

EASEMENT

B-48
Hackerman House
(Thomas-Jencks-Gladding House)
1 W. Mount Vernon Place
Baltimore
Private

1850
Architects: Niernsee and Neilson

Hackerman House is a large brick Greek Revival-style house with Italianate details. It stands five bays wide, facing north on the southwest corner of Mount Vernon Square. Three stories high with a basement, the house has a hip roof with four interior chimneys. A bracketed cornice runs along the roofline, and a stringcourse separates the first and second stories. The center bay of the front façade is slightly recessed, and the second and third story French windows of this bay are three panes wide, rather than two. A one-story portico covers the central first story bay, with four Corinthian columns across the front, and two pilasters and two columns across the back, before a recessed entrance. The portico has a full entablature and dentiled cornice. The first- and second-story windows have elaborate bracketed cornices, also with dentils. The basement level contains four windows on the front façade, flanking the steps to the portico. The east façade, on Charles Street, is three bays wide, with a similarly recessed central bay. The southern bay on this side contains a polygonal bay window. The central and southern bays contain windows in the basement level. On January 24, 1851, the following notice appeared in the Baltimore Sun:

A Splendid Dwelling—One of the most elegant and princely specimens of architectural taste and mechanical skills has just been completed, situated at the intersection of Mt. Vernon Place and Charles St., at present occupied by its owner, Dr. J. Hanson Thomas. The building has a front of 59 feet by 63 feet deep, and is three stories and a basement in height. The front entrance is

adorned by an elegant Corinthian portico of purest white marble, which leads into the grand hall. Four Corinthian columns spring from the floor to the ceiling, combining at once strength and ornament, and at the end of the hall a graceful spiral staircase gives access to the second floor. The staircase, as well as the steps, is constructed entirely of oak. Above the staircase rises a superb oval dome, supported from the second floor by Corinthian columns of the same style as those below. The sides of the dome are elaborately ornamented, and the opening in the center is occupied by a beautiful allegorical representation of the four seasons, on stained glass. On the right side of the hall is the parlor, an apartment 60 feet long in the clear, by 19 feet 6 inches wide, with 15 feet 9 inches between floor and ceiling. This room, like the hall is finished in the chastest Corinthian style. The walls and ceiling are of the purest white, and decorated with the most elegant stucco work. In the center, four light Corinthian columns, two on each side, break the uniformity of the room, and at the same time add much to its appearance. The Corinthian columns are elegantly finished with white China polish [which gave a marbled effect], a new article and far superior to any other, and are a fine specimen of work. They were done by Mr. Thos. K. Turner, who has also applied the brush to the entire interior, presenting the most complete imitation of oak and graining that we have ever seen. The windows extend from the floor to the ceiling, and here, as throughout the whole house, are in the French style, opening instead of hoisting. The grand library and dining room are on the left of this parlor, and are finished in the finest style. The second story of the building is divided into five chambers, dressing and bath rooms, all of which are adorned with the finest work, whilst the third story is appropriated to domestics. On the basement floor is the kitchen, servants' hall, pastry kitchen, pantry, butler's room, wine vault, store room, wood and coal cellars, etc. These rooms are arranged in the best manner possible and with every convenience that may conduce to the comfort of the family. The whole building is warmed by a large furnace in the basement, and lighted throughout by gas. Every room in the house is provided with a bell, and from many of them speaking tubes communicate with the servants' apartments. The stables are situated at the rear of the lot, which is 167 feet deep. The following gentlemen were concerned in the erection of this magnificent mansion—architect, Niernsee and Neilson; carpenter, H.J. Bagley; brick work, D. Barger; marble work, Bevan & Sons; painting, Thos. K. Turner; plastering and stucco work, Geo. Start; fresco painting, E. Dreyer.

The Hackerman House, known as the Thomas-Jencks-Gladding House for a number of owners, was built by Niernsee and Neilson in 1850 for Doctor and Mrs. John Hanson Thomas. Dr. Thomas, director of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, was descended from John Hanson, president of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation and spoken of by some as first President of the United States. The 22-room mansion, with its Gothic dining room, its Corinthian columns in the entrance hall and drawing room, its stained glass window at the top of the circular staircase, and its Elizabethan Revival library, was a showplace and the scene of many balls, galas, and dinners. His son, Douglas Thomas, was famous for his Madeira parties. During the Civil War Dr. Thomas, a southern sympathizer, was jailed by the Unionists for several months, but after the war there were happier times. The Thomases entertained the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, and the Hungarian patriot General Kossuth. It was in Mrs. Thomas's kitchen that the first Kossuth cakes were made in Baltimore. The General had described a confection he liked, and Mrs. Thomas had some made for him. Kossuth cakes were to become a much admired Baltimore delicacy. Dr. Thomas died in 1881 but his wife lived in the house until 1892, when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Jencks. They lived there for many years and entertained among others Senator Warren Harding, later President. Jencks modernized the house adding a bay window on the east façade, creating a rear conservatory, widening the curving staircase, adding a Tiffany skylight, and substituting Italian Renaissance woodwork. After Mrs. Jencks's death the house was imperiled for a time, standing empty and vacant

for 10 years until Harry Gladding bought and renovated it in 1963. In 1985, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Hackerman bought the house and gave it to the City of Baltimore, which turned it over to the Walters Art Gallery. In 1989, renovations were planned for converting the house into the Gallery's museum of Asian art, set to open in 1991.

