

Measured drawings of some colonial and Georgian houses. Volume 3 1930

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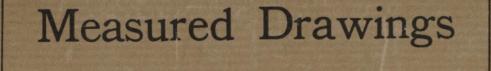
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of

Some Colonial

and

Georgian Houses

by

Donald Millar

VOLUME THREE

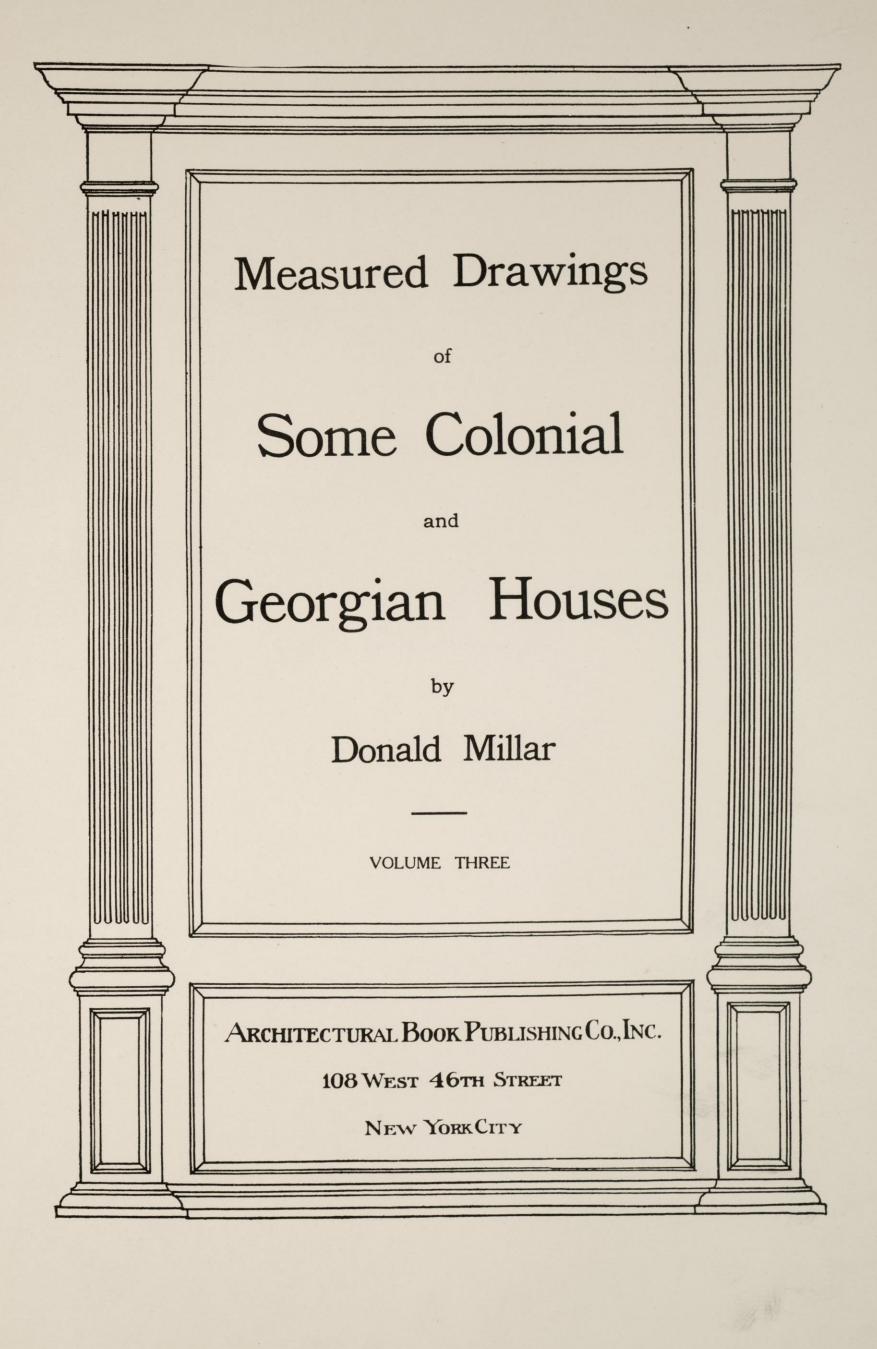
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PREFACE

The houses included in this third volume of "Measured Drawings of Some Colonial and Georgian Houses" are comparatively unknown but not uninteresting. The author is indebted to Mr. Charles W. Warren for permission to measure Bacon's castle; to the "Architectural Record" for permission to use a drawing of Bacon's castle made for that magazine; to the Lexington Historical Society for the Buckman Tavern, and to the Woburn Historical Society for the Count Rumford Birthplace.

Brief historical notes have been included with comments on the architectural features of each house. Modern changes have usually been ignored and in the drawings old window-sash have been restored, in order to show the houses as built. For this purpose old drawings and photographs have been consulted, references and traditions verified, and all evidences of old work duly regarded.

Since the first appearance of this work there has been a renascence of appreciation for Early American architecture and furniture and the influence of these drawings on the neo-colonial work is apparent. Would that the architects would be more careful to perpetuate local pecularities of craftsmanship and design. Where these have been retained the old spirit has in many cases been recaptured and the new houses have all the dignity, the simplicity, and the well-bred charm of the originals.

New York, August, 1930.

HISTORICAL NOTES AND COMMENTS

BACON'S CASTLE, SURREY COUNTY, VA.

Arthur Allen built this house about 1655. During Bacon's Rebellion in 1676 the rebels seized it and since then it has retained its present title. It is an house of Jacobean England showing characteristics of East Anglian brickwork in gables and chimneystacks. The projecting brick window trim is unusual. About 1854 a large house was added to the eastern end and alterations made which erased the moulded trim around the doorway, which has been restored from an old wood-engraving.

The stairs seem to date from the early Eighteenth Century, as does the panelling in the lower rooms. The construction is plainly shown in the drawings. A high brick wall once surrounded the house, which must have been useful for defence. The Dining-Room panelling is most effective with its small panels. Some details are crude, perhaps the work of unskilled negro labour.

HOUSE IN WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

This is a typical Virginia small house, set on a high brick foundation, with chambers under a sloping roof with narrow, well-proportioned dormers. The excellent construction of the brick chimneys should be noted. There was a typical Virginia porch added about 1820, now removed. The china-closet on the west end is casually supported on a post. The stair is good. Late mantels have destroyed the earlier fireplace surrounds, undoubtedly heavy bolection mouldings.

NELSON HOUSE, YORKTOWN, VA.

This plate gives an accurate representation of the perfectly balanced facade of this, one of the finest houses of the Colonial period. It was built in 1754 by Thomas Nelson, Governor of Virginia. Moulded brick is used in the water table, chimneytops, and door-frame. The arched top of the windows is unusual but effective. The house has lately undergone a drastic "restoration."

BUCKMAN TAVERN, LEXINGTON, MASS.

The original house was the entry and east parlour with a leanto behind, built in 1690 by Benjamin Muzzy. It was opened as a tavern in 1714 and was the meeting-place of the "Minute-Men" on April 19, 1776. The long "tail" at the back has been omitted from the drawing, also a one-story wing running at an angle south-eastward. The original fireplace has been opened up. The present front door on the house is a "restoration," poor in detail. The one shown in the drawing has been designed from old photographs of the original, using old details. The West-Parlour Chamber has good detail and the fine old hinged partition has been removed. It should have been preserved. They were useful in tavern days to open two rooms for purposes of public balls, etc.

COUNT RUMFORD BIRTHPLACE, NORTH WOBURN, MASS.

This house, the birthplace of Benjamin Thompson, the celebrated Count Rumford, was built about 1714. The stair is an unspoiled example of early work. The West Parlour has details of about 1800, no doubt masking work as interesting as the fine early panelling in the chamber above. The front doorway is later, with poor detail.

ROOM IN BROWN HOUSE, CONCORD, MASS.

This is a well-balanced design and the corner-cupboard simple but charming.

MARRETT HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

This house was built about 1755-1765 by Capt. Edward Marrett. It originally stood on a corner, the east end facing on the other street. This large lower room has no old trim, and originally had in the end wall a door between two windows. Research proved it was a tailor-shop. The front doorway is well-done and the lower panels of the door form a charming design differing from the conventional finish. The stairhall and the staircase are the feature of the house. The Dining-Room with the chamber over it are the only rooms of interest, having good details. The closets on either side of the front door are a rare feature and most useful. The house has been removed and re-erected on the North Shore.

TOWNSEND-SWEETSER HOUSE, LYNNFIELD, MASS.

The peculiar framing of the entry and west rooms indicates that this house as it now stands is an enlargement of an older house. The present work dates from about 1725. Another room has been added at an early date at the east end, making the house very long for its height. The panelling in the "Keeping-Room" (as the living room used to be called) and the stair-hall are well done. Beside the door are two closets like those in the Marrett House in Cambridge—the only two instances known to the author. The details of the stairs are interesting and the front doorway has a fine curved and broken pediment. The pilasters are gone and the frame much mutilated. The cellar stair shows a very old construction and the gable end shows that this is evidently a house framed without studs for walls, but covered with boards, nailed vertically from plate to sill, as is shown in the plates.

