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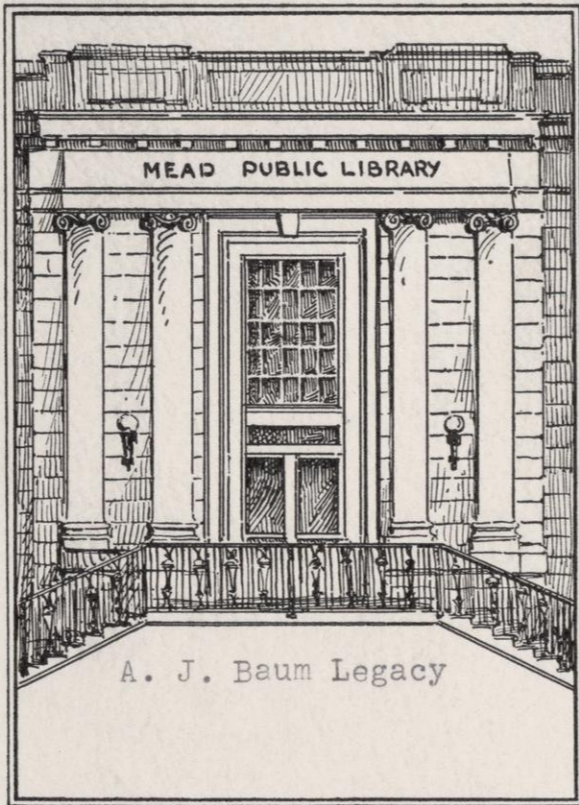
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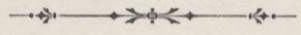
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COLONIAL FURNITURE AND INTERIORS.



Americans are, perhaps, more changeable than any other people, as regards their house building and decoration.

This is, however, easily accounted for. Americans of the present day are a travelling people; and as the youth of their own nation hardly permits of any native styles in architecture, they copy what pleases them most when abroad, few of them choosing the same models, and many not infrequently tiring of their own selections and building anew. As a result, this country is covered with a mass of architectural ideas indifferently expressed. The architects themselves may be in a measure responsible for this, in their attempts to combine with a pure style some inconsistent idea of a client who has no sense of fitness. But within a few years there has been a marked advance in the education of the people toward a proper appreciation of architectural forms and artistic effects, until now some of our modern houses are veritable palaces.

No "craze" in domestic architecture we have ever had is more commendable than that which has developed in late years for what is known as the "Colonial Style." The simple, straightforward designs of the early American home, restricted by varying conditions of prosperity, possessed a beauty which has been overlooked in the irresistible desire for change and for more elaborate ornamentation; but now that the reaction has come, there is an overwhelming demand for the "Colonial" in some form or other, and many of the fine old houses of that period have been stripped of their furniture and fittings to meet this demand. Many persons who are unable to furnish their homes in this way, strive to possess a few chairs or a table to keep in touch with the fashion, and it is a satisfaction to know that much of this fine old furniture has been preserved, however incongruous its present surroundings.

The object of this publication is to give a comprehensive idea of colonial furnishings as they existed in the colonial period, and to show some of the many unique designs in furniture which may still be found in certain localities. With this end in view the material has been selected from the very best examples in New England and the South, viz.: the old mansions of Portsmouth, Newburyport, Salem, Providence, and immediate vicinities, built in the middle and latter part of the eighteenth century, representing the most prosperous era of colonial history, when the homes of the well-to-do were most lavishly adorned. Many of the present owners' names have been withheld at their request. Remodelling of old houses and removals from old residential sections have left but few fine interiors of this period, and it is to be regretted that in a number of instances modern furniture is shown in rooms having good colonial treatment, but this was unavoidable.

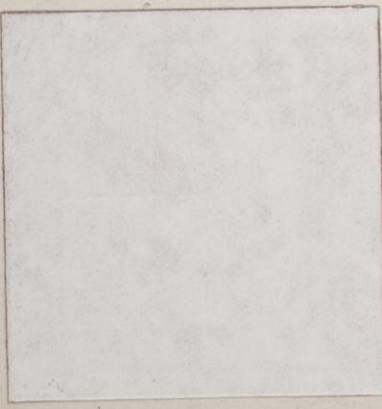
In compiling this work, the author has endeavored to make it of interest alike to the antiquarian and to the student of architecture, and he hopes it will have a pictorial interest for all. He begs leave, also, to express his sincere thanks to the householders and owners of the examples of interiors and furnishings reproduced, for the many privileges generously extended to him while making this collection, and to the enterprising publisher through whom this work is presented to the public.

N. W. ELWELL.

BOSTON, April, 1896.

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PARLOR IN GOV. LANGDON HOUSE, PORTSMOUTH, N. H. Built 1784.

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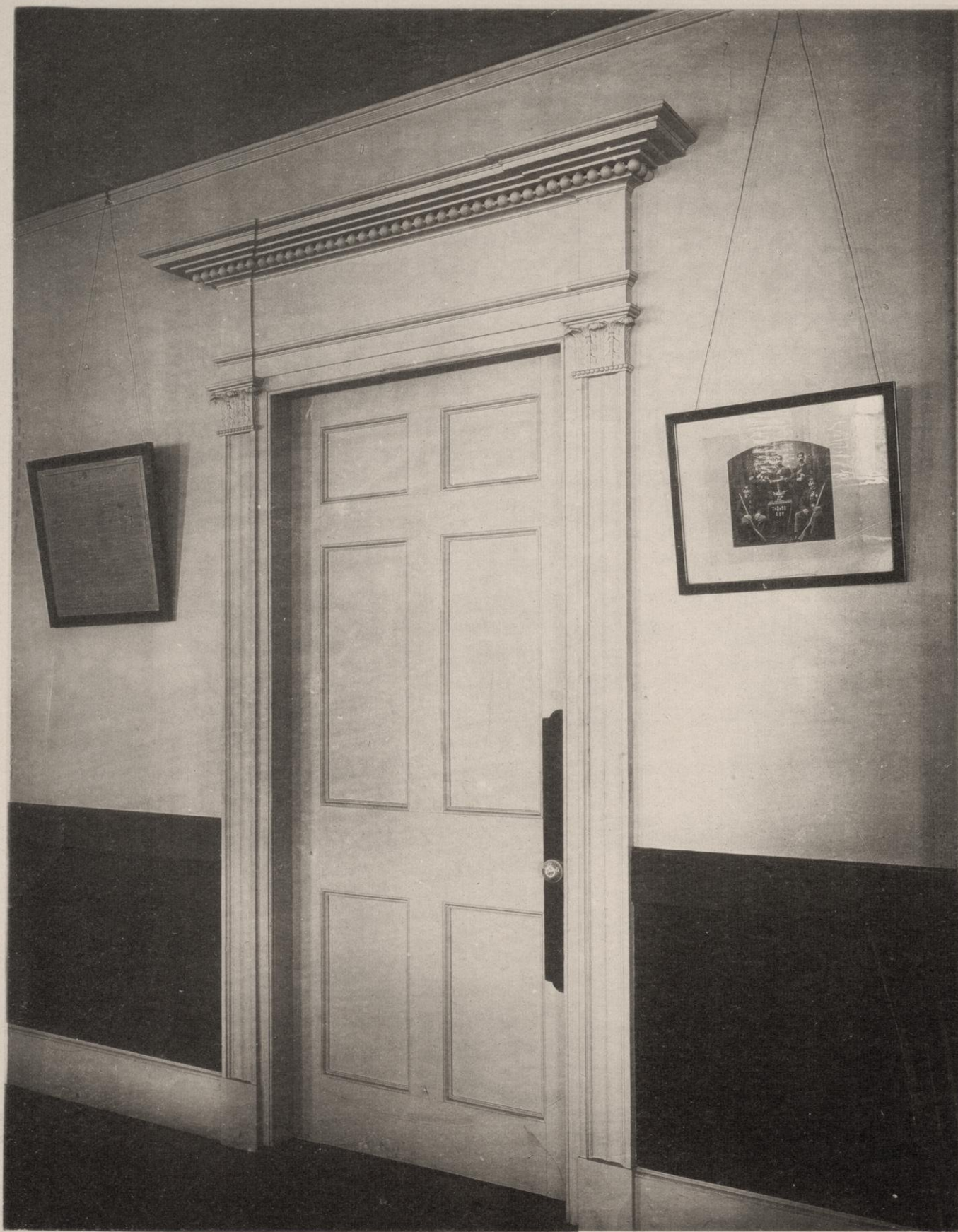
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COUNCIL CHAMBER IN GOV. WENTWORTH MANSION, PORTSMOUTH, N. H. Built 1750.