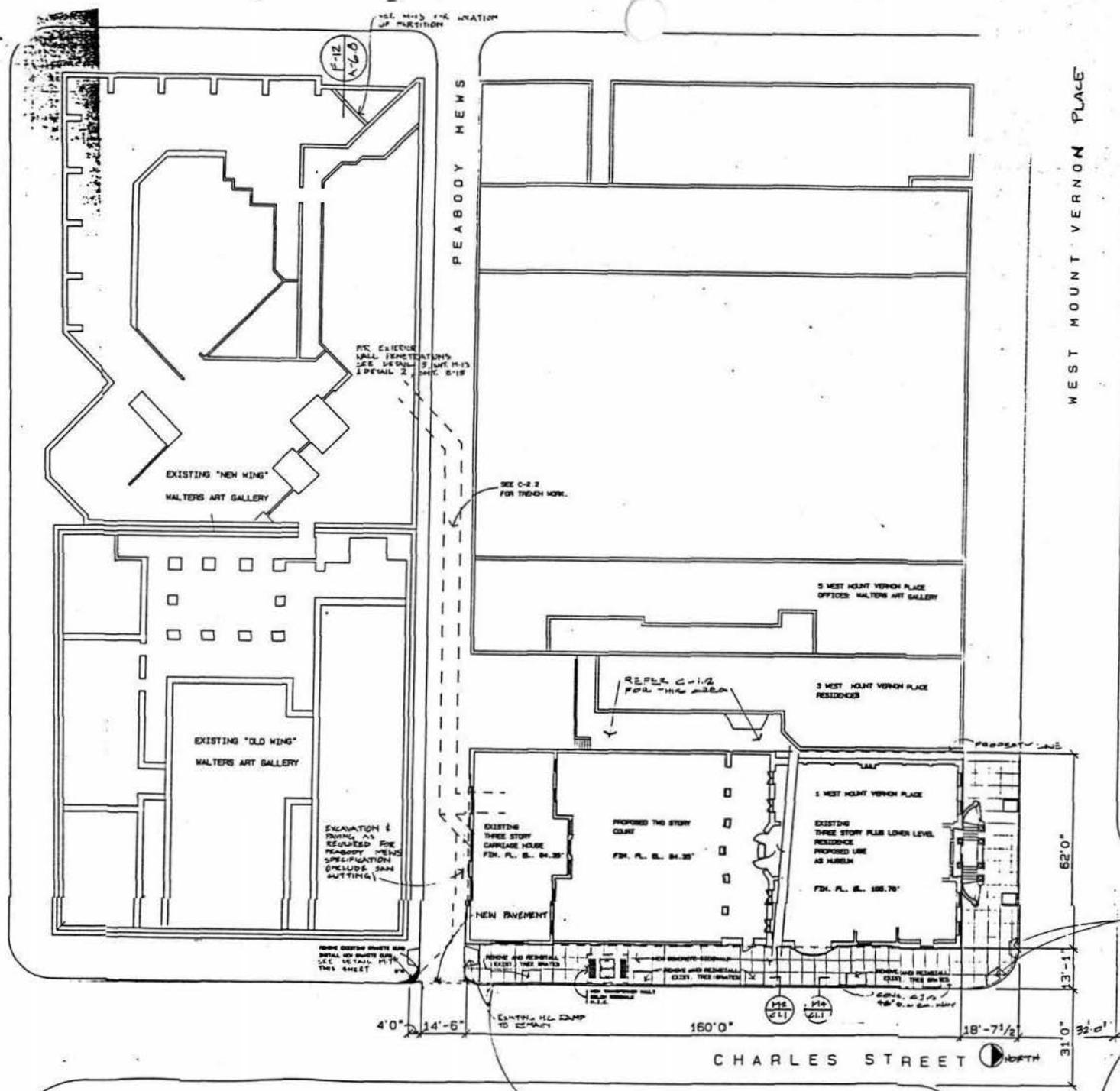
CENTRE STREET

PEABODY MENS

WEST MOUNT VERNON PLACE

Easement

B-48



SEE M-13 FOR LOCATION OF PARTITION

F-12
M-10

FOR EXTERIOR WALL PENETRATIONS SEE DETAIL 2 AND M-13 & DETAIL 2, PAGE 8-18

SEE C-2.2 FOR TRENCH WORK.