MEASURED DRAWINGS

OF

Some Colonial and Georgian Houses

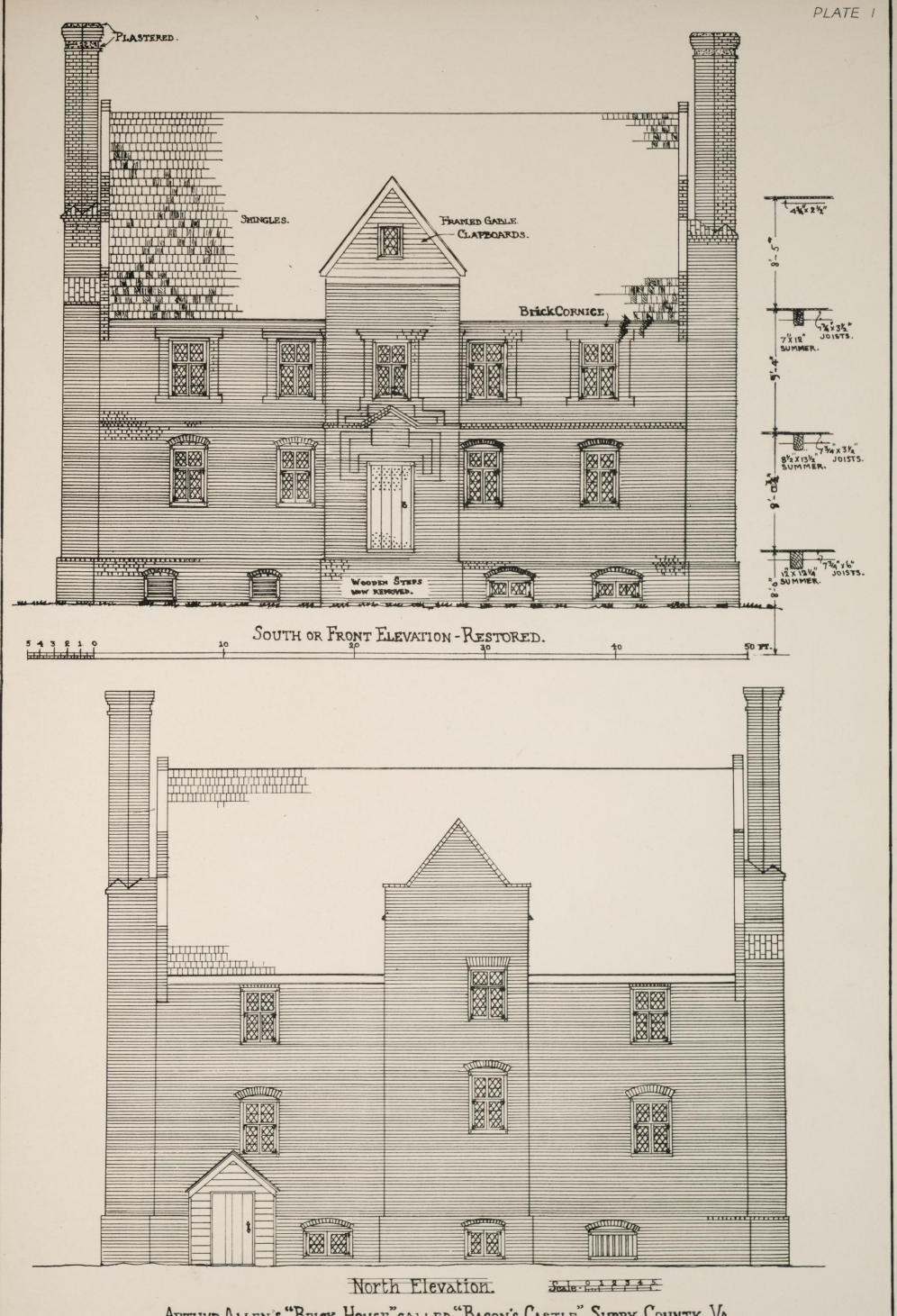
BY

DONALD MILLAR

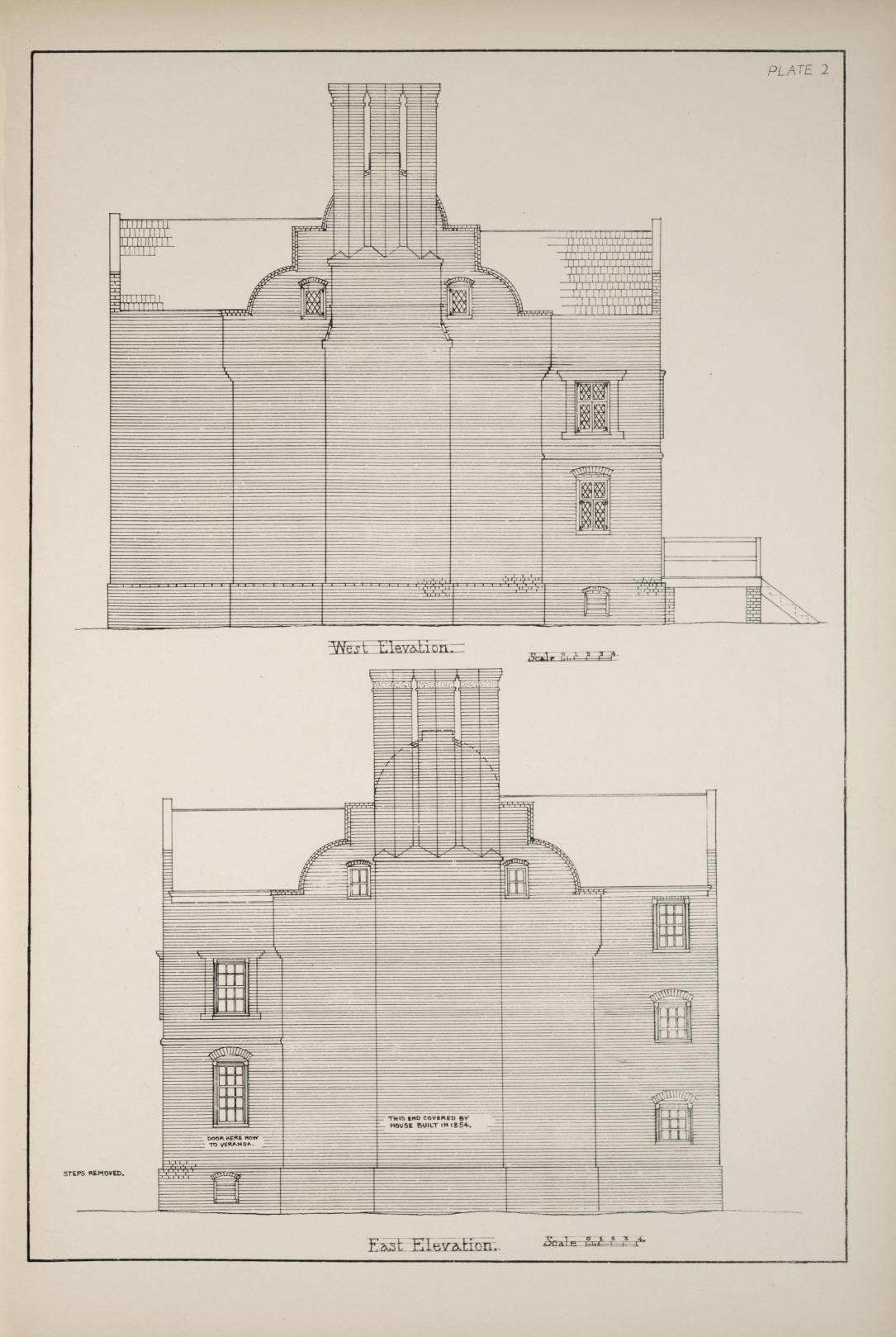
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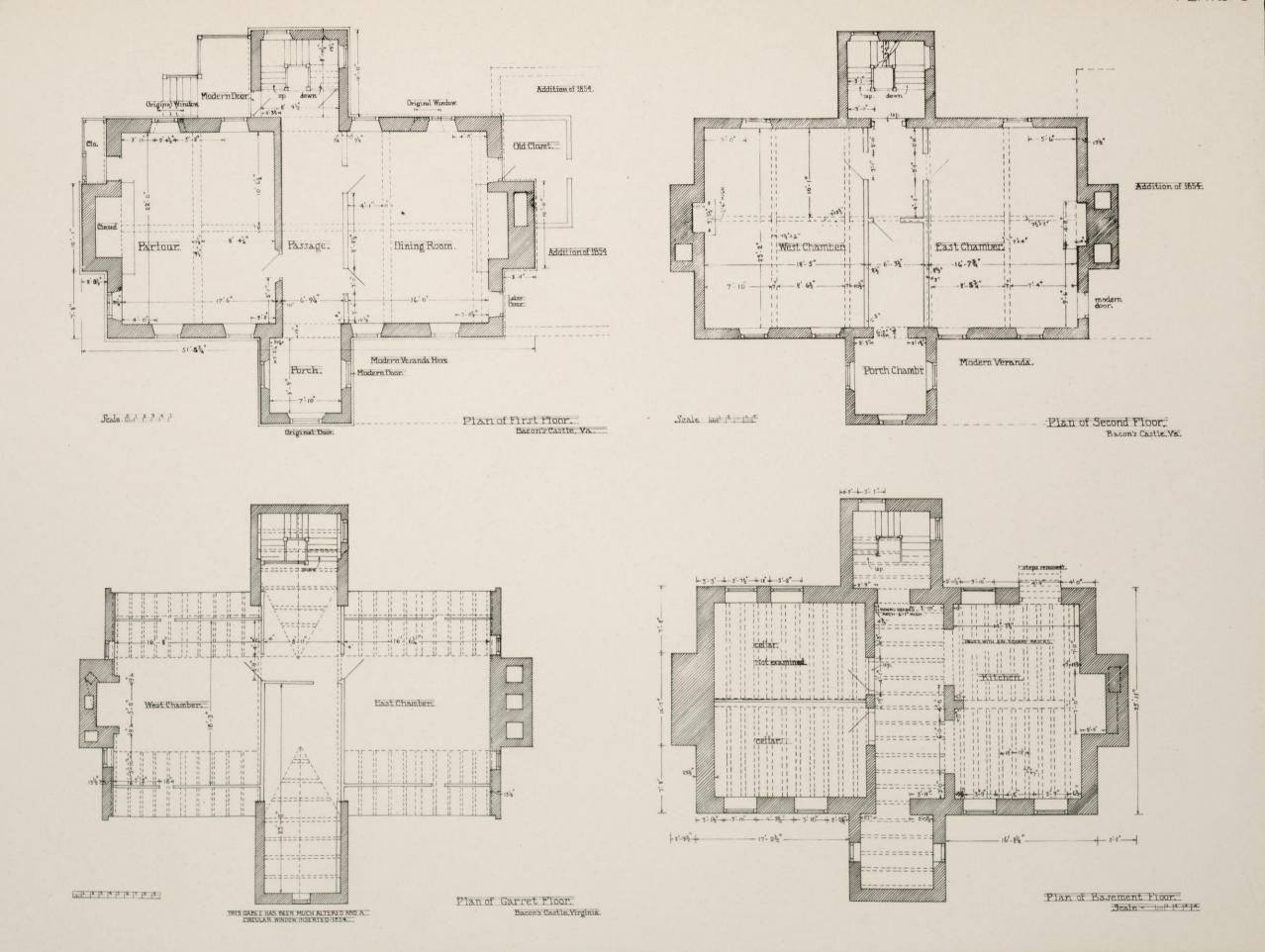
- BACON'S CASTLE, SURREY COUNTY, VA.—Front and Rear Elevations.
- 2. West and East Elevations.
- 3. Plans: Basement, First, Second, and Garret Floors.
- 4. Stair Hall and Details.
- 5. Panelling of Parlour.
- 6. Panelling of Dining Room.
- 7. Details of Chambers.
- 8. Details of Basement and Roof-framing.
- HOUSE IN WILLIAMSBURG, VA.—Elevations; Front and Ends.
- 10. Rear Elevation and Plans.
- 11. Stair Hall: Details of Stair and Windows.
- 12. Section through House.