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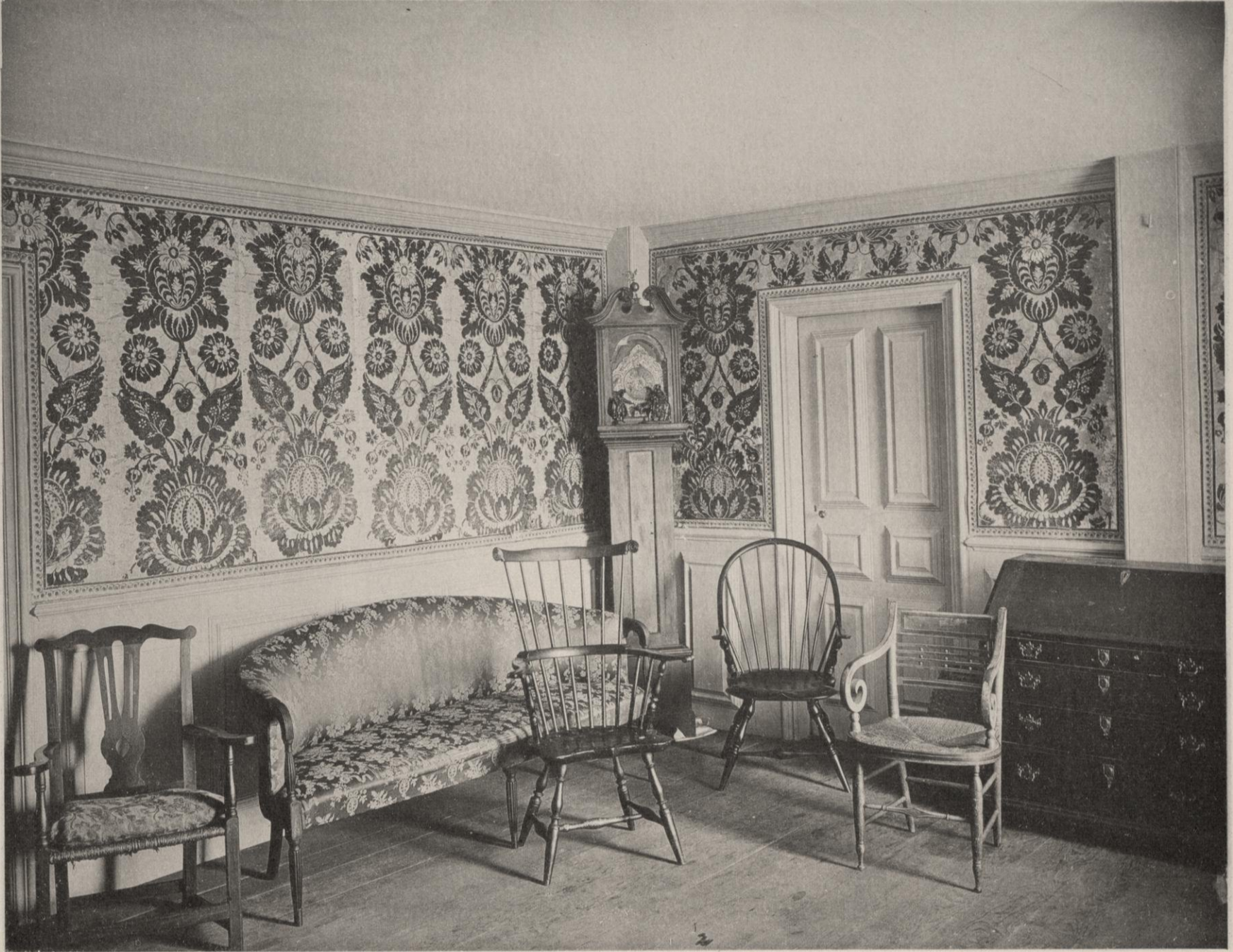
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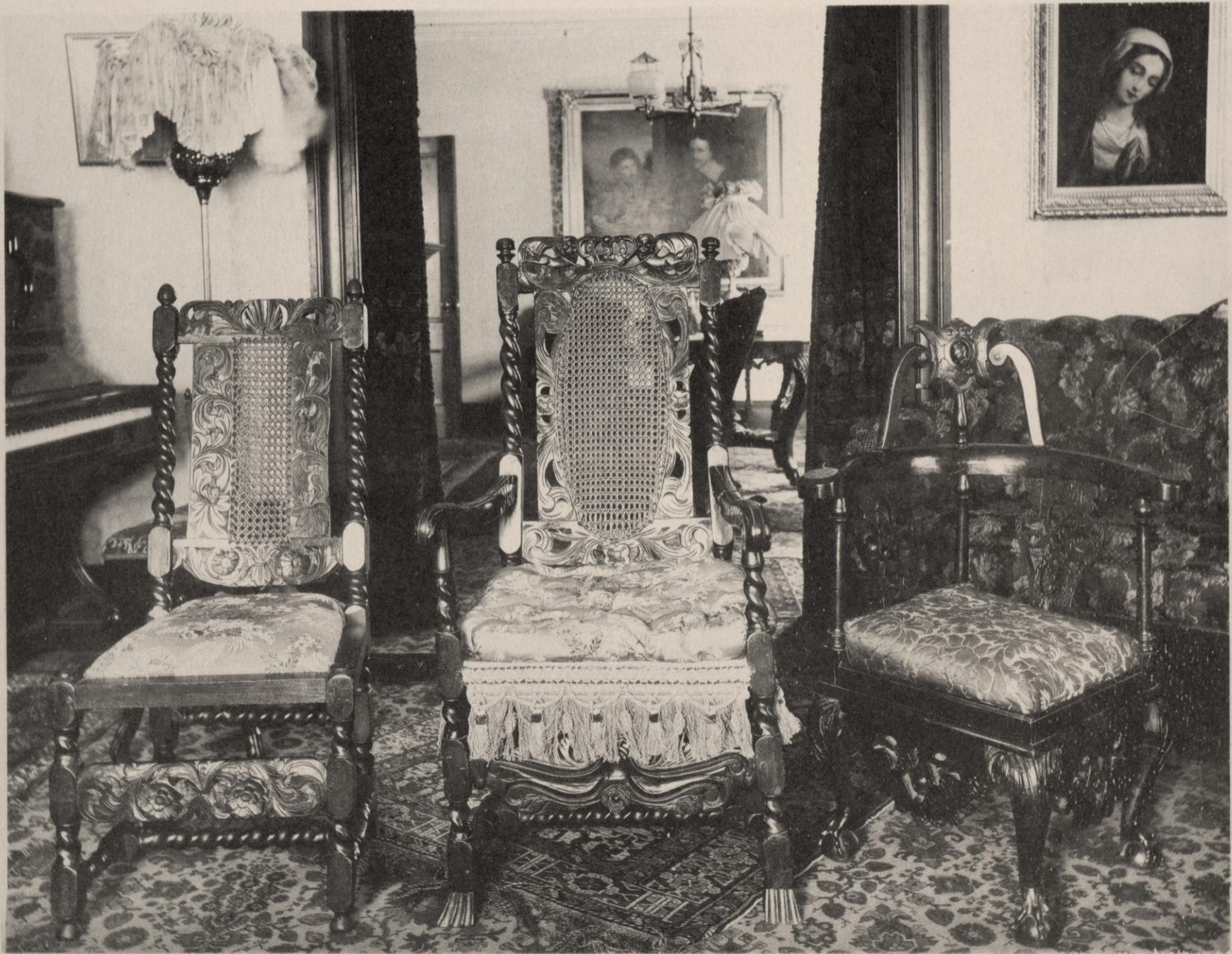
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SIDE OF ROOM, COGSWELL HOUSE, ESSEX, MASS. Built 1718.