REFER C-1.2 FOR THIS AREA

EXCAVATION & PAVING AS REQUIRED FOR PEABODY MENS SPECIFICATION (INCLUDES SAND CUTTING)

REMOVE EXISTING GRANITE AND REINSTALL NEW GRANITE SEE DETAIL 111 THIS SHEET

EXISTING H.C. DUMP TO REMAIN

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GRANITE CURBS: CONTRACTOR OPTIONS:
A. KEEP IN PLACE AND PROTECT DURING CONSTRUCTION OR
B. REMOVE, STOCKPILE AND RESET.

OPEN PARK

OPEN PARK

WASHINGTON MONUMENT

CHARLES STREET NORTH

4'-0"

14'-6"

160'-0"

18'-7 1/2"

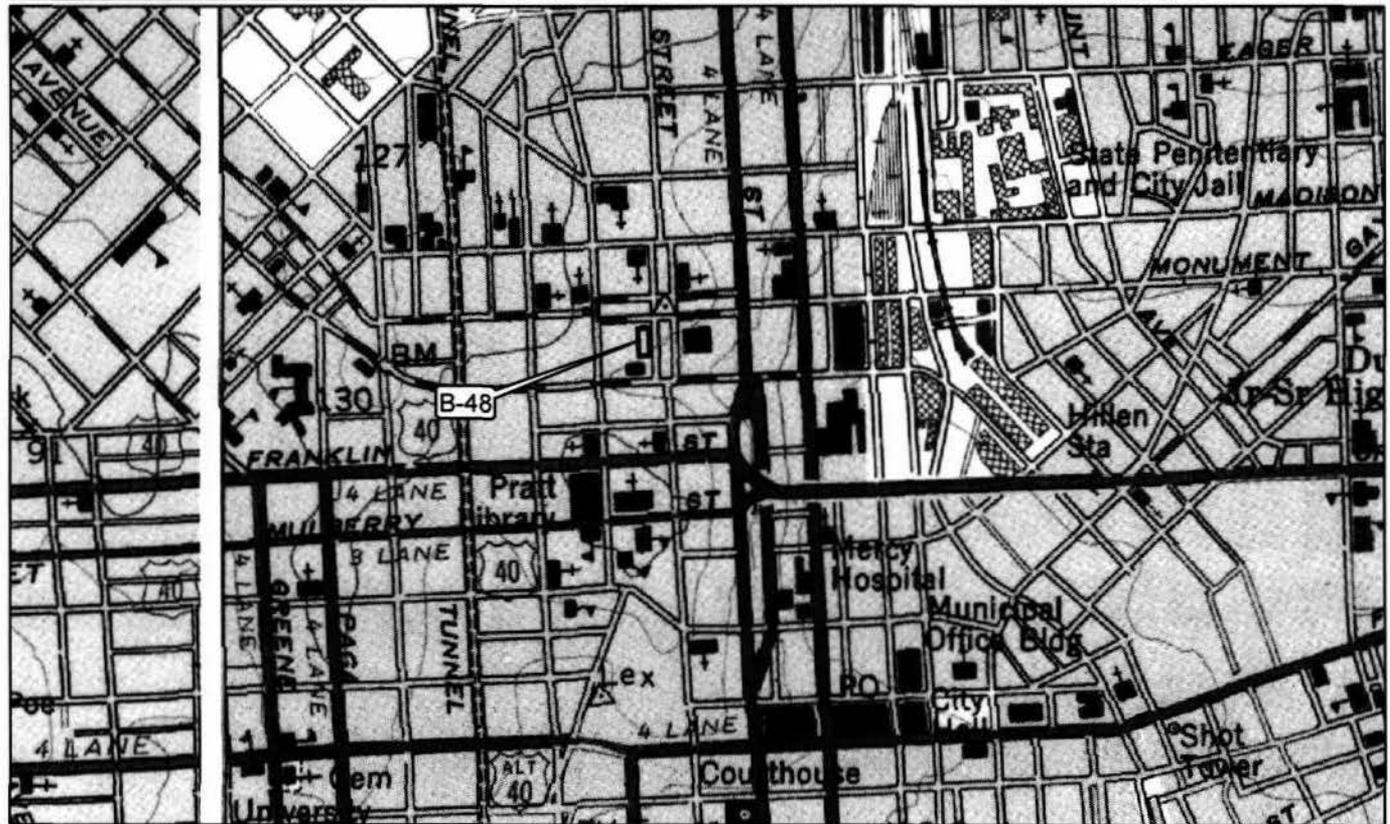
