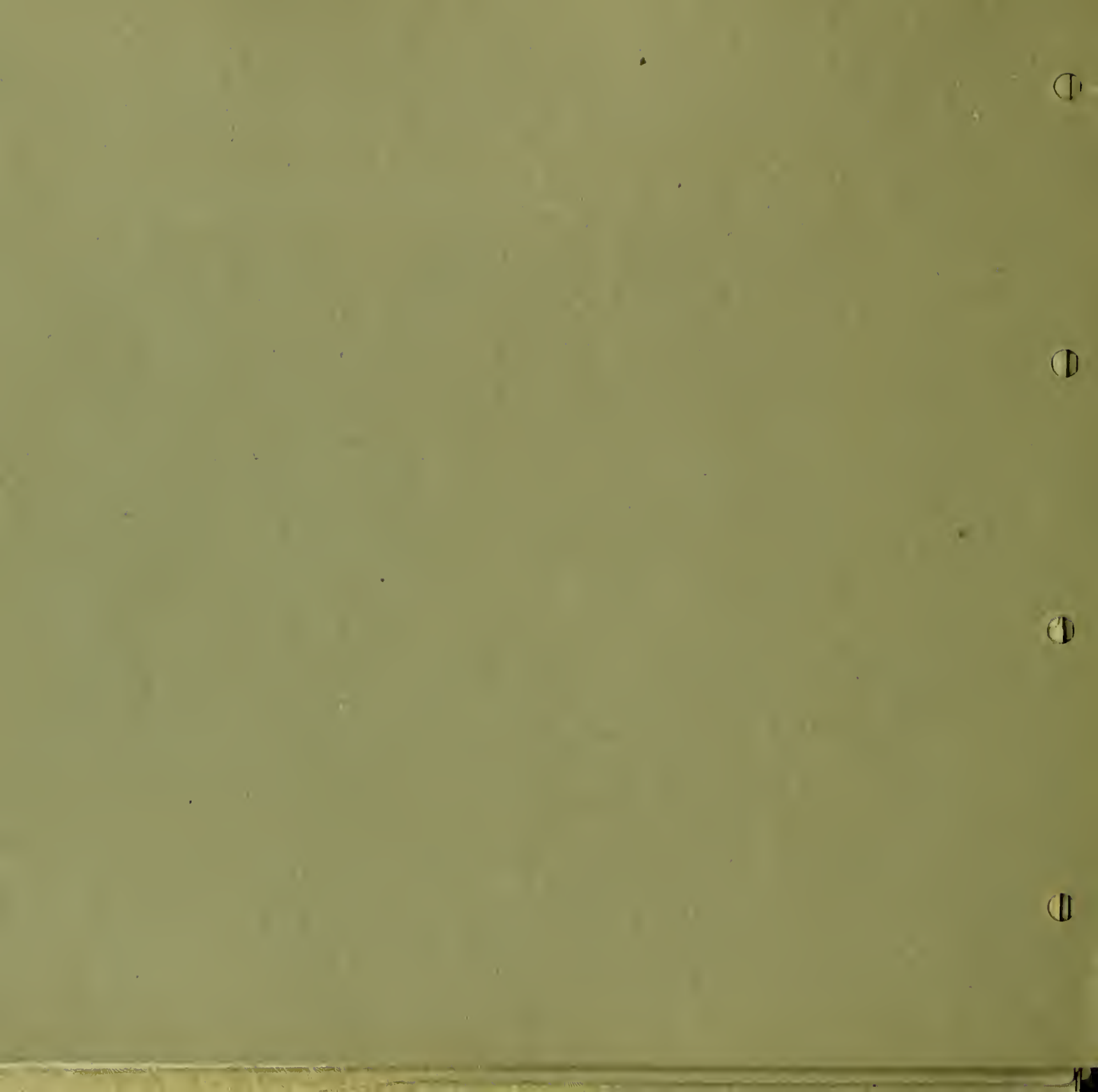
RESIDENCE OF DR. T. FLOYD WOODWORTH
RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. RAUTMYER