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CHAMBER IN RUFUS CHOATE HOUSE. Built 1725.

Choate Island, near Essex, Mass. The old-fashioned cradle was the one in which Rufus Choate was rocked.

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PL. XVIII.



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SQUARE LEAF AND HALF ROUND TABLE AT PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

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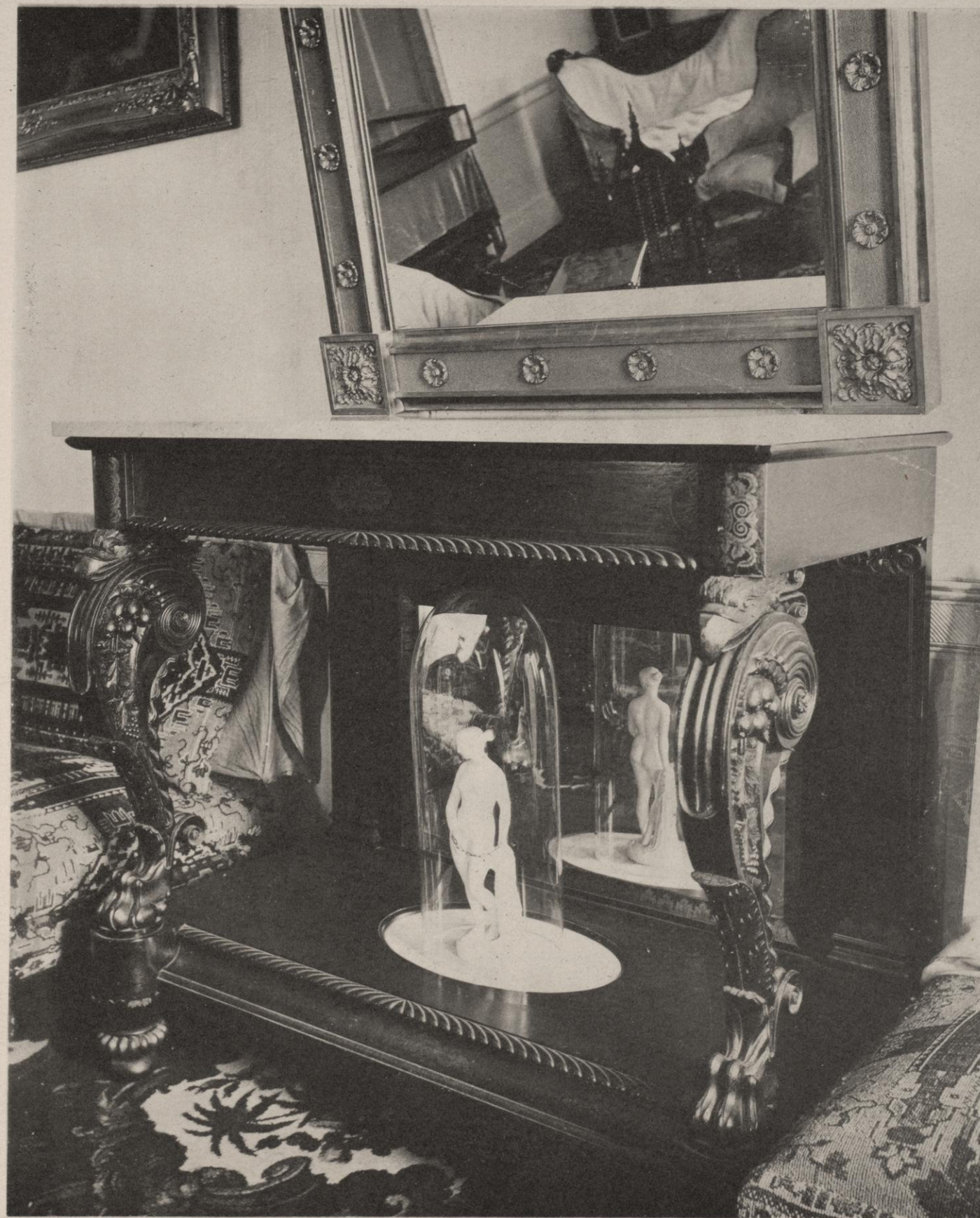
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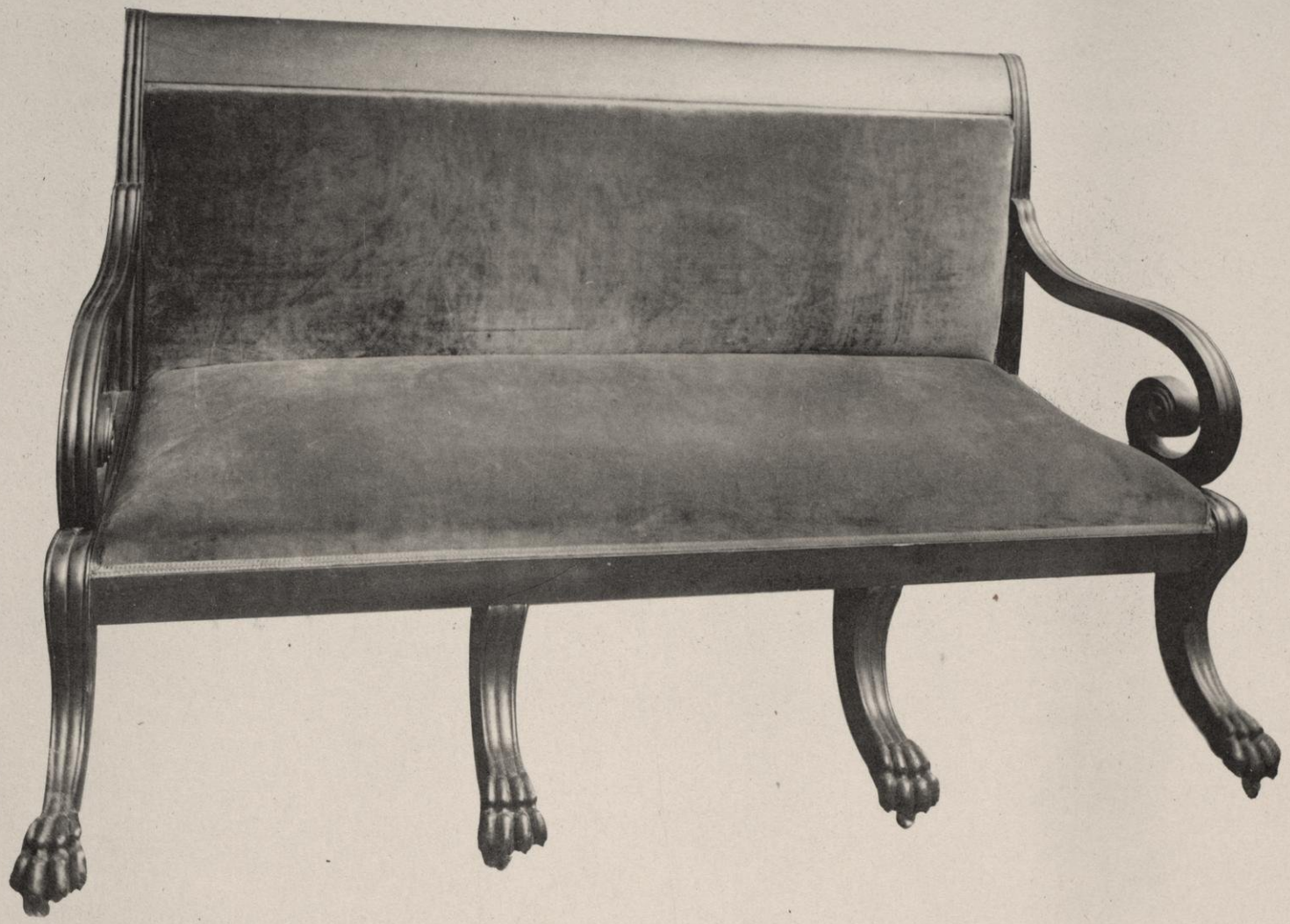
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SOFA AND CHAIR, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.