- 13. Details of Basement Kitchen and Framing.
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- 16. Floor Plans and Stairs.
- 17. West and East Parlour Details.
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- 19. Garret Chambers and Kitchen.
- 20. Exterior Details.
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- 23. Panelling of Parlour Chamber—Doorway, and Details.
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- 40. Front Doorway and Windows.
- 41. Exterior Details, East Chamber, and Section of Roof Framing.

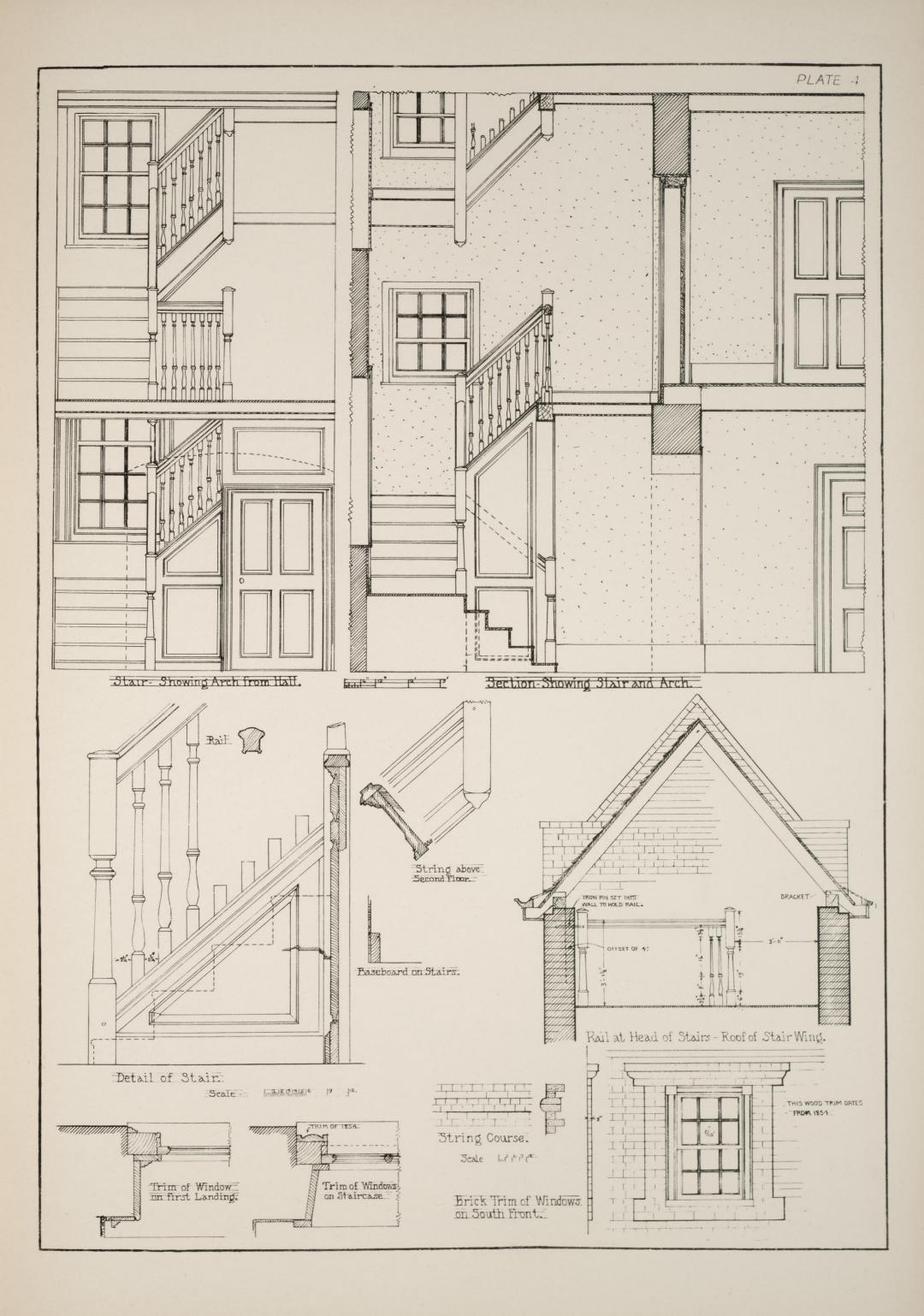


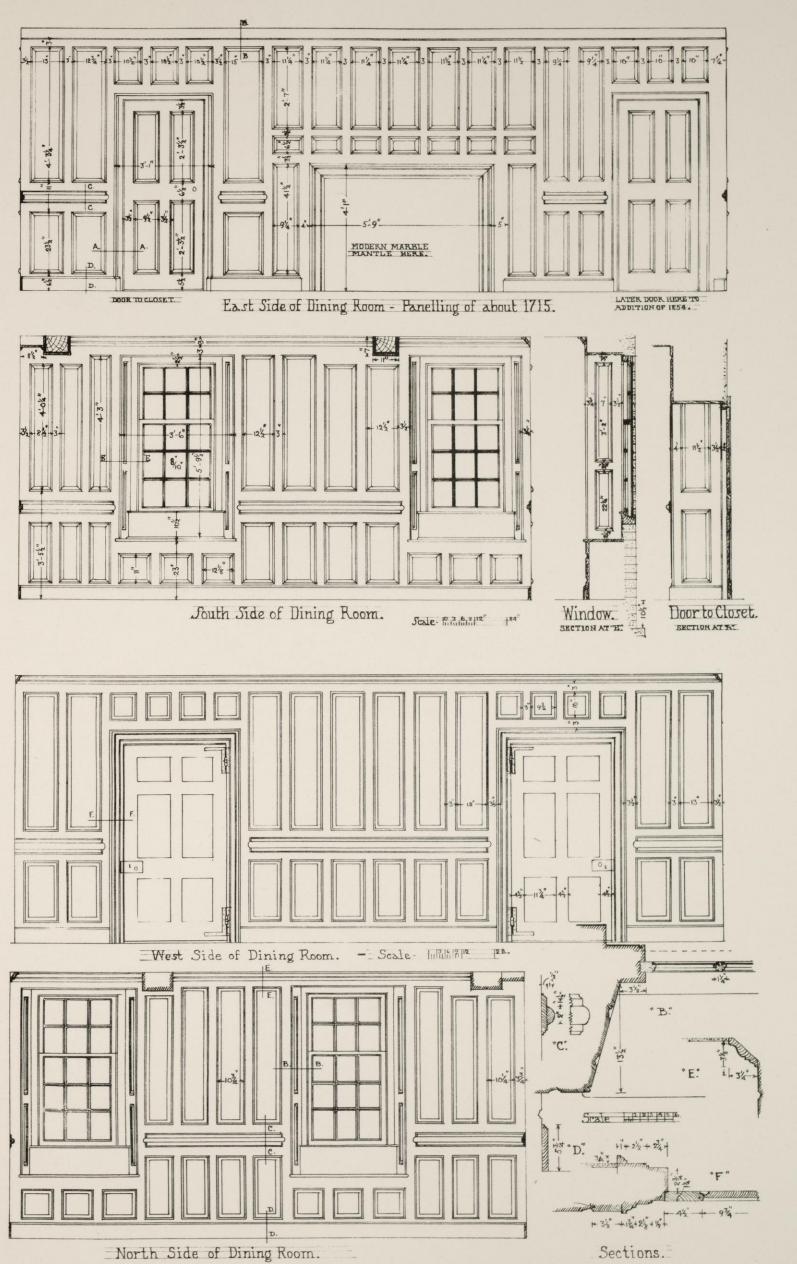


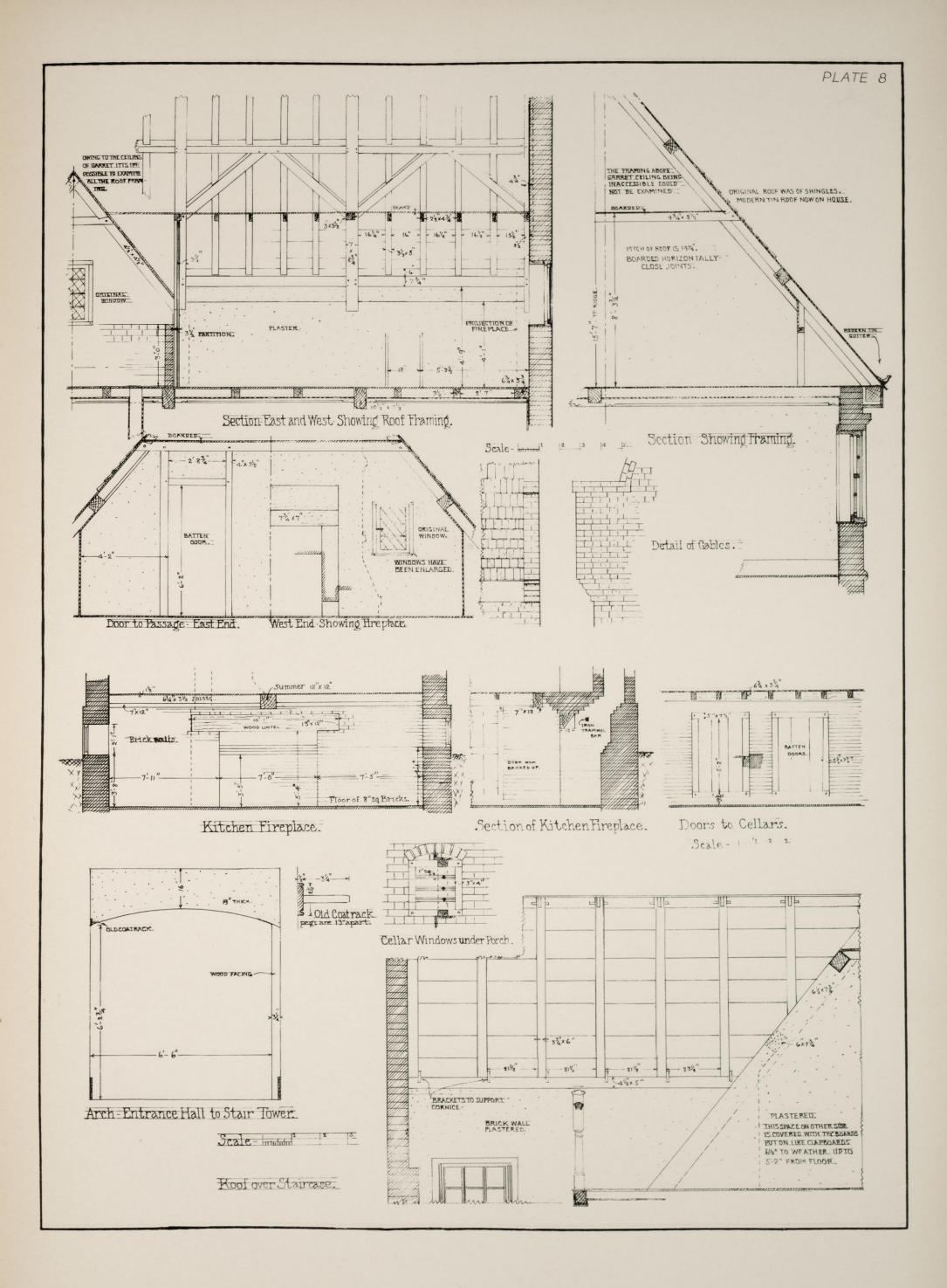
ARTHUR ALLEN'S "BRICK HOUSE" CALLED "BACON'S CASTLE". SURRY COUNTY, VA.