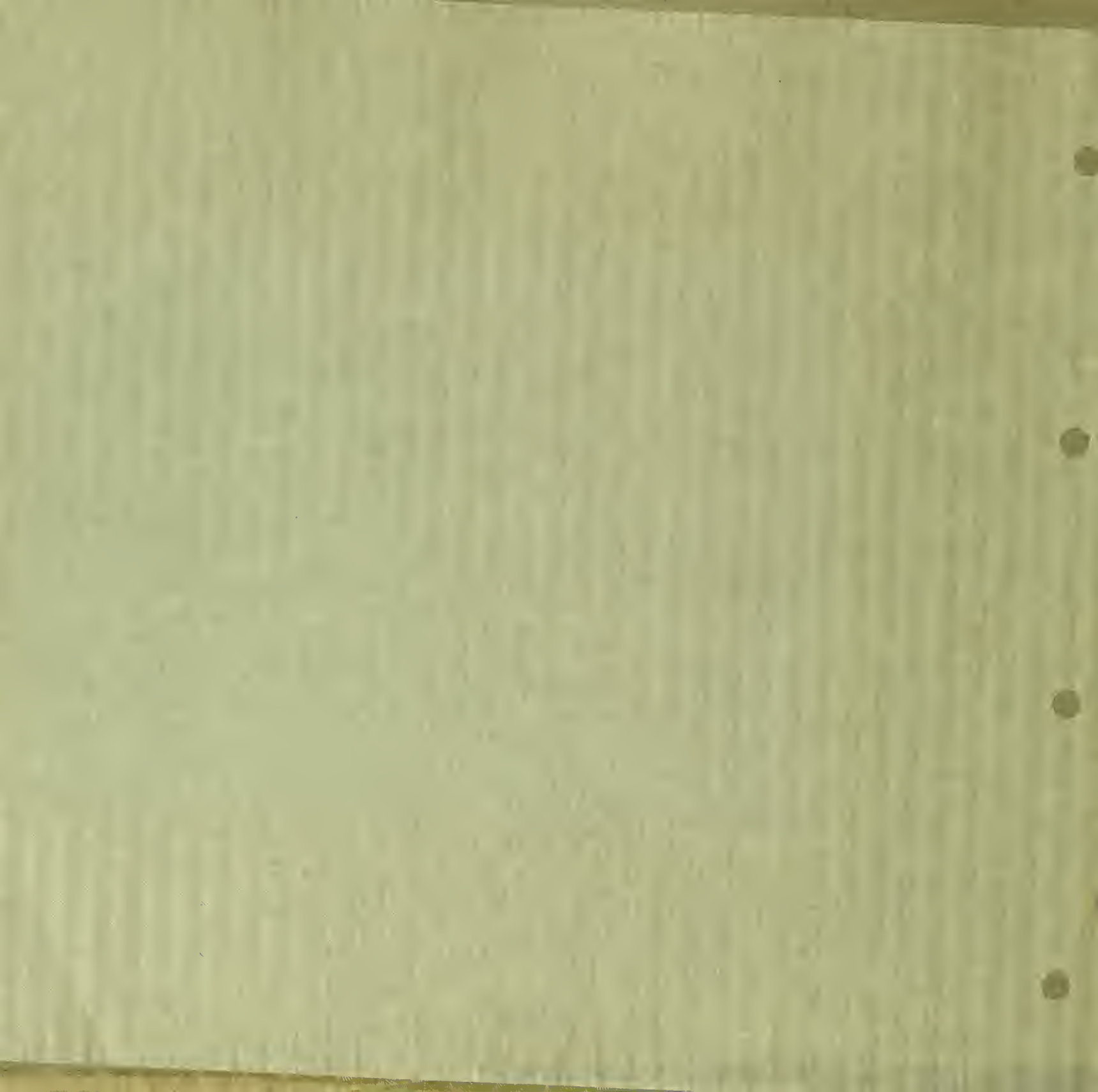






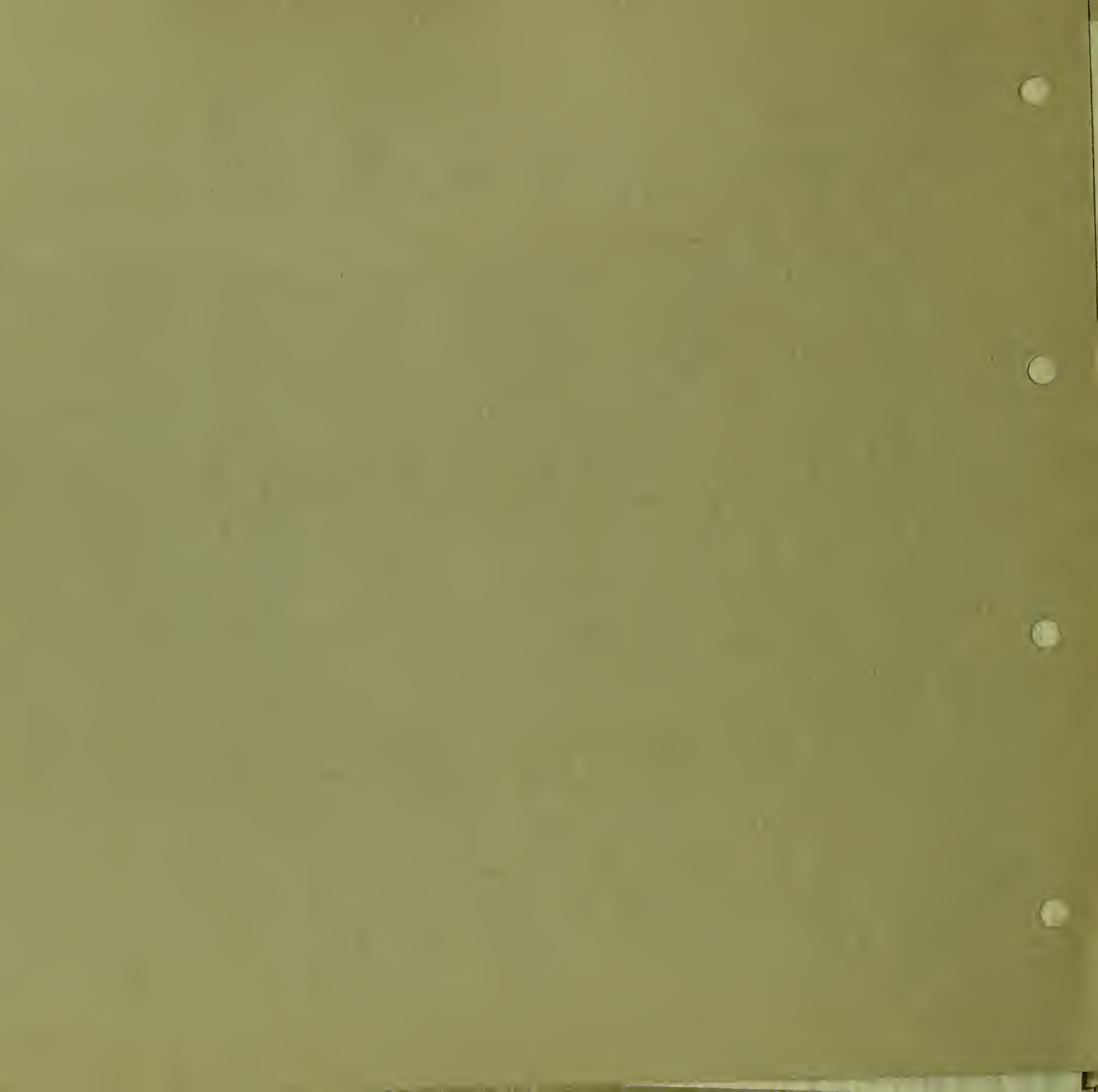
CHATHAM STREET, LOOKING