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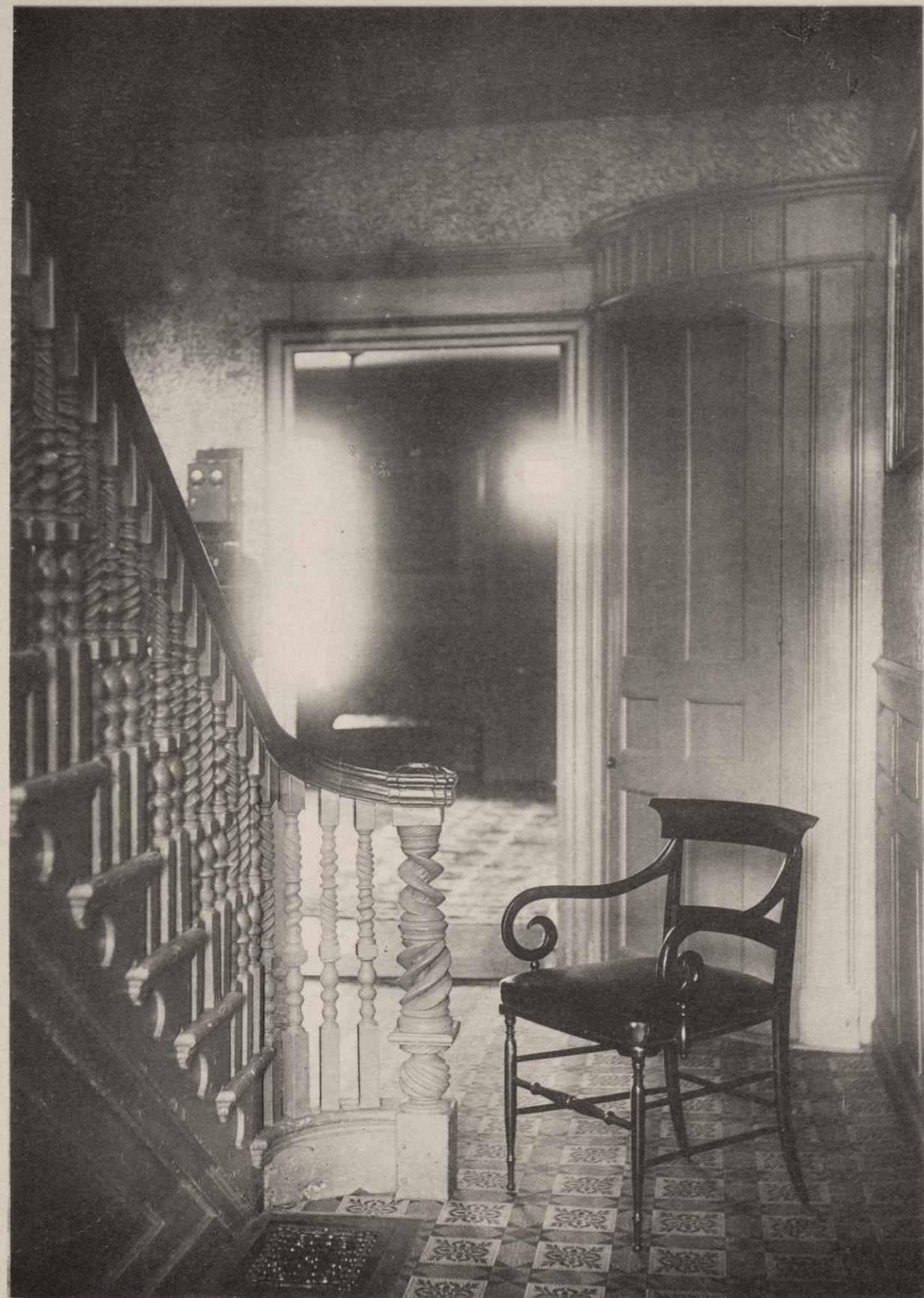
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CHAIRS AT SALEM, MASS. These chairs have been in the possession of one family 130 years.