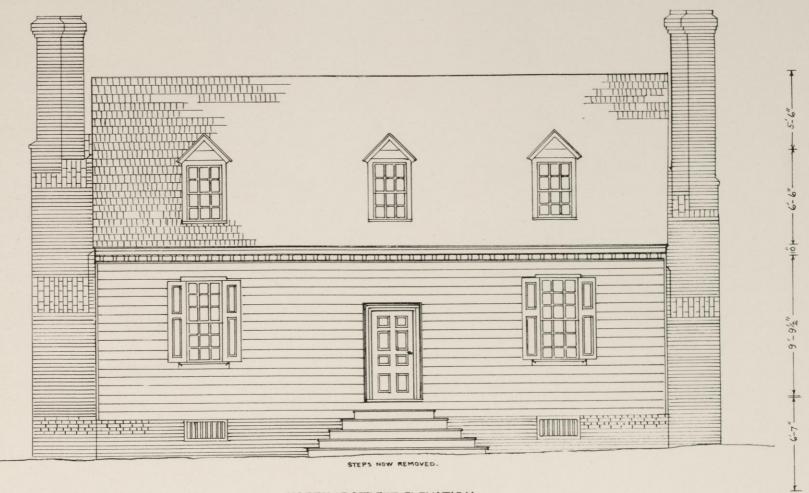






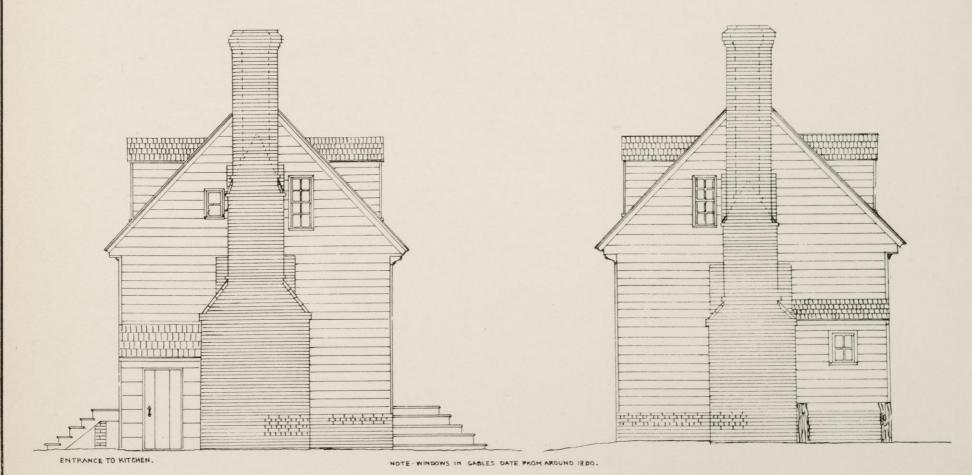






NORTH OR STREET ELEVATION.

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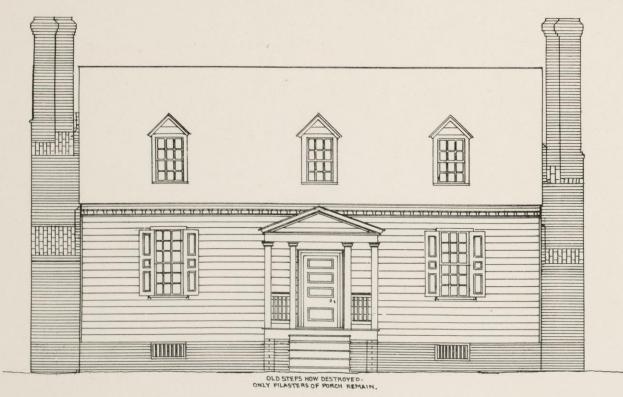
EAST END.

SCALE - HILL |

WEST END.

BUILT ABOUT 1745 OR EARLIER .

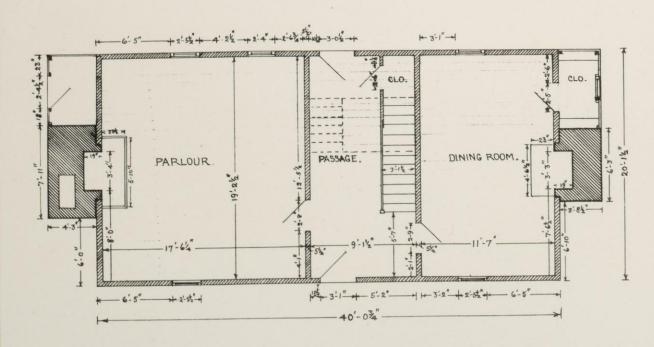
HOUSE ON FRANCIS AND SOUTH QUEEN STREETS, WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.



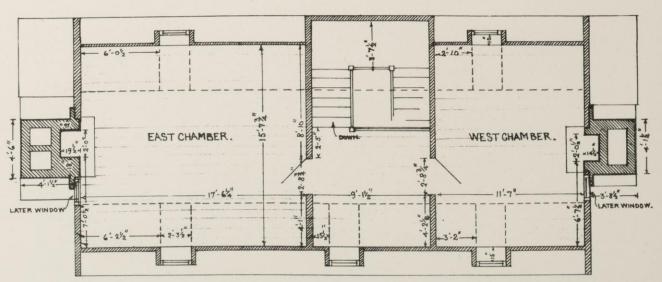
NORTH OR STREET ELEVATION, ABOUT 1820.



SOUTH OR REAR ELEVATION.