EAST FROM VILLAGE HALL





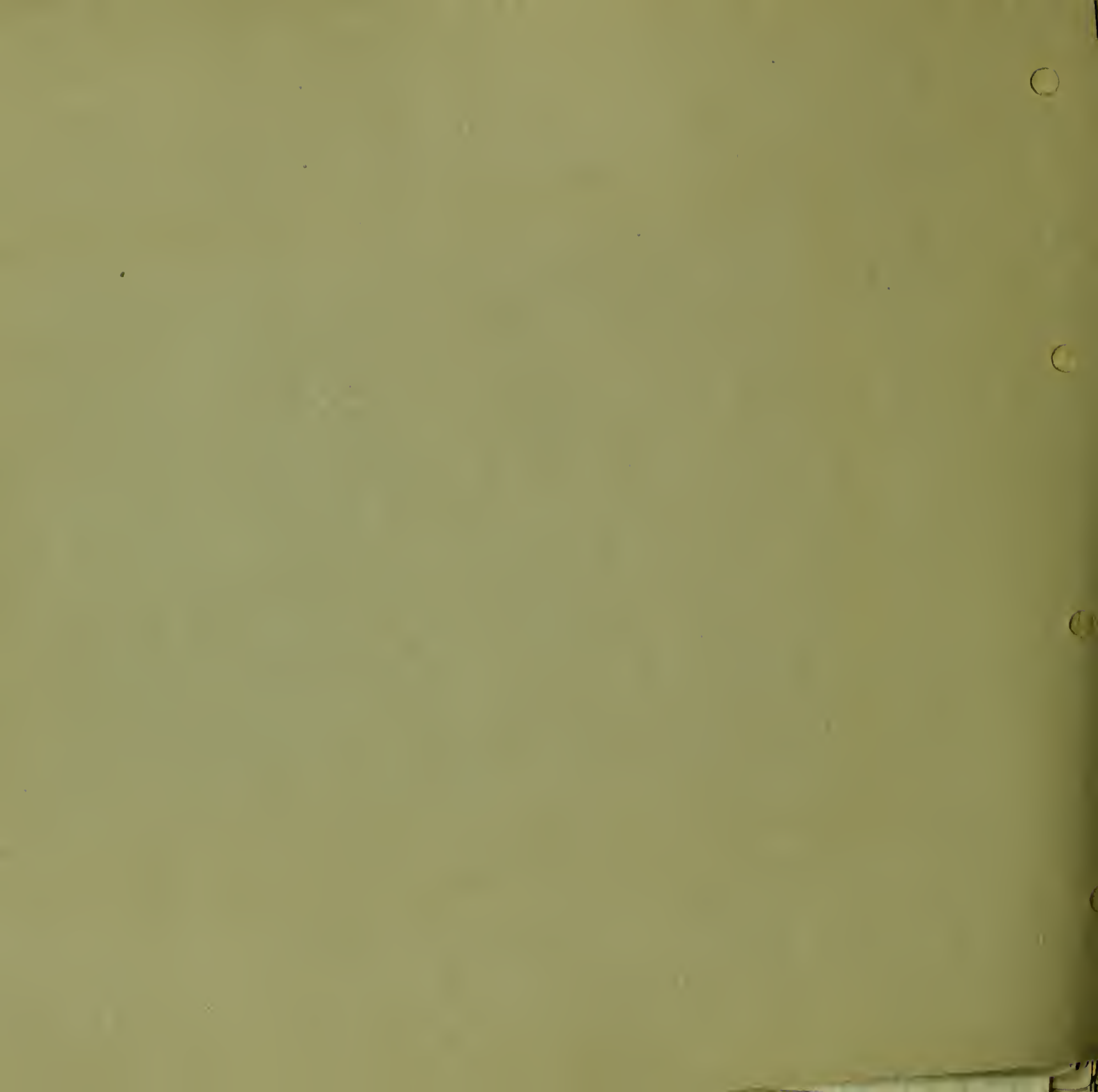


THE VILLAGE HALL LINDENWALD GRANGE HALL, THE OLD KINDERHOOK ACADEMY
NATIONAL UNION BANK KINDERHOOK KNITTING COMPANY'S BUILDING





KINDERHOOK LAKE AND ELECTRIC PARK FROM THE POINT

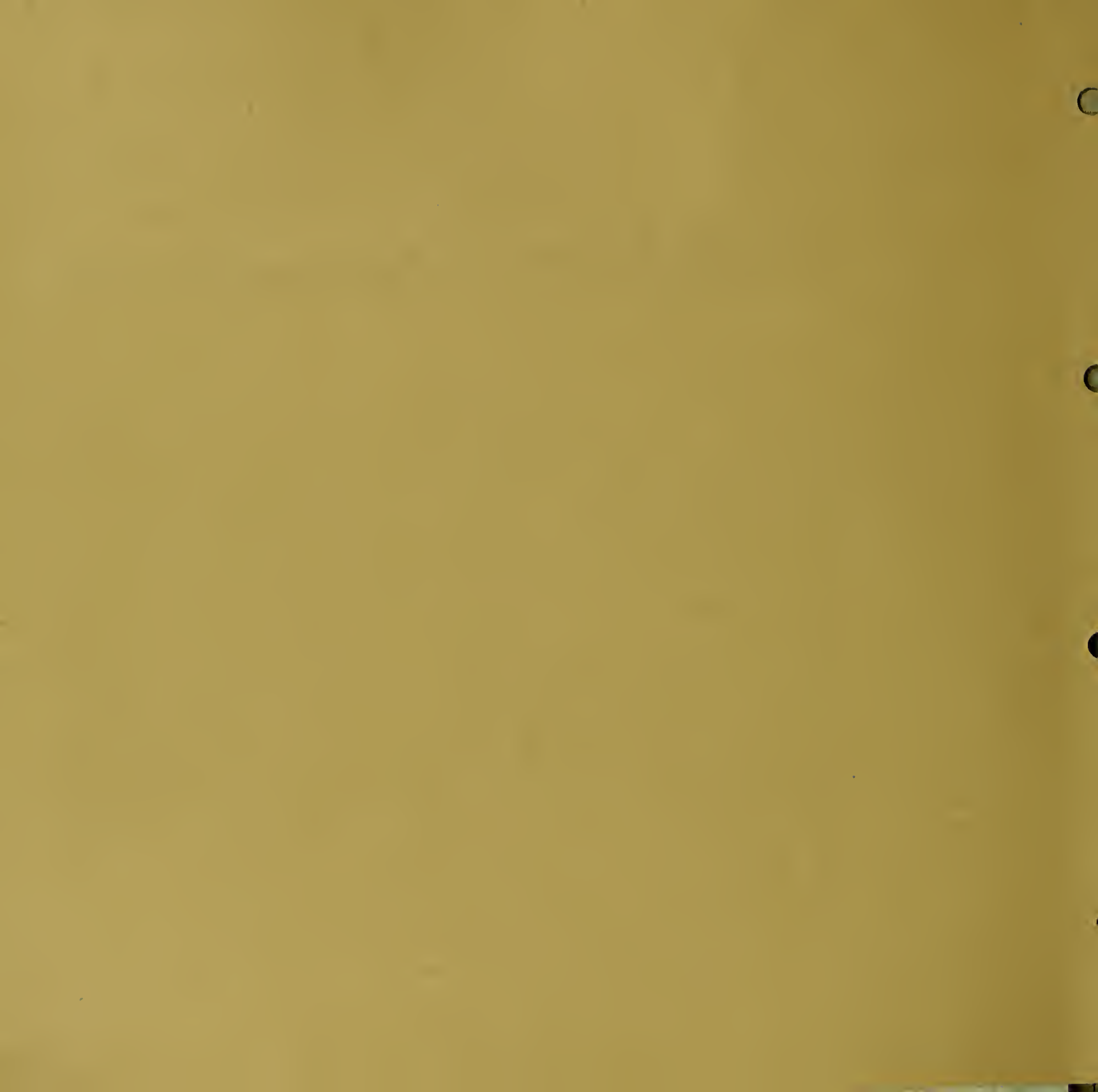






RESIDENCE OF JOHN NINK, Built About 1700
THE OLD BRICK HOUSE, 1766

RESIDENCE OF WM. B. VAN ALSTYNE, 1721
RESIDENCE OF MRS. SARAH CHRYSLER, 1770



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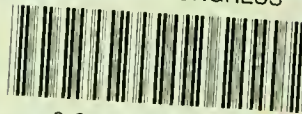
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