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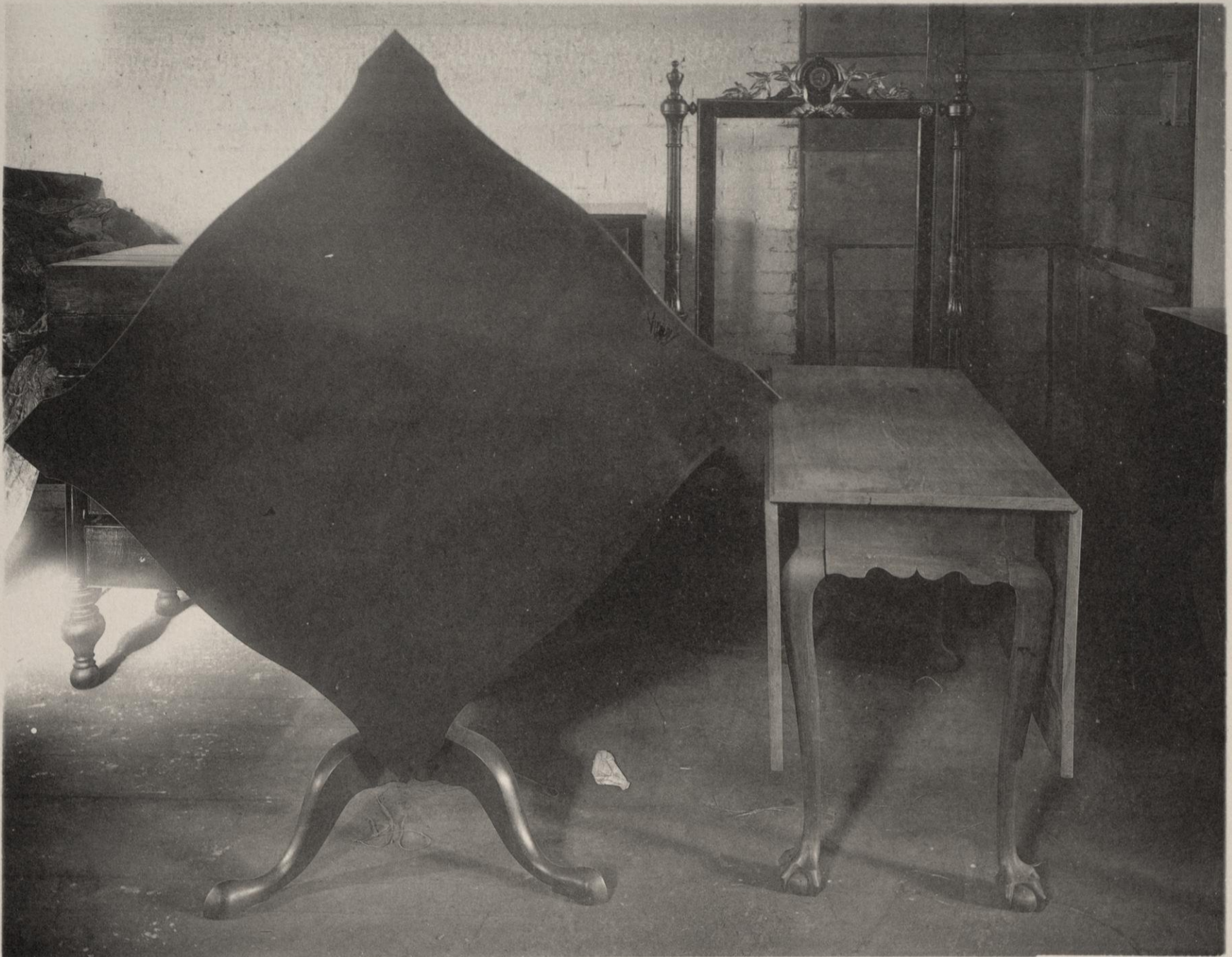
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SIDE OF ROOM IN WILLIAMS HOUSE, BOSTON, MASS.

Built about 1795.

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OLD DINING ROOM, ROCKINGHAM HOUSE, PORTSMOUTH, N. H. Built 1785.

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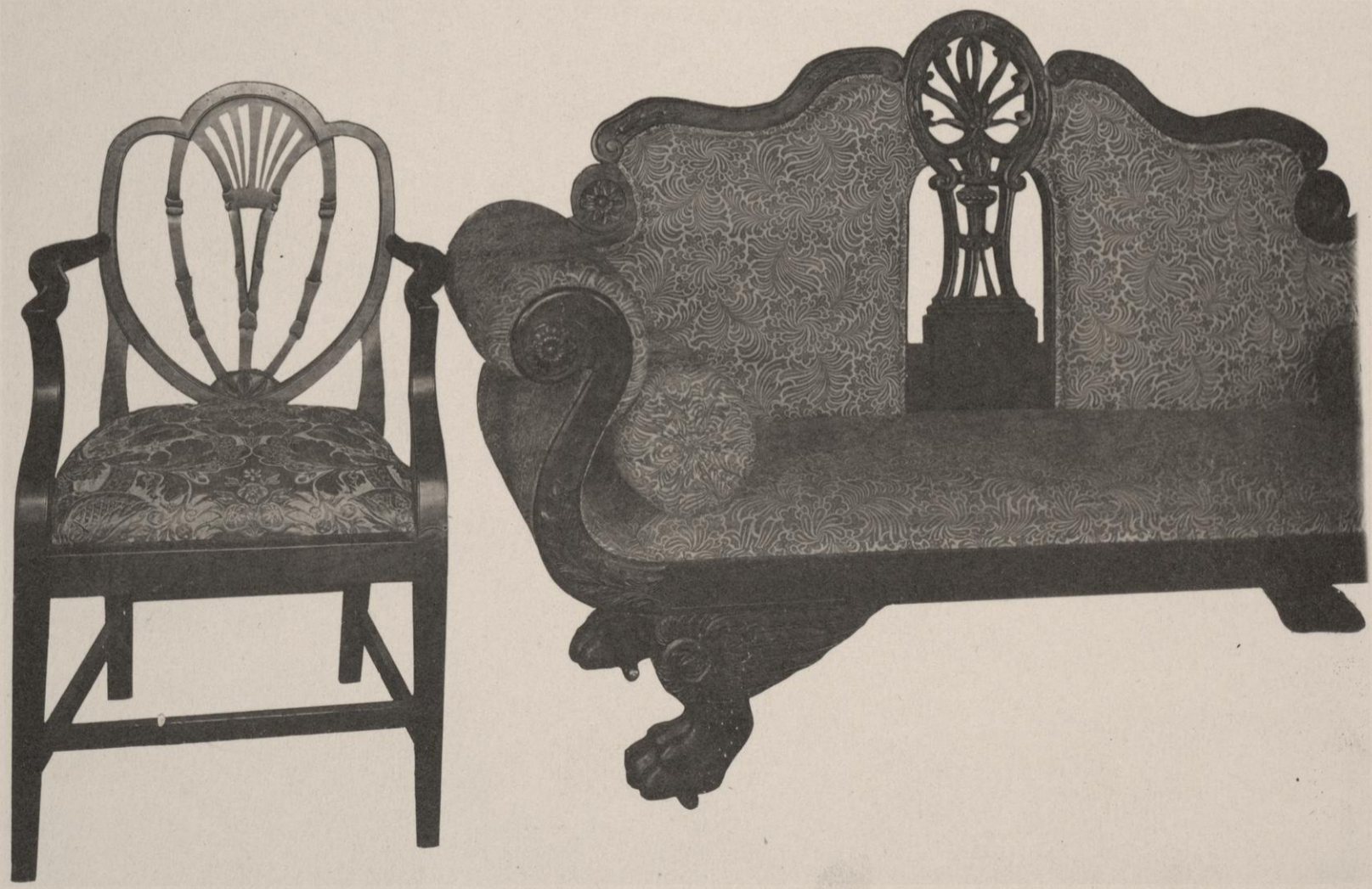
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The chair is one of a set of eight, presented to the present occupant's grandmother on her marriage, 1781.