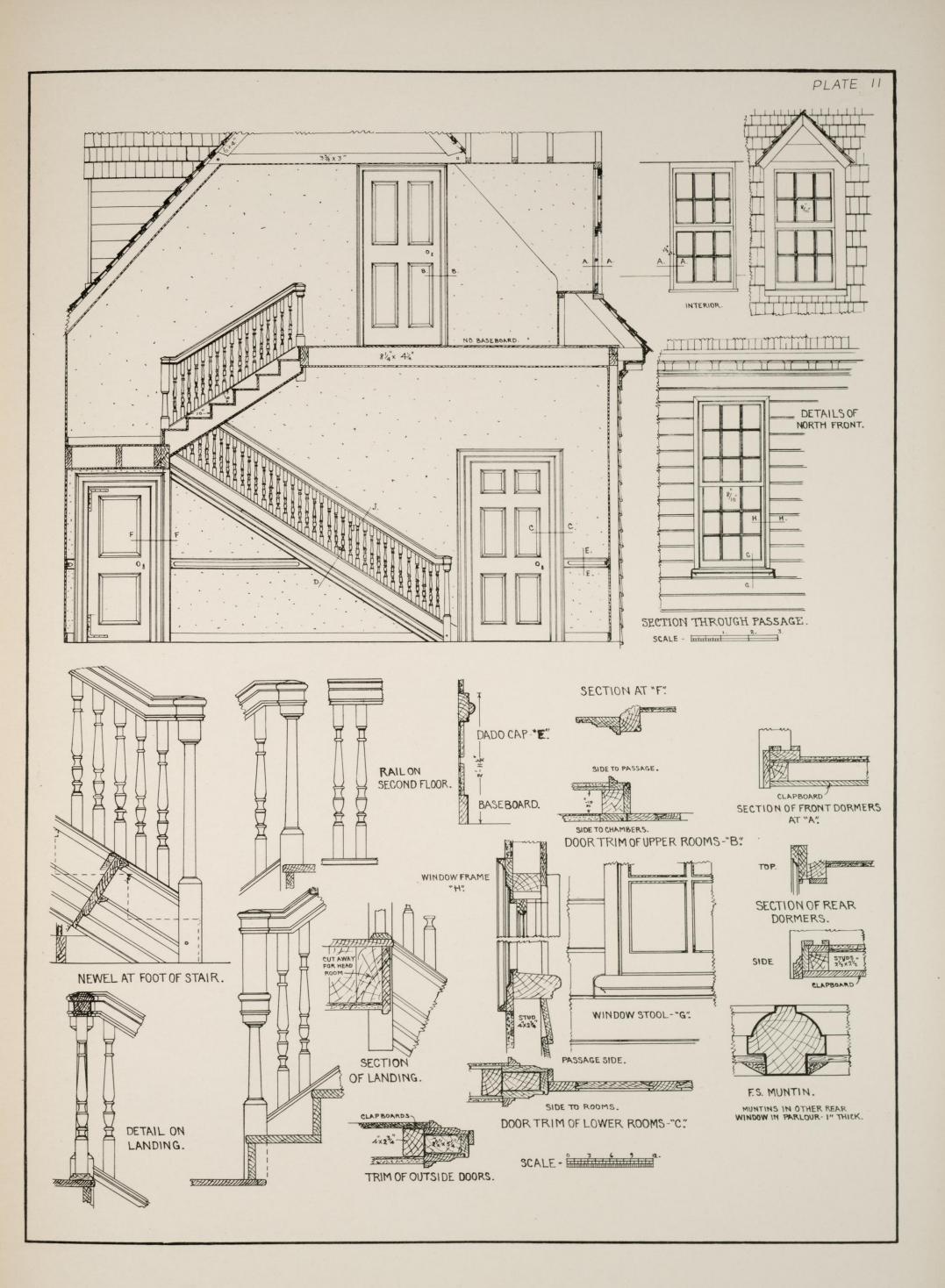


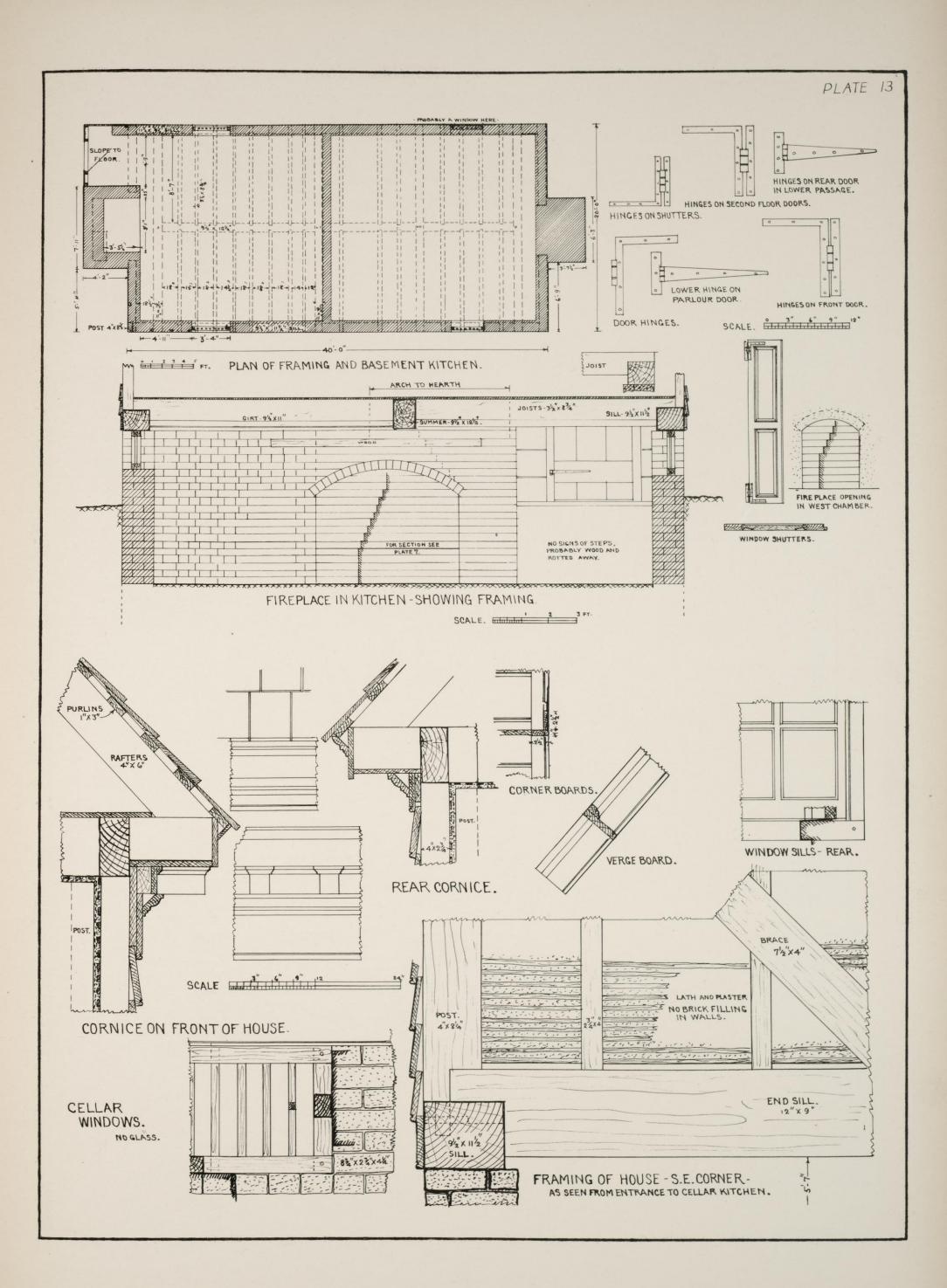
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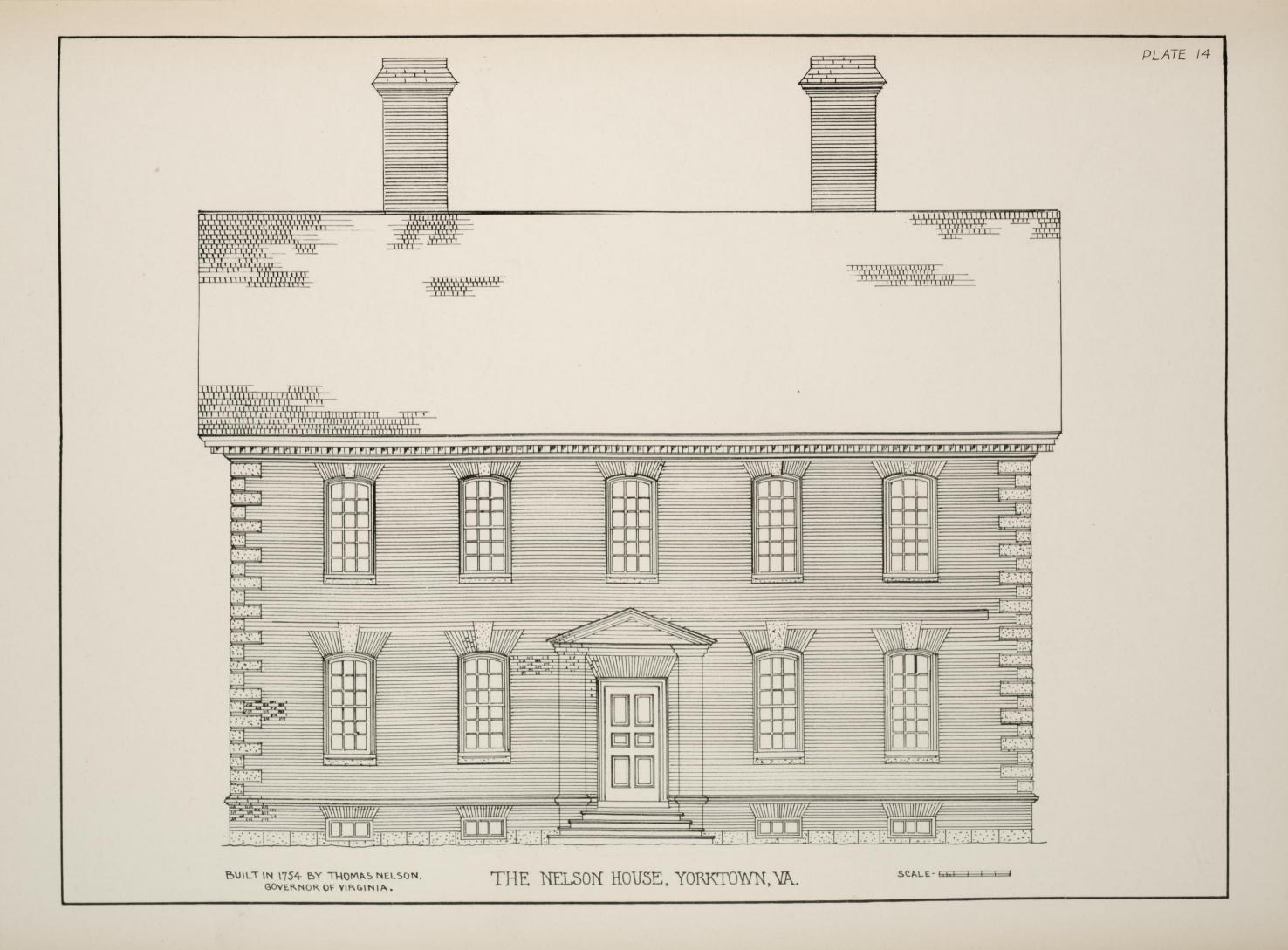


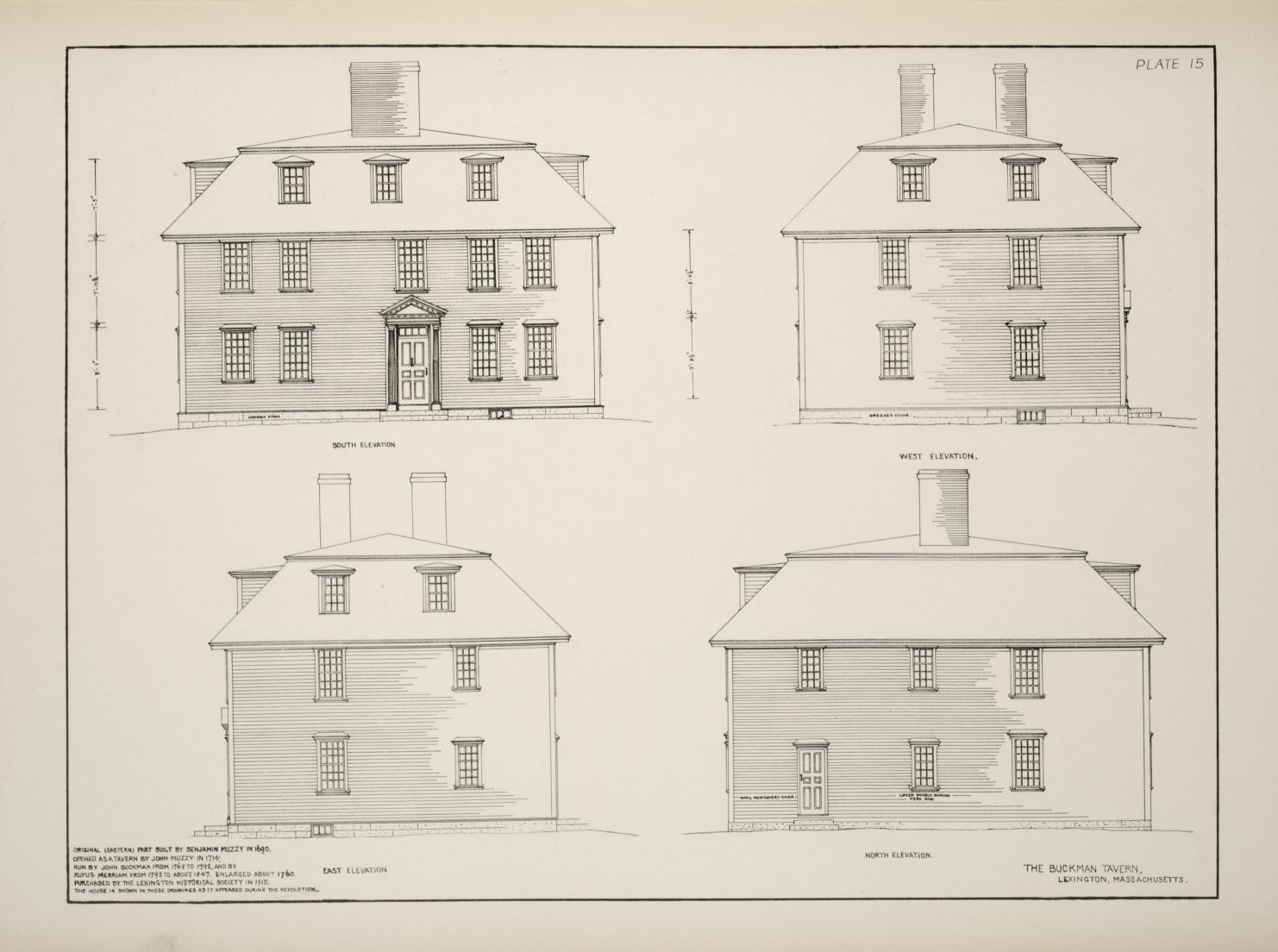
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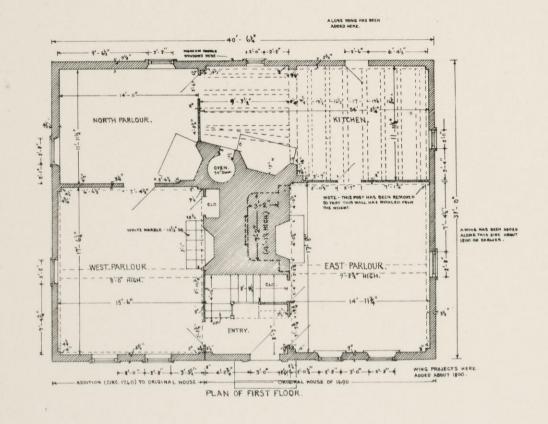
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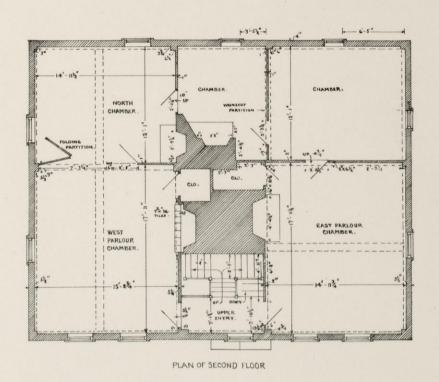