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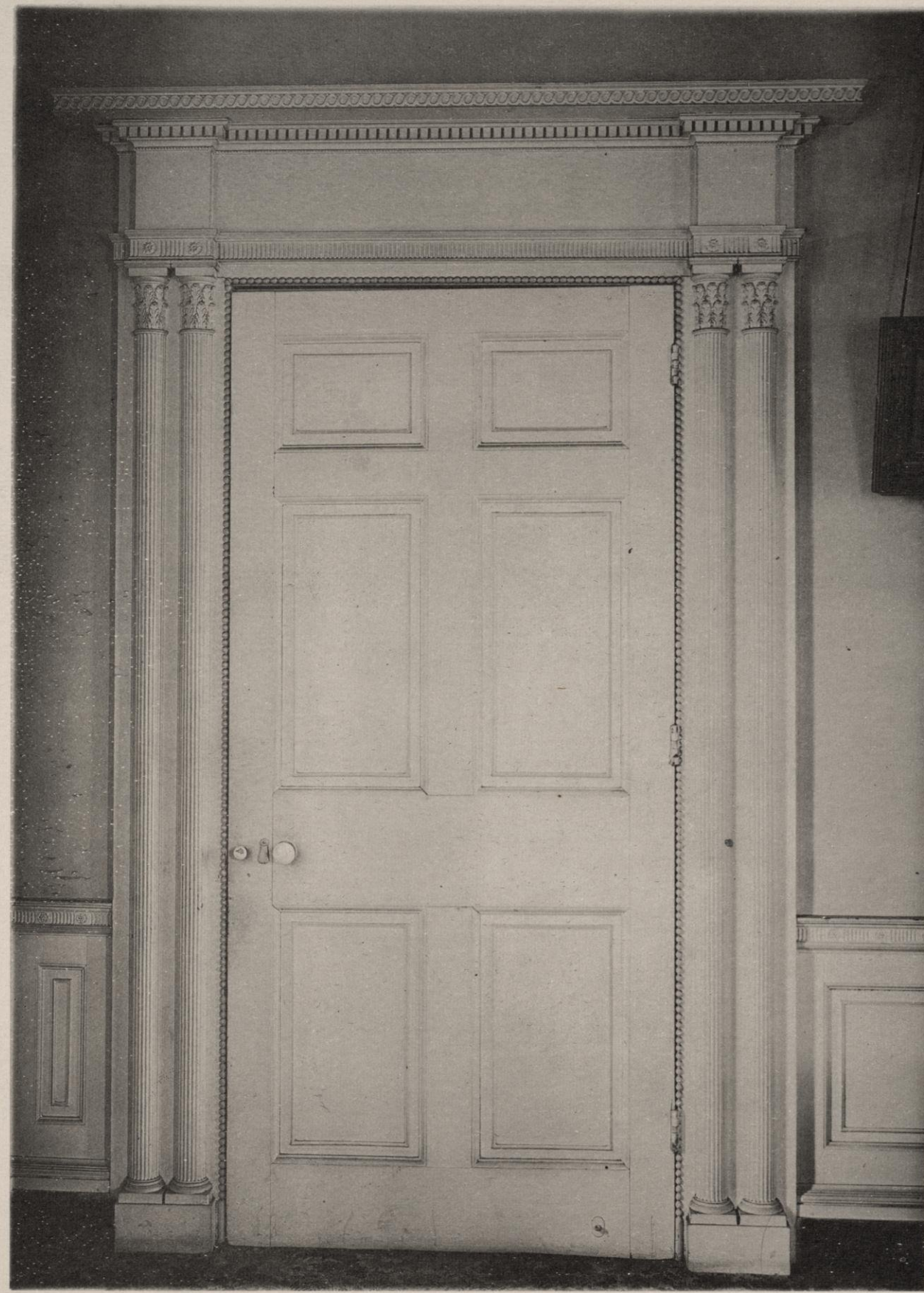
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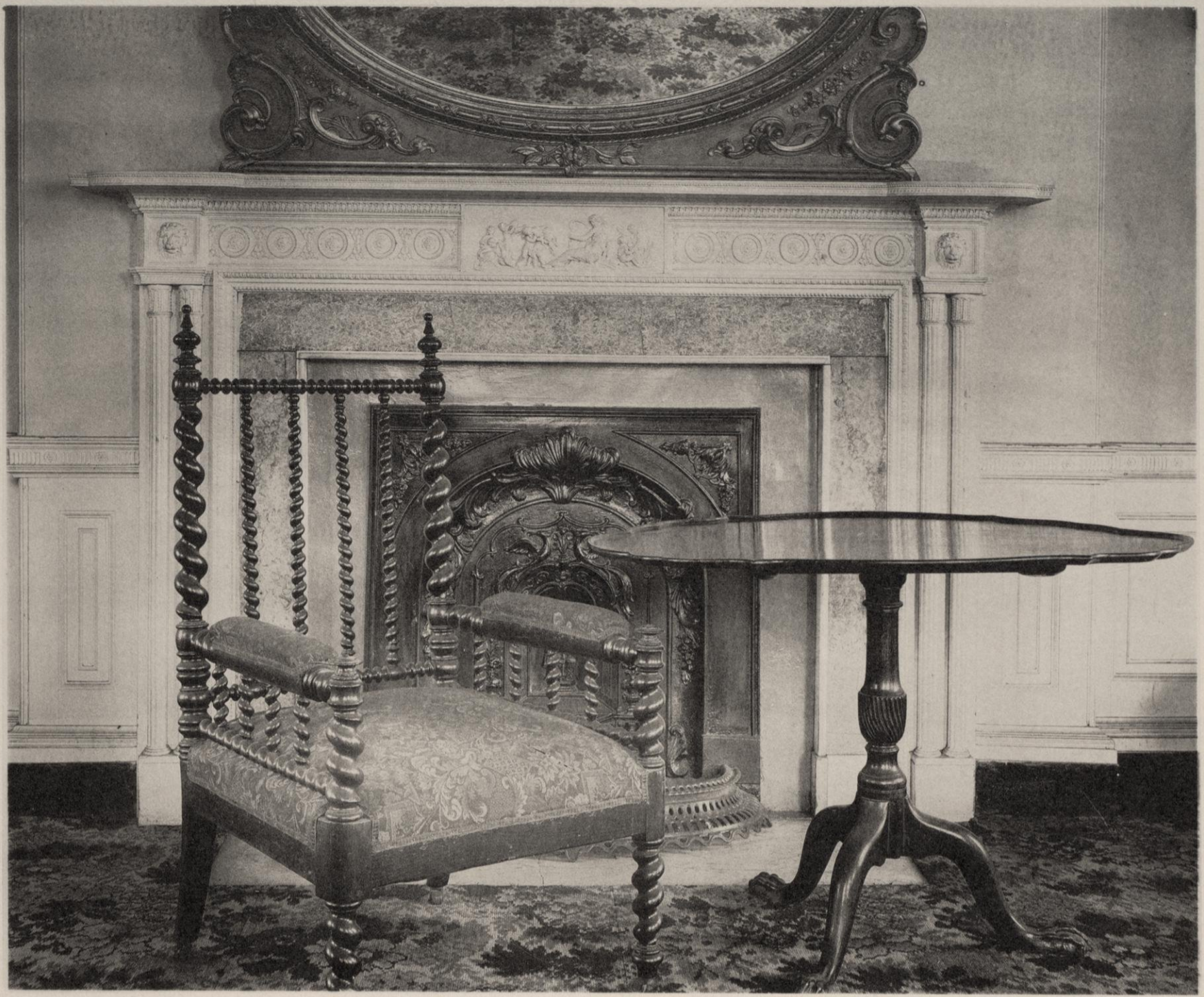
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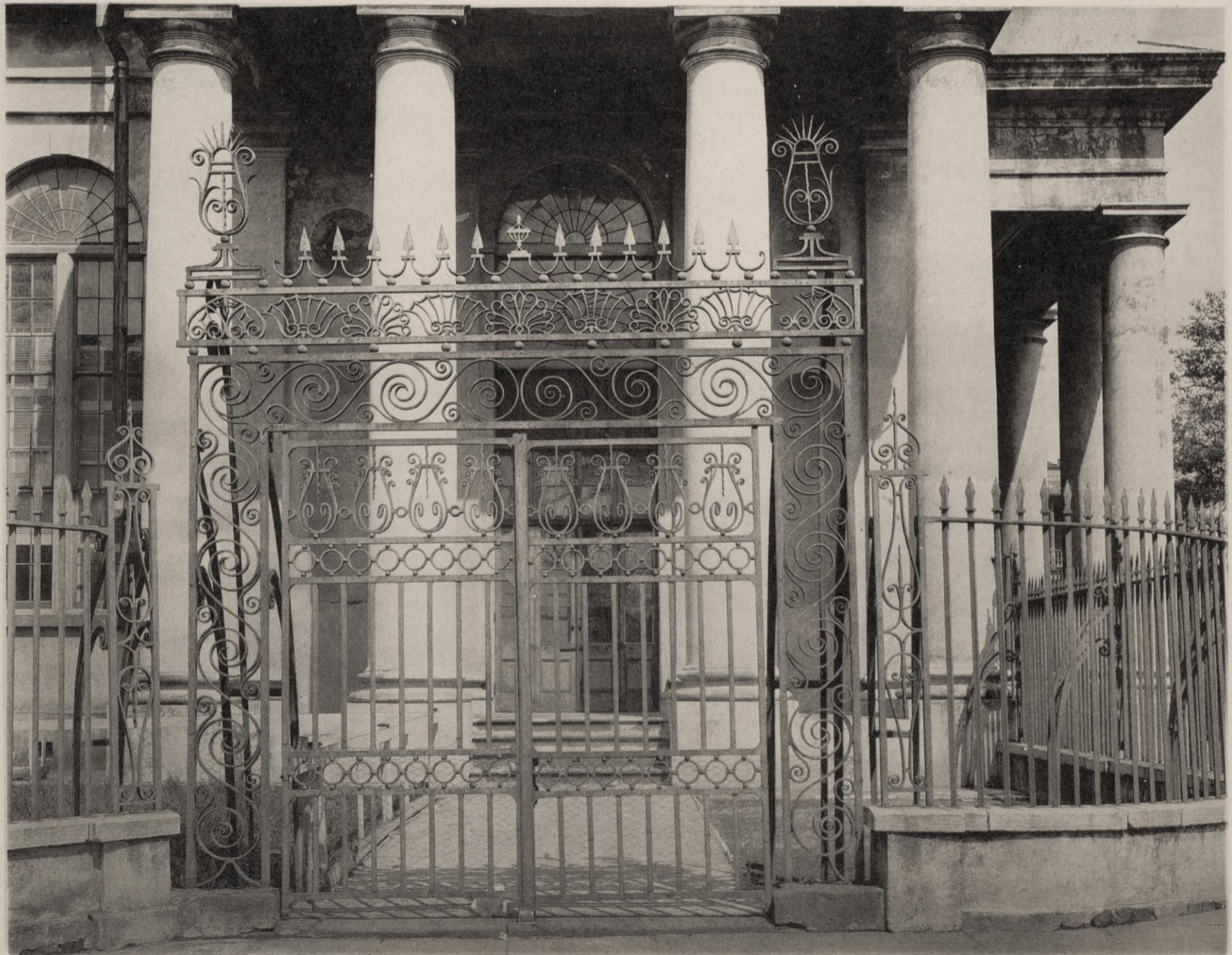
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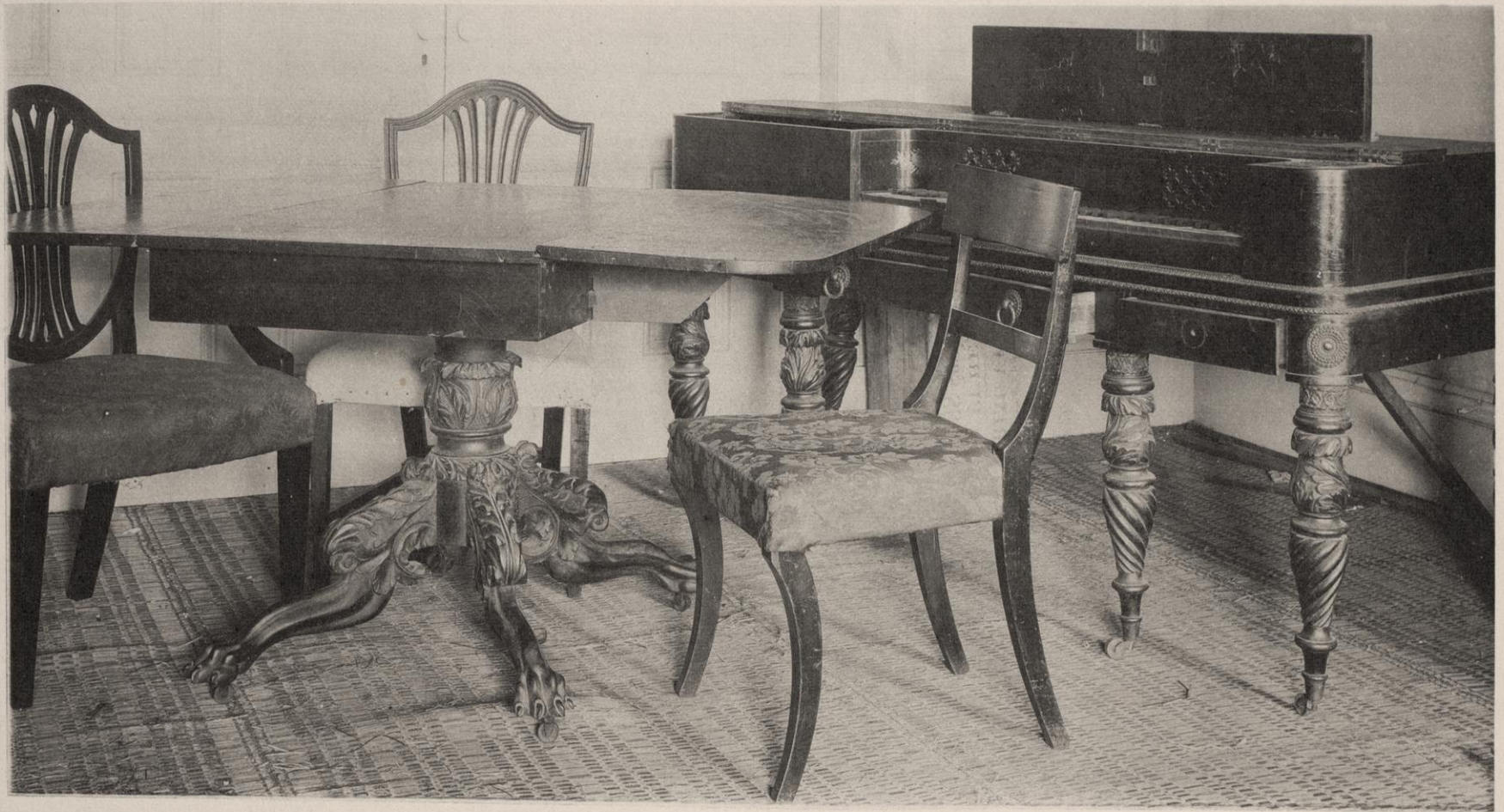
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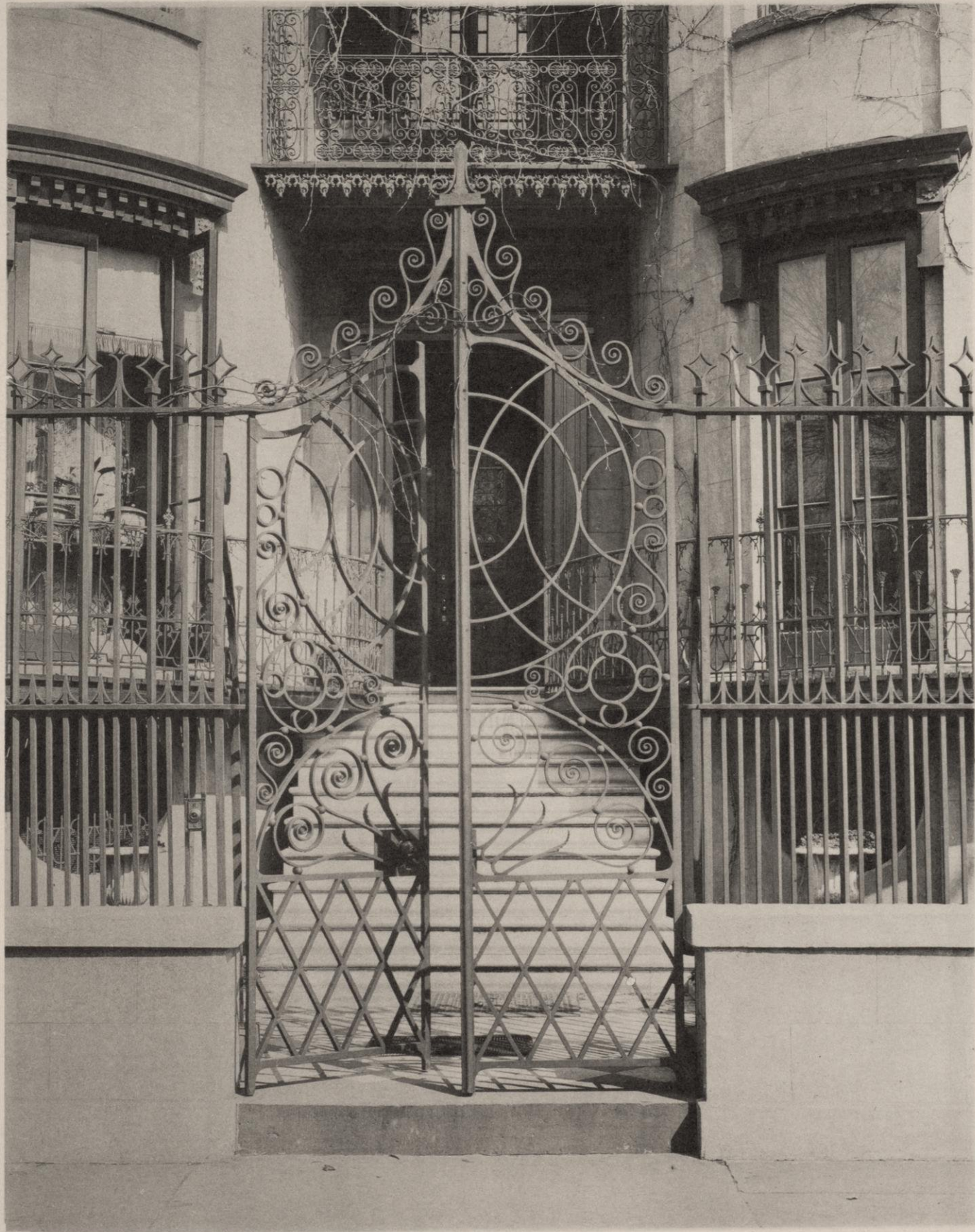
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