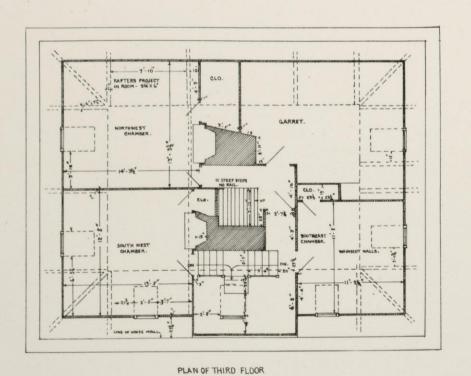


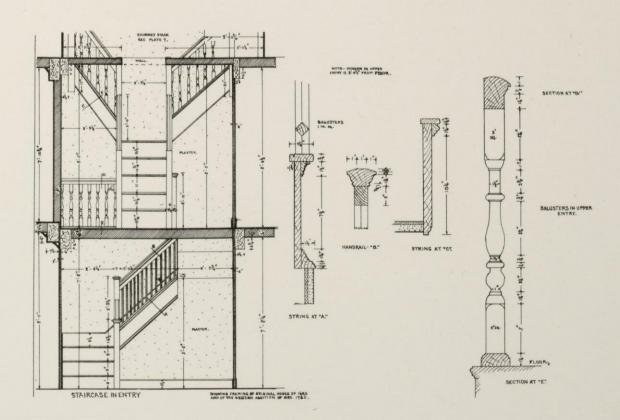




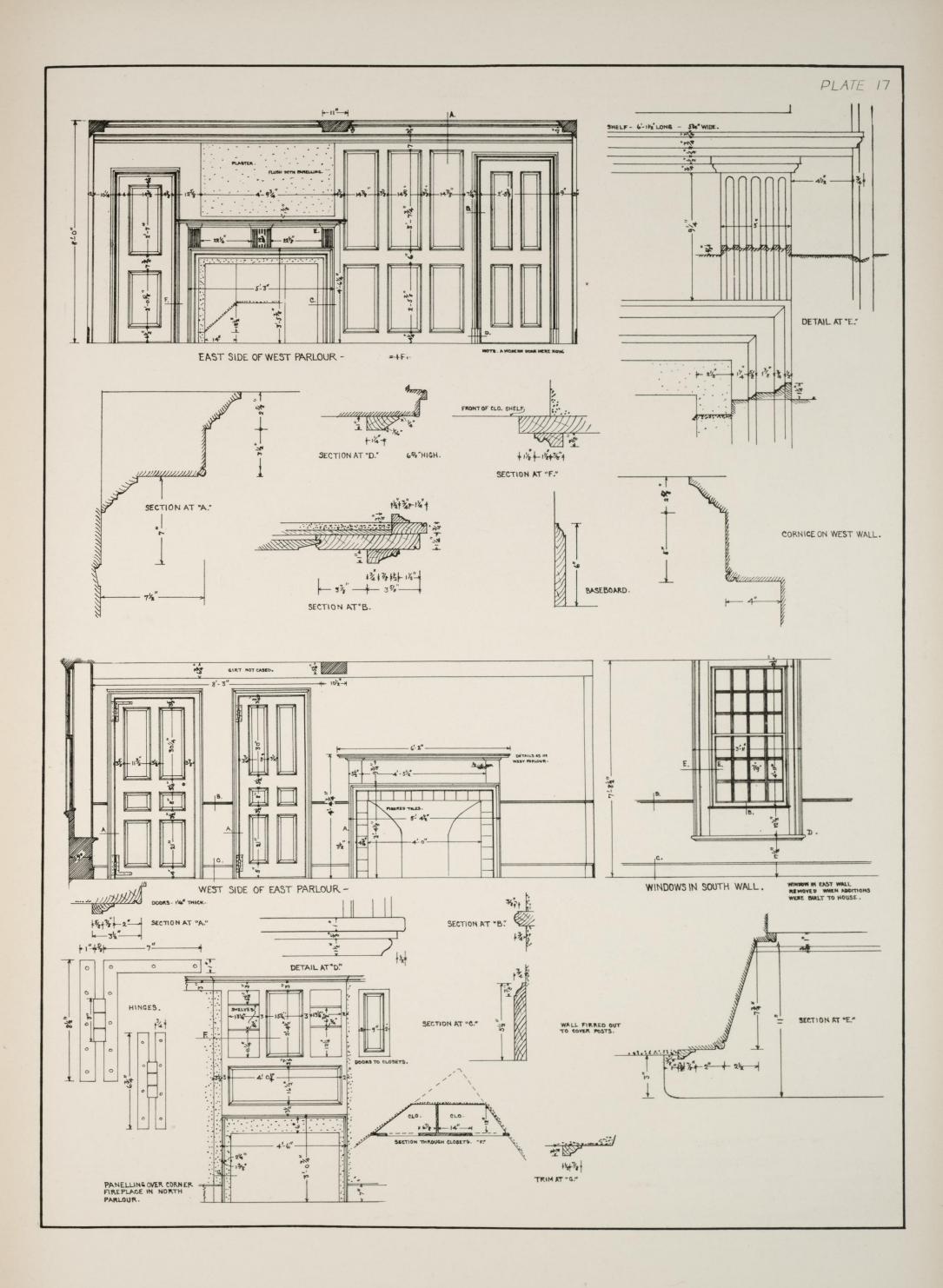


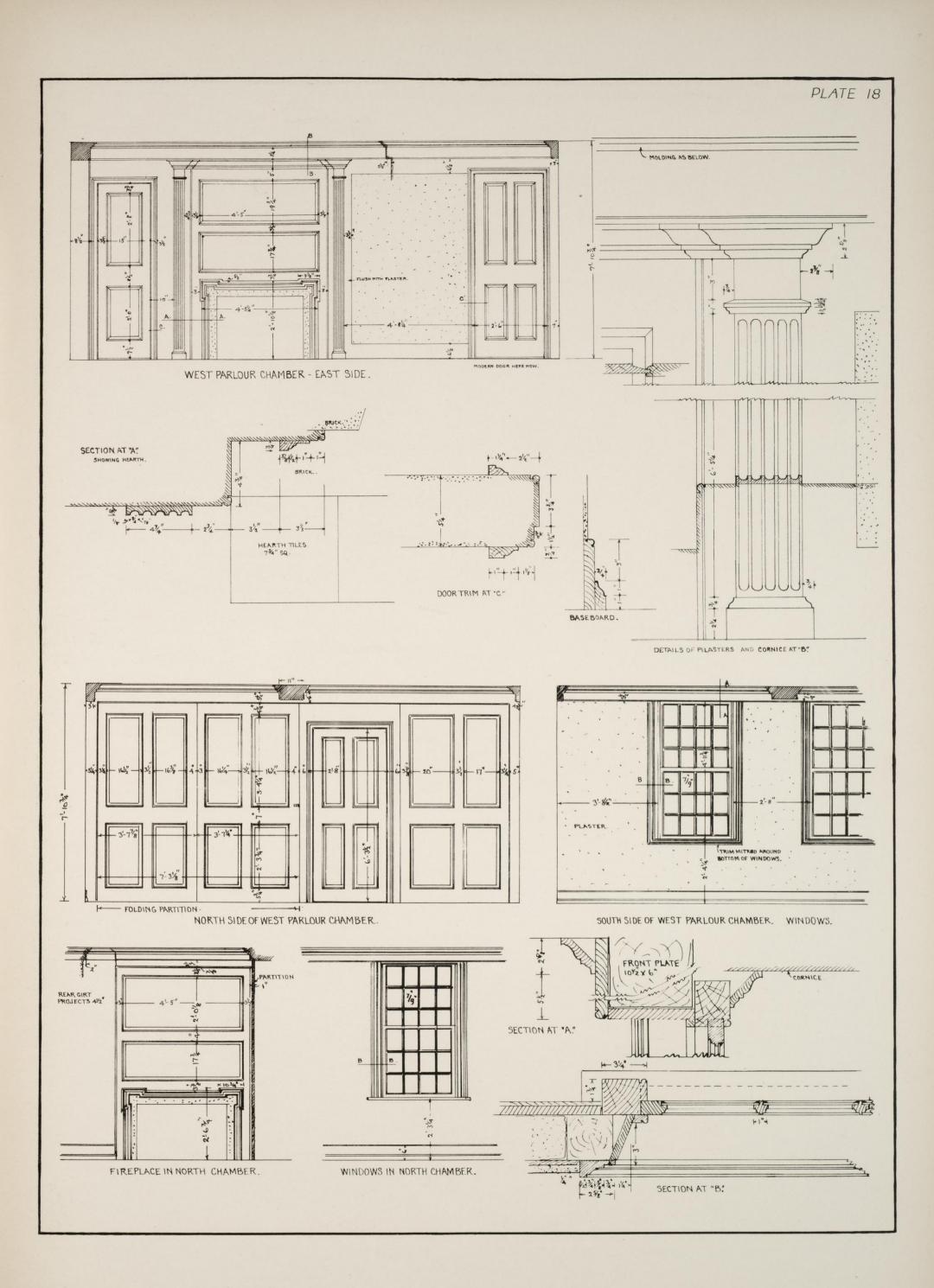


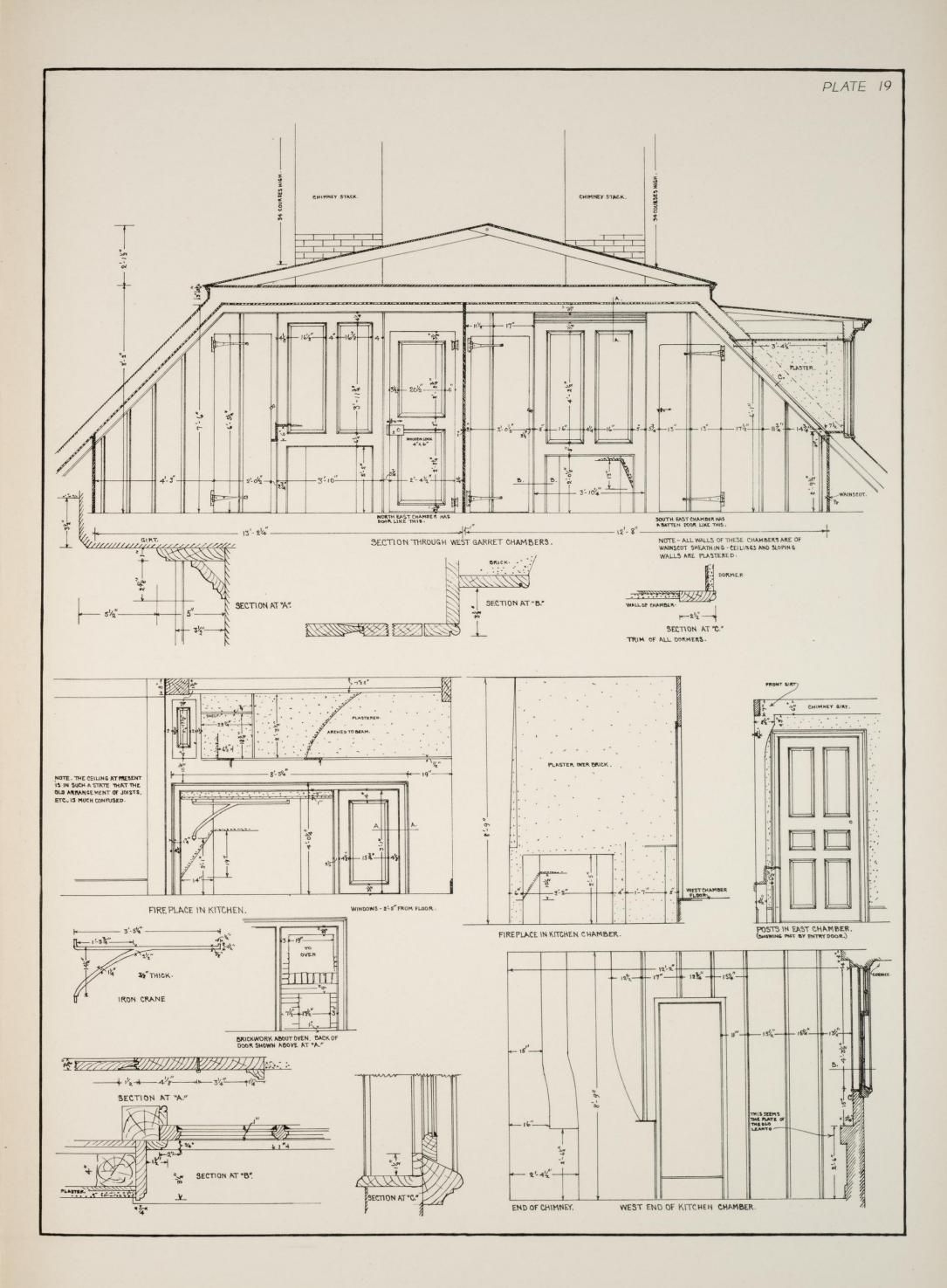


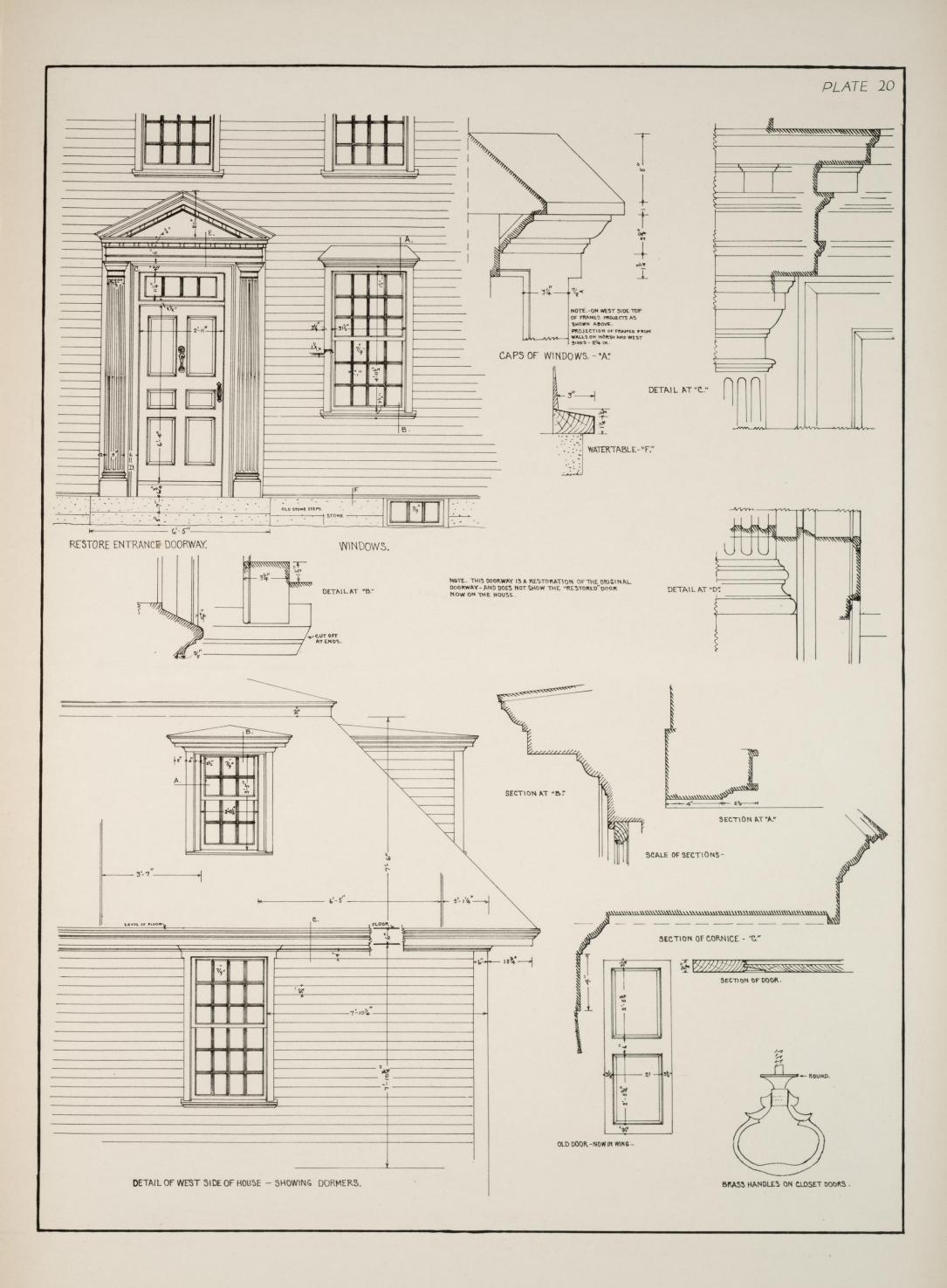


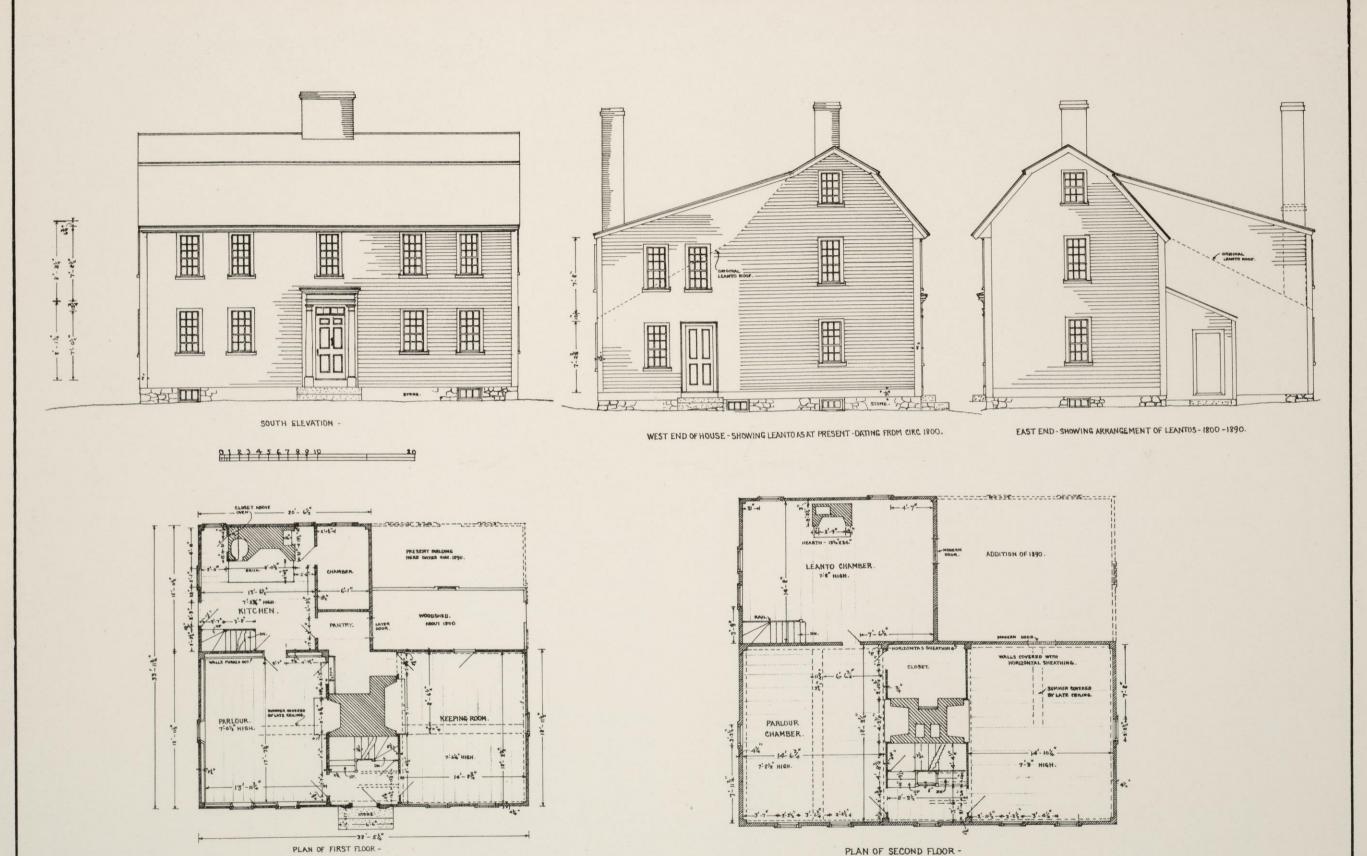
NOTE - THESE DRAWINGS SHOW THE HOUSE AS IT WAS DURING THE REVOLUTION.





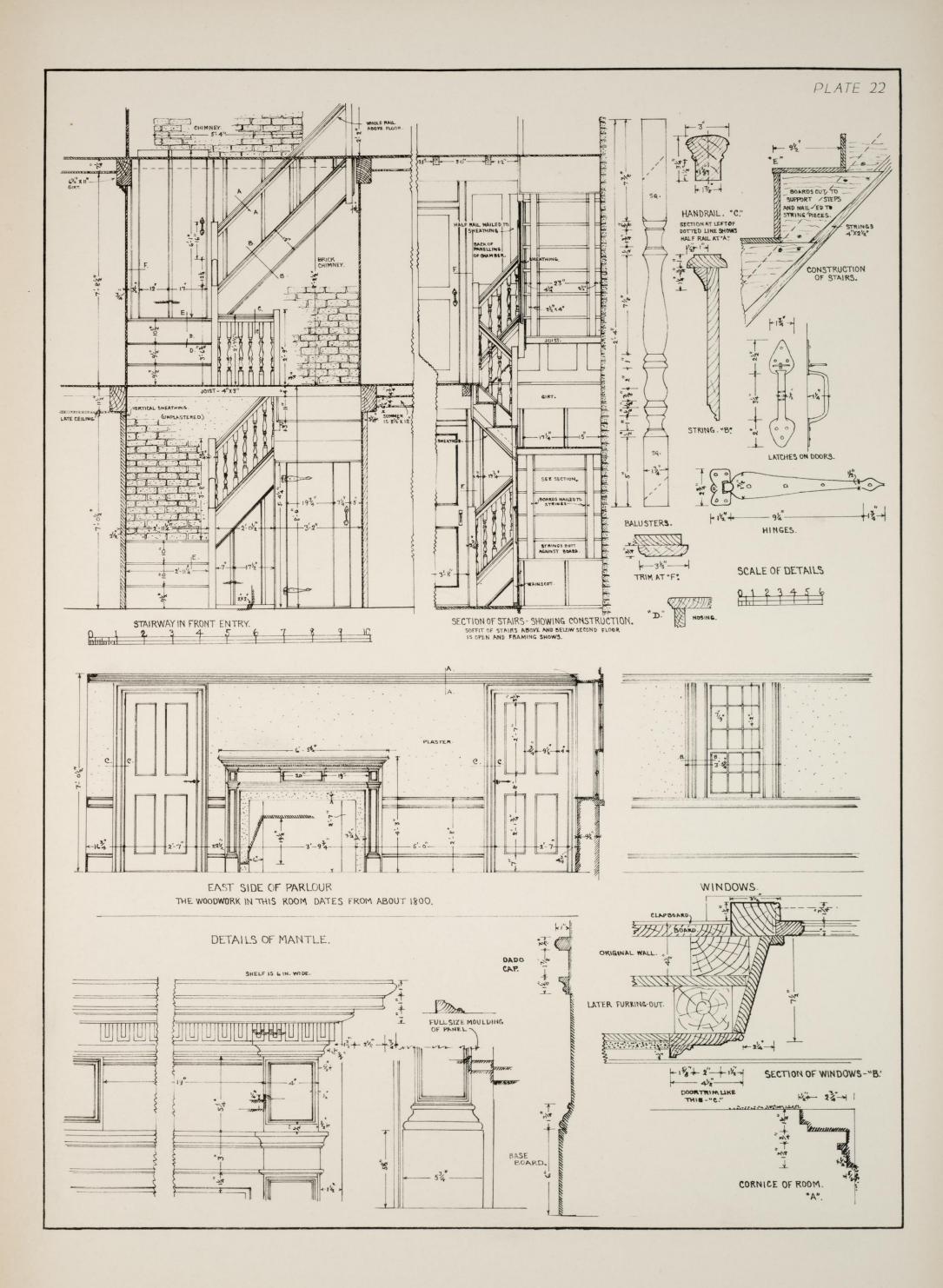


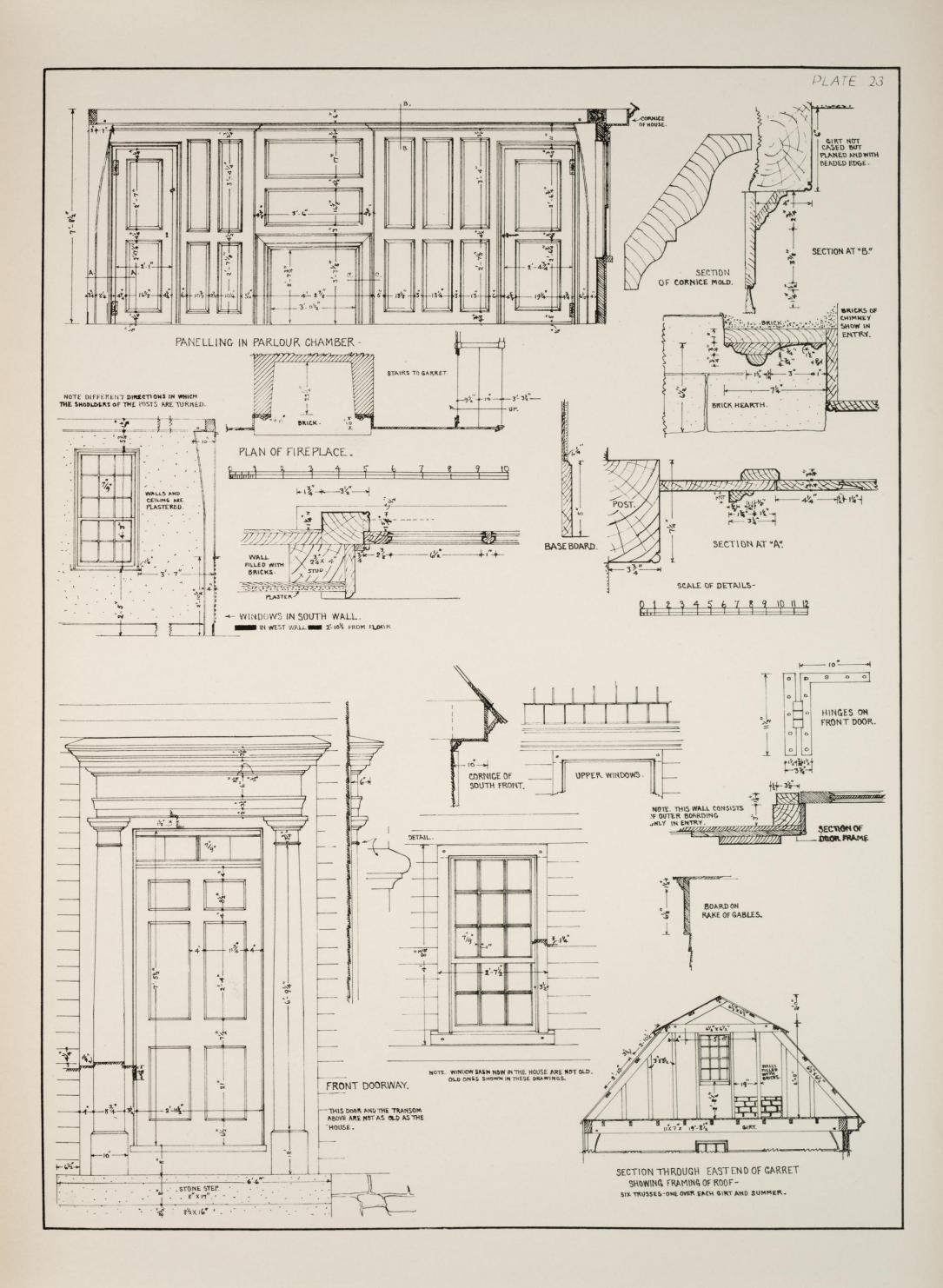


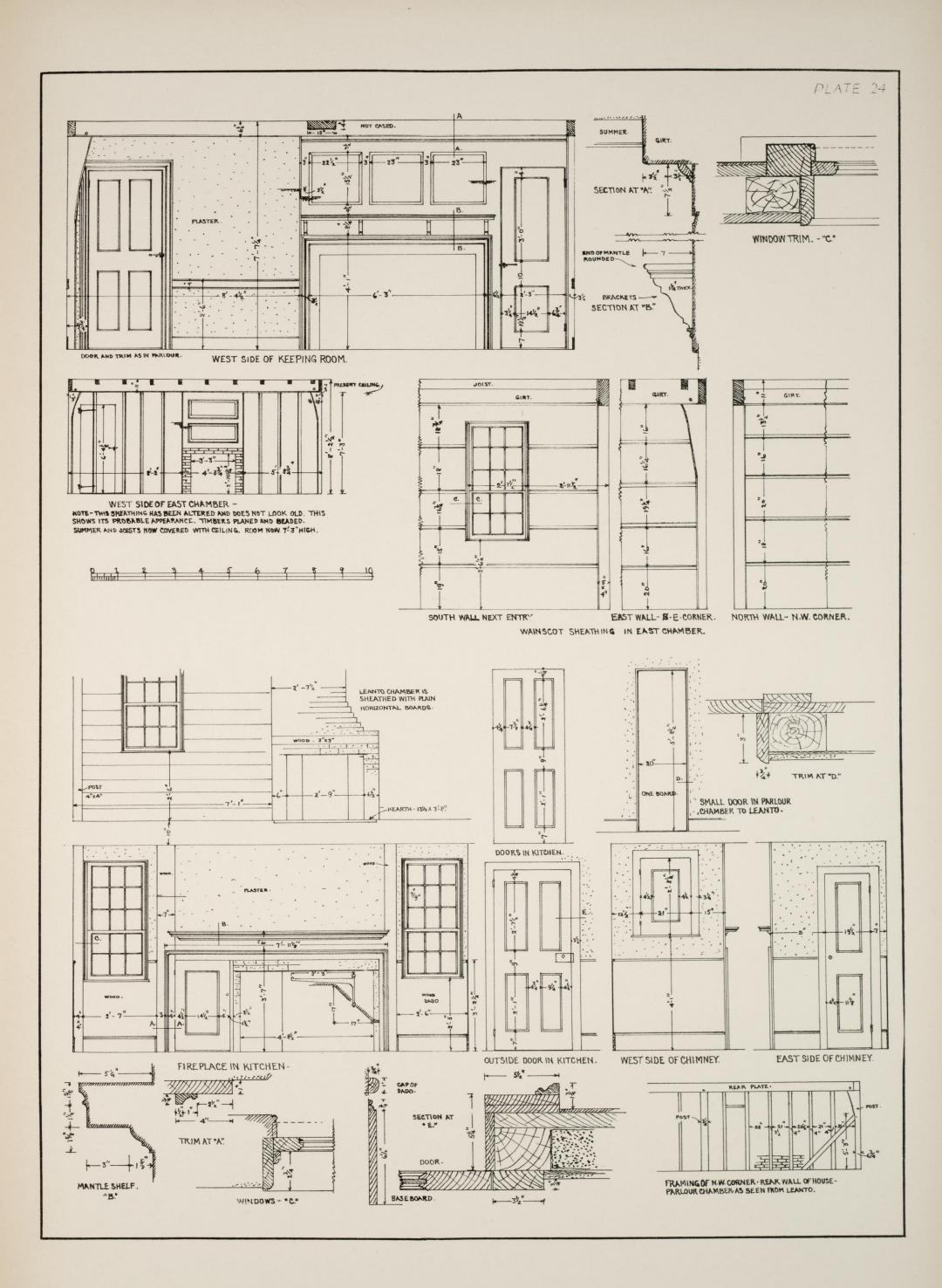


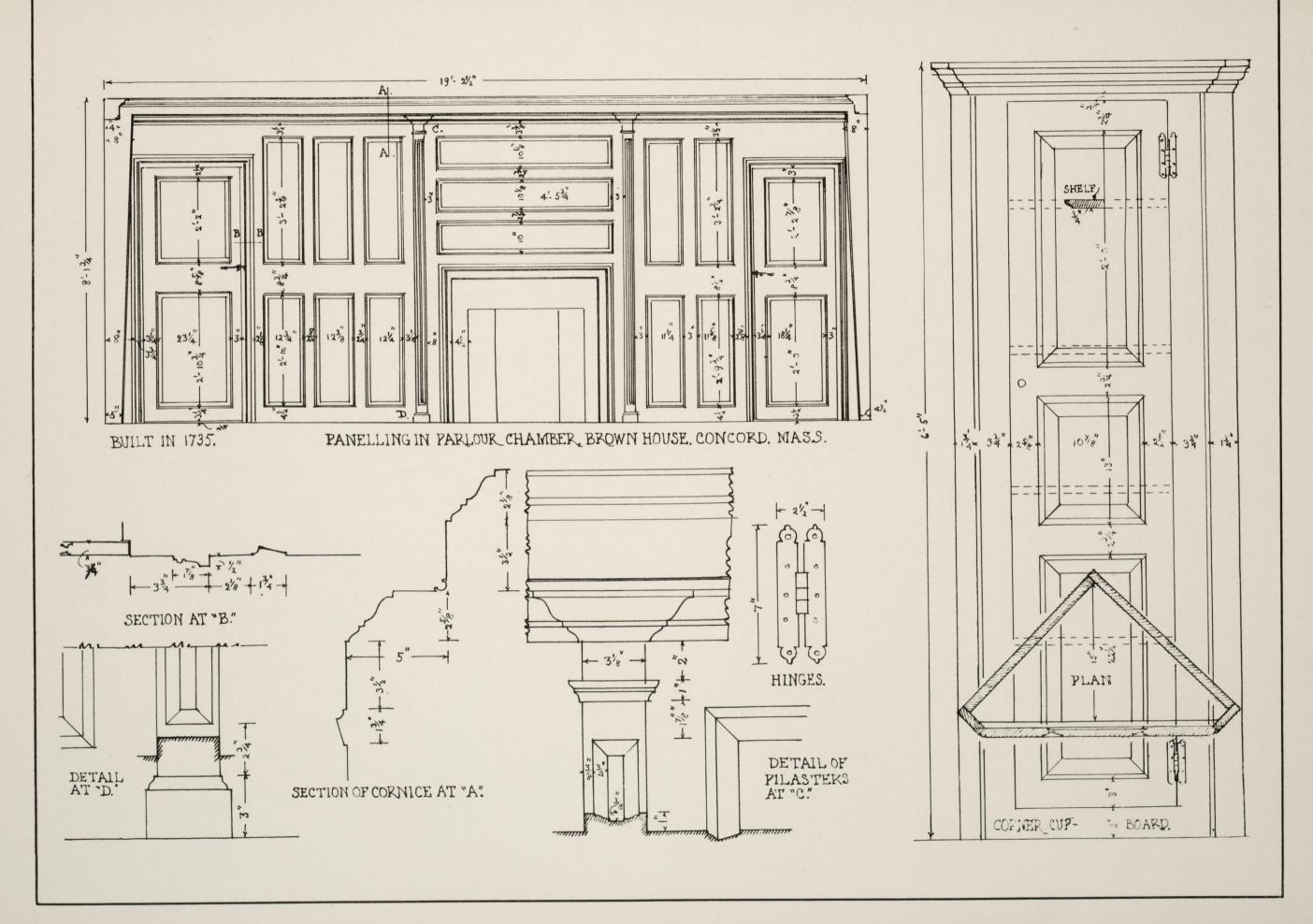
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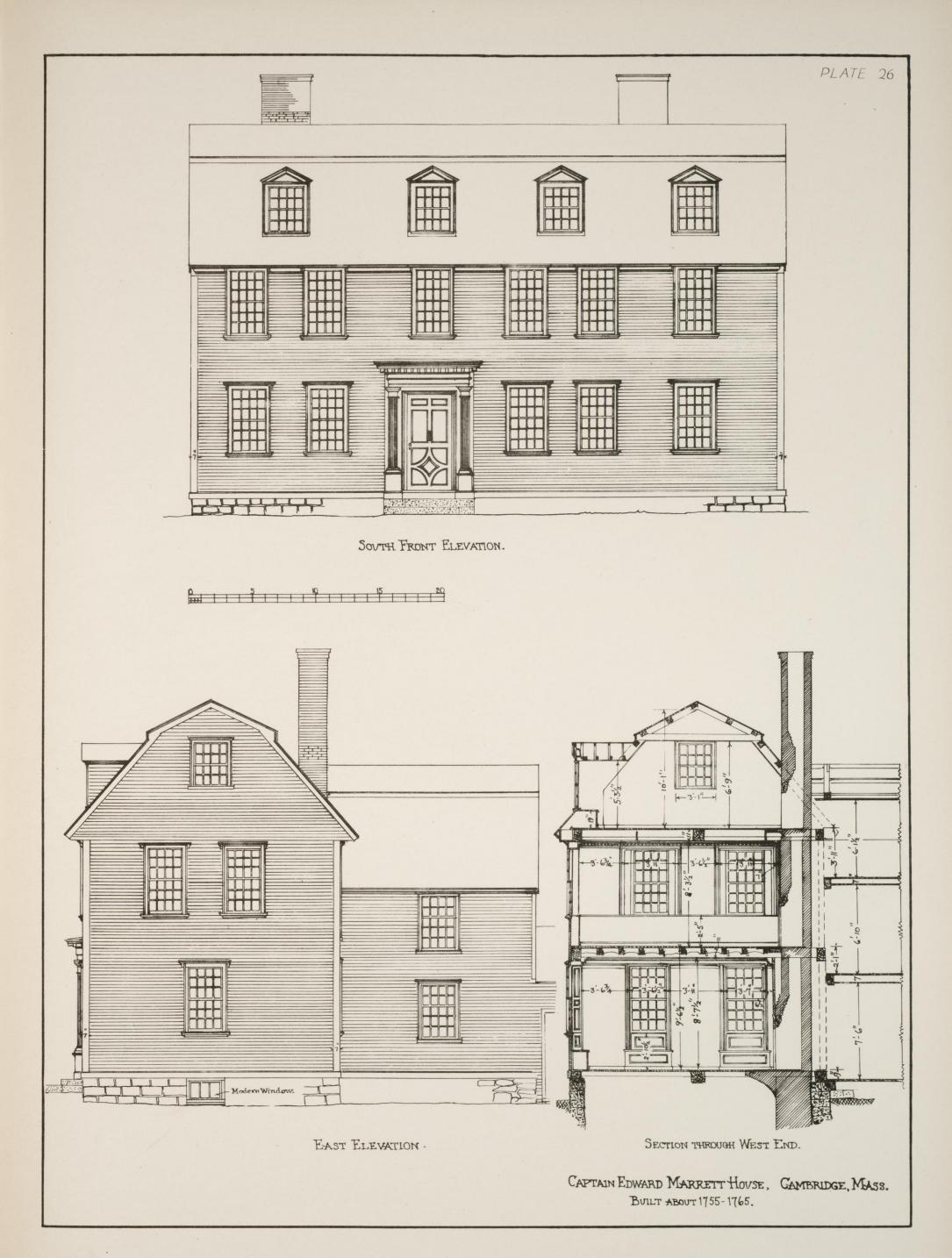
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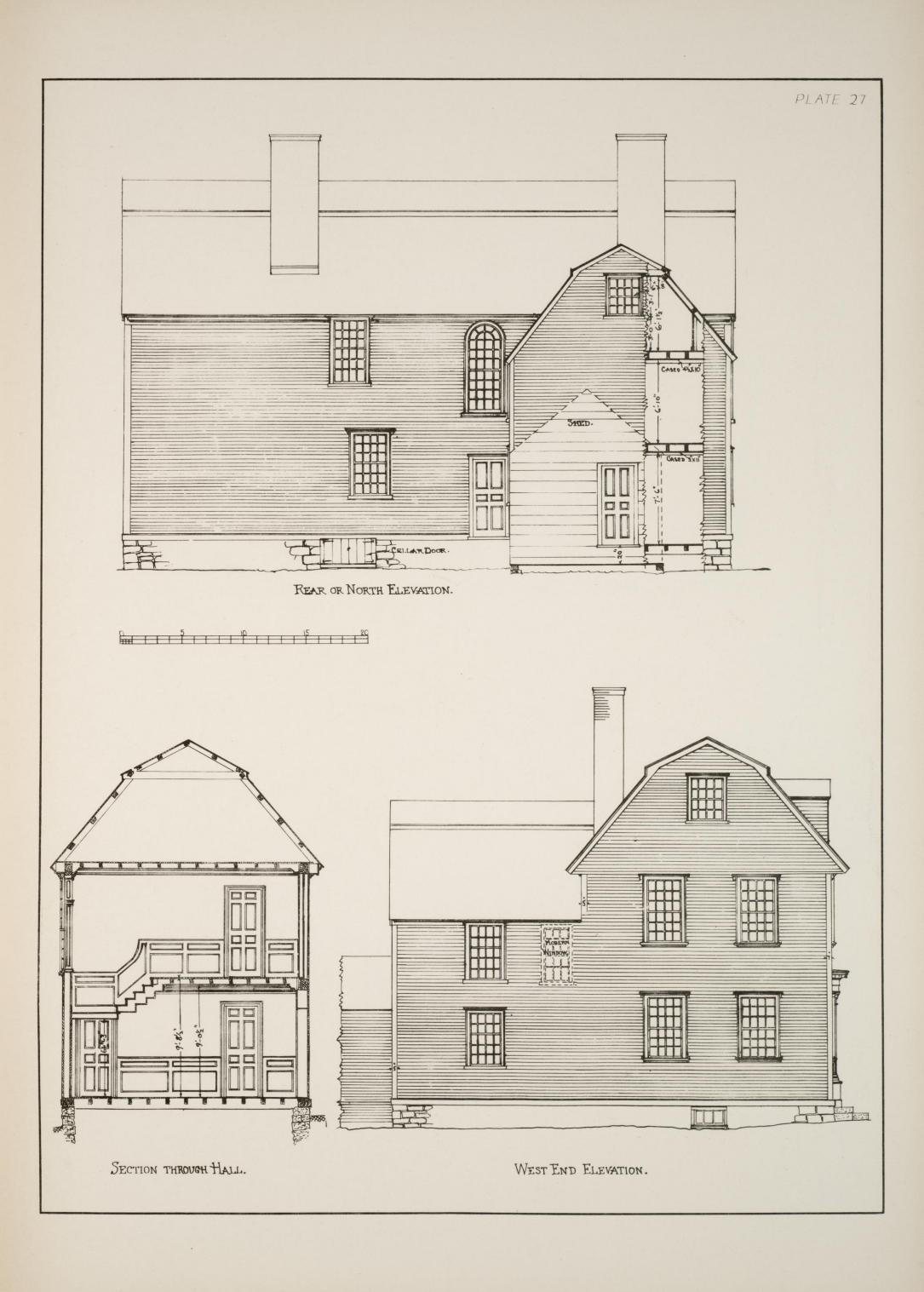


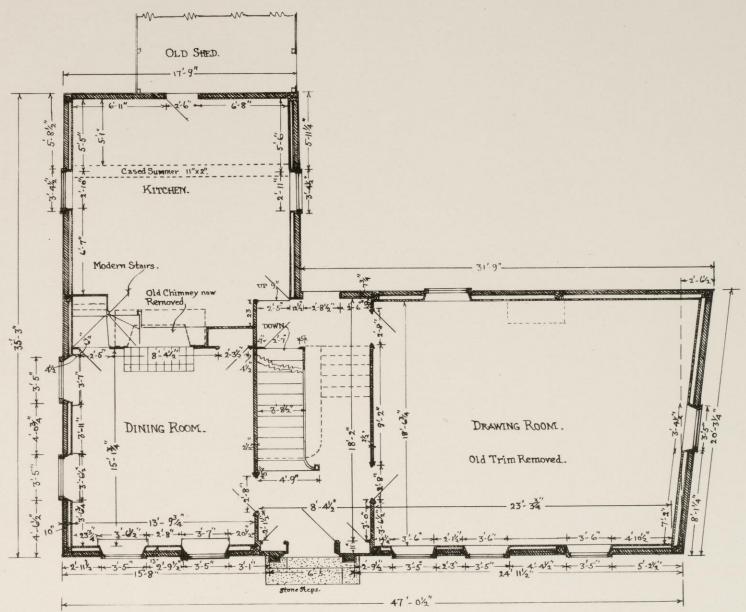




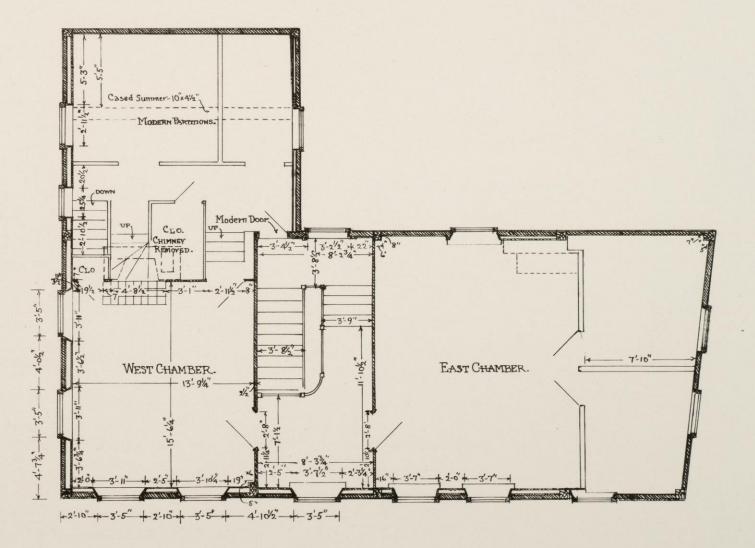




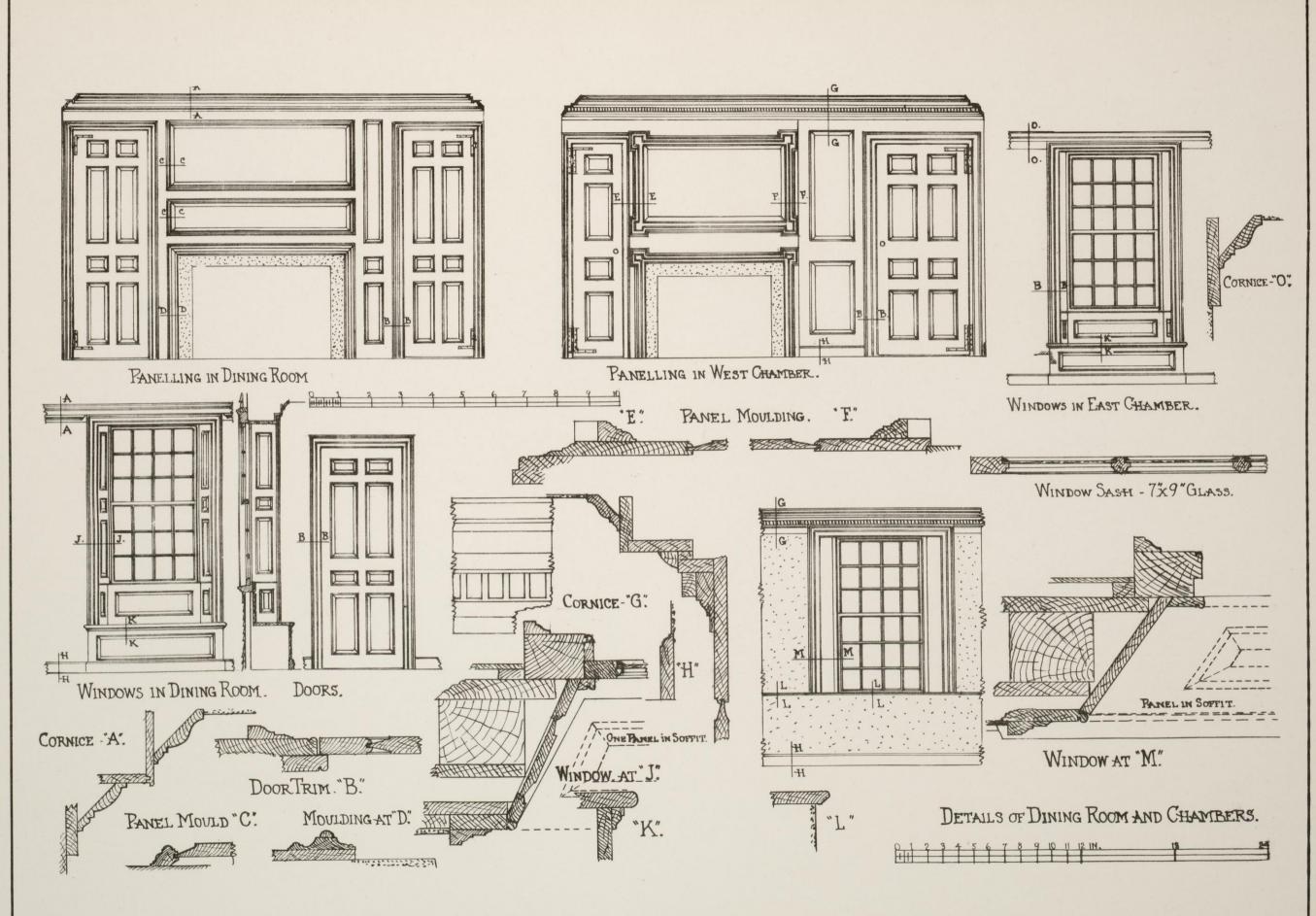


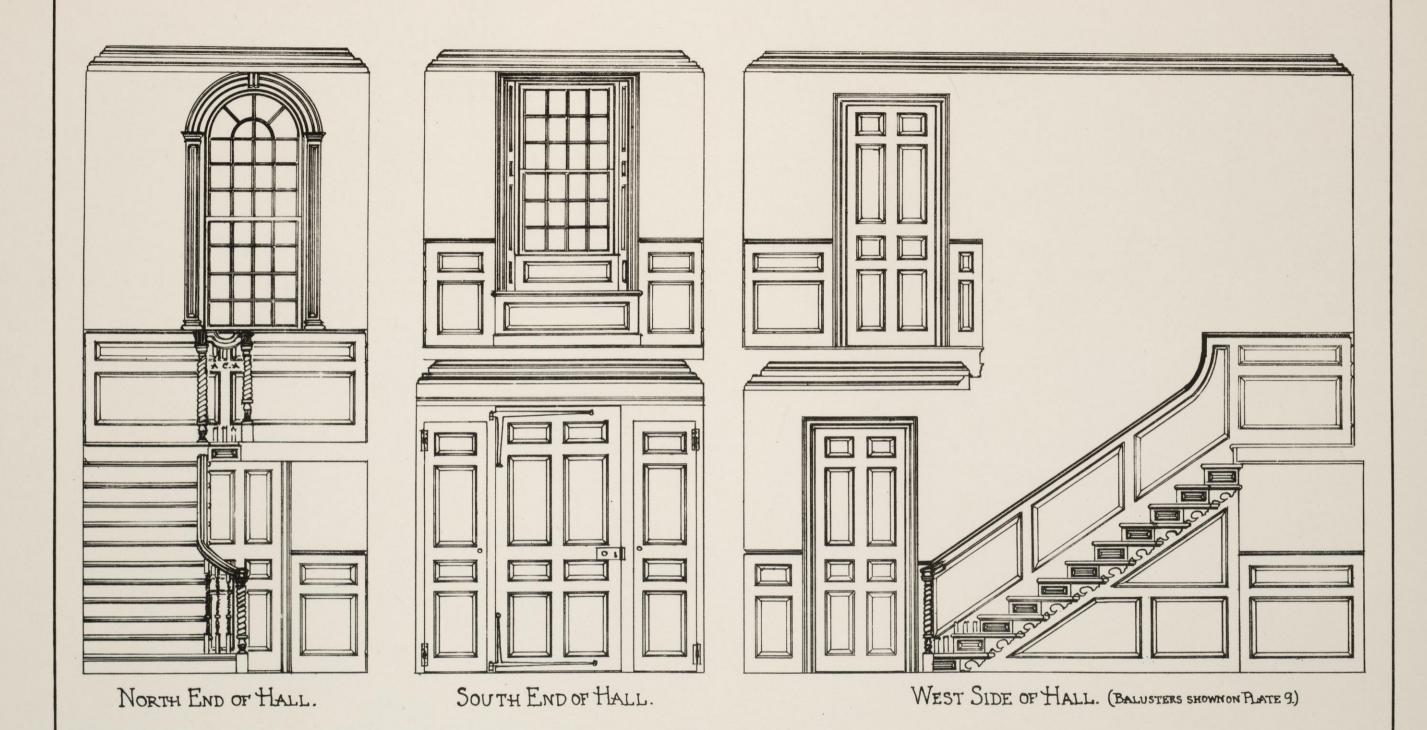


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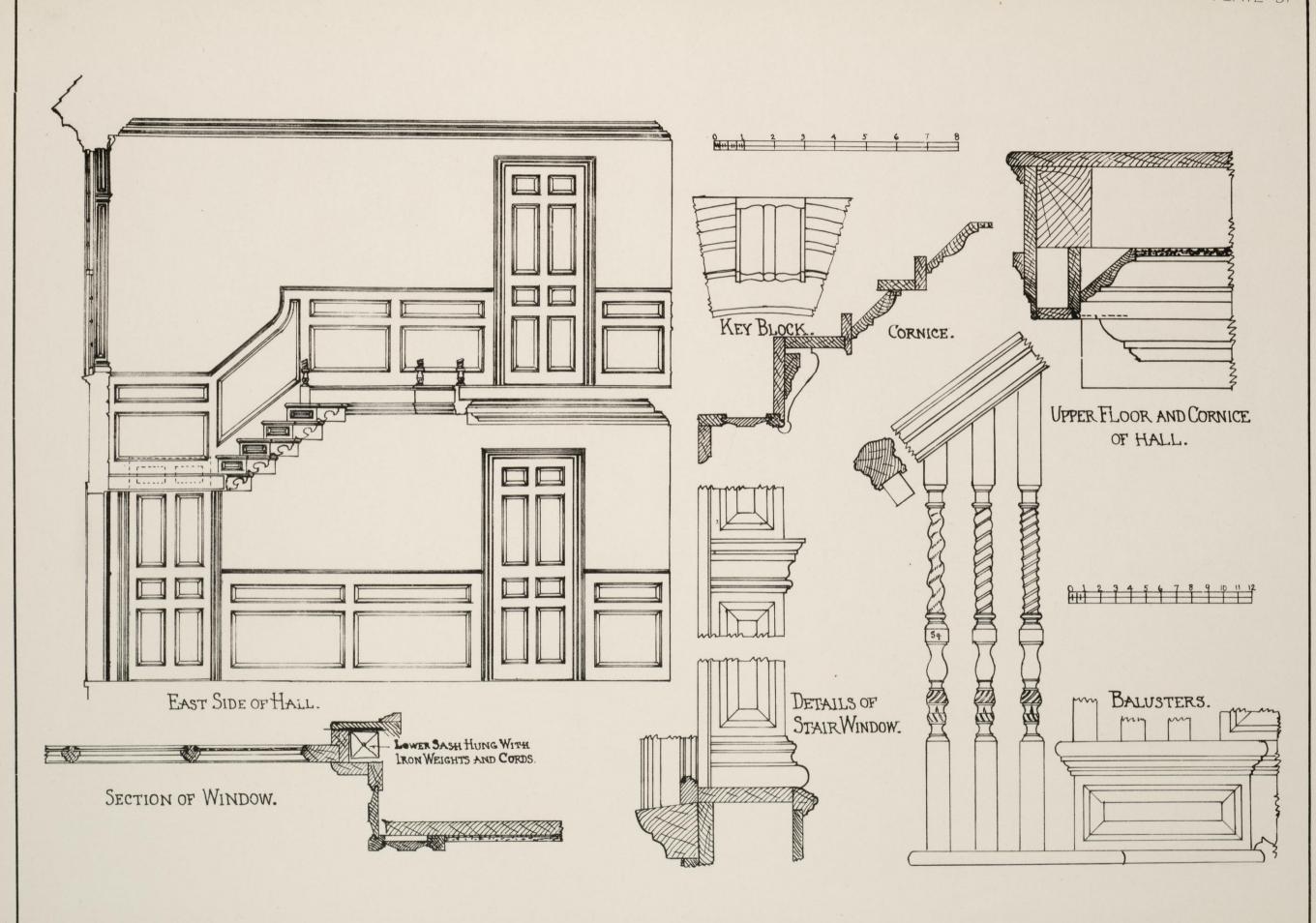


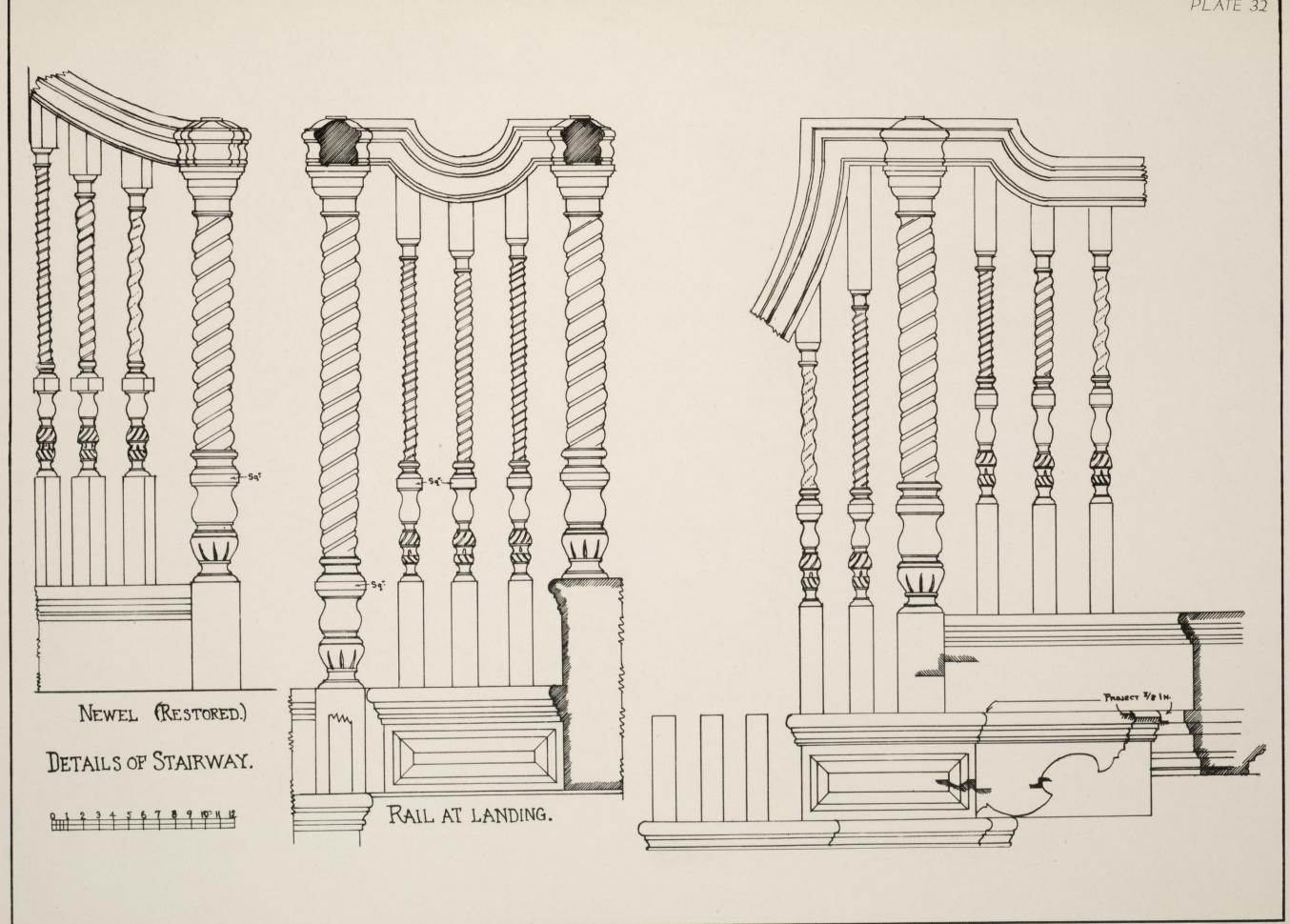
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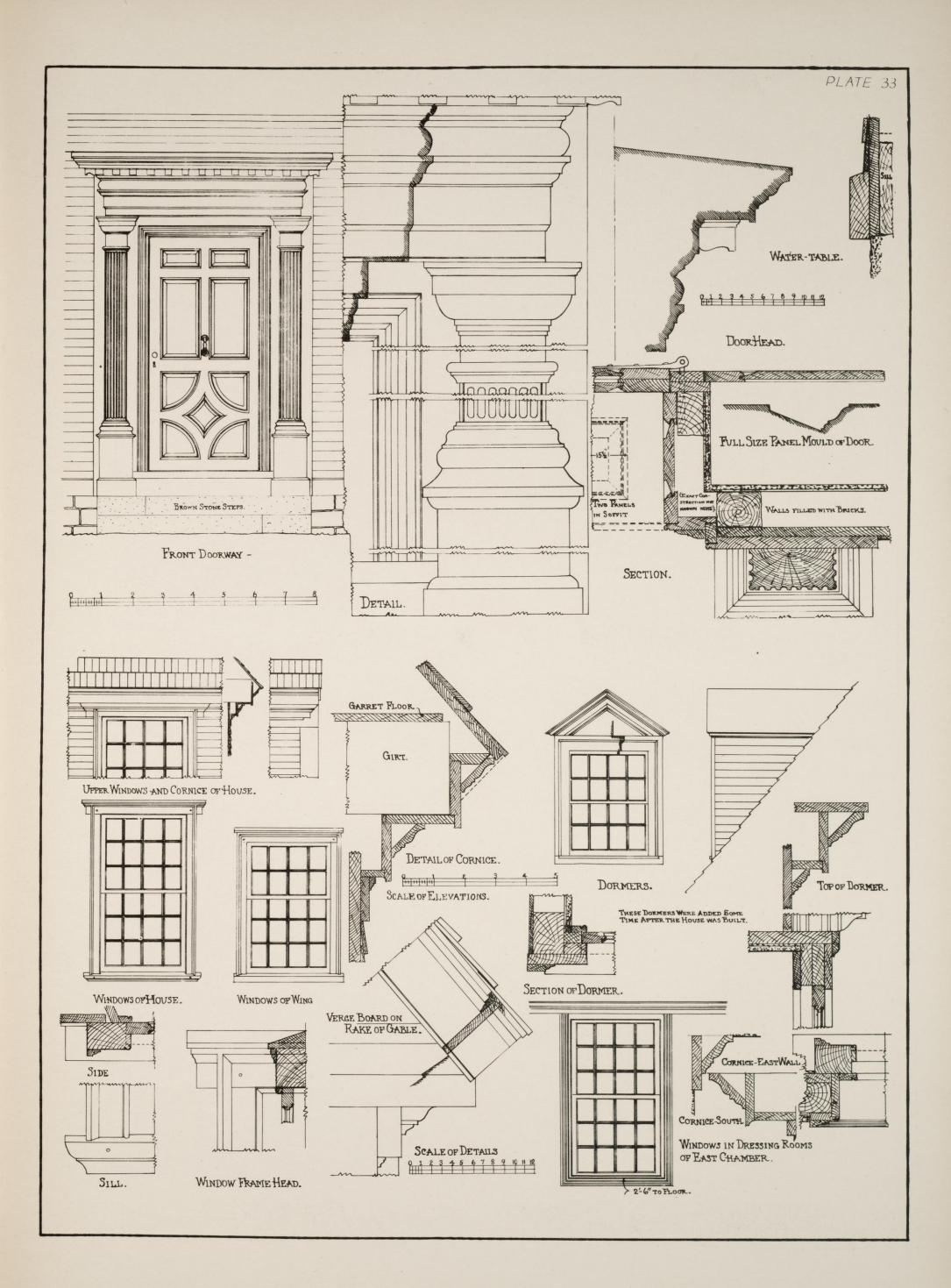


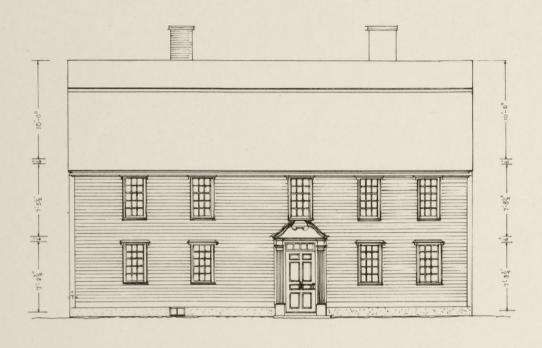


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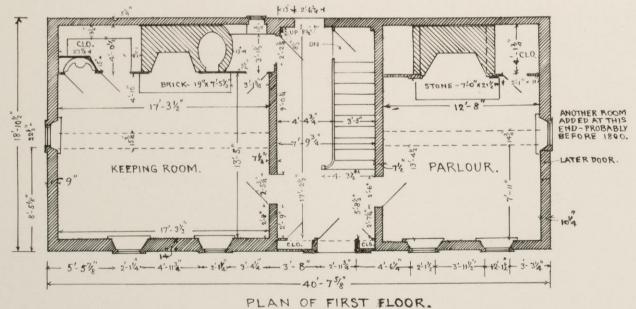


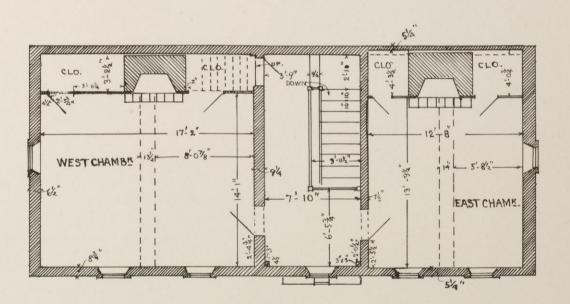
COVERED WITH NORTH ELEVATION.

WEST END.

SOUTH ELEVATION

LATER BUILDING HERE.





PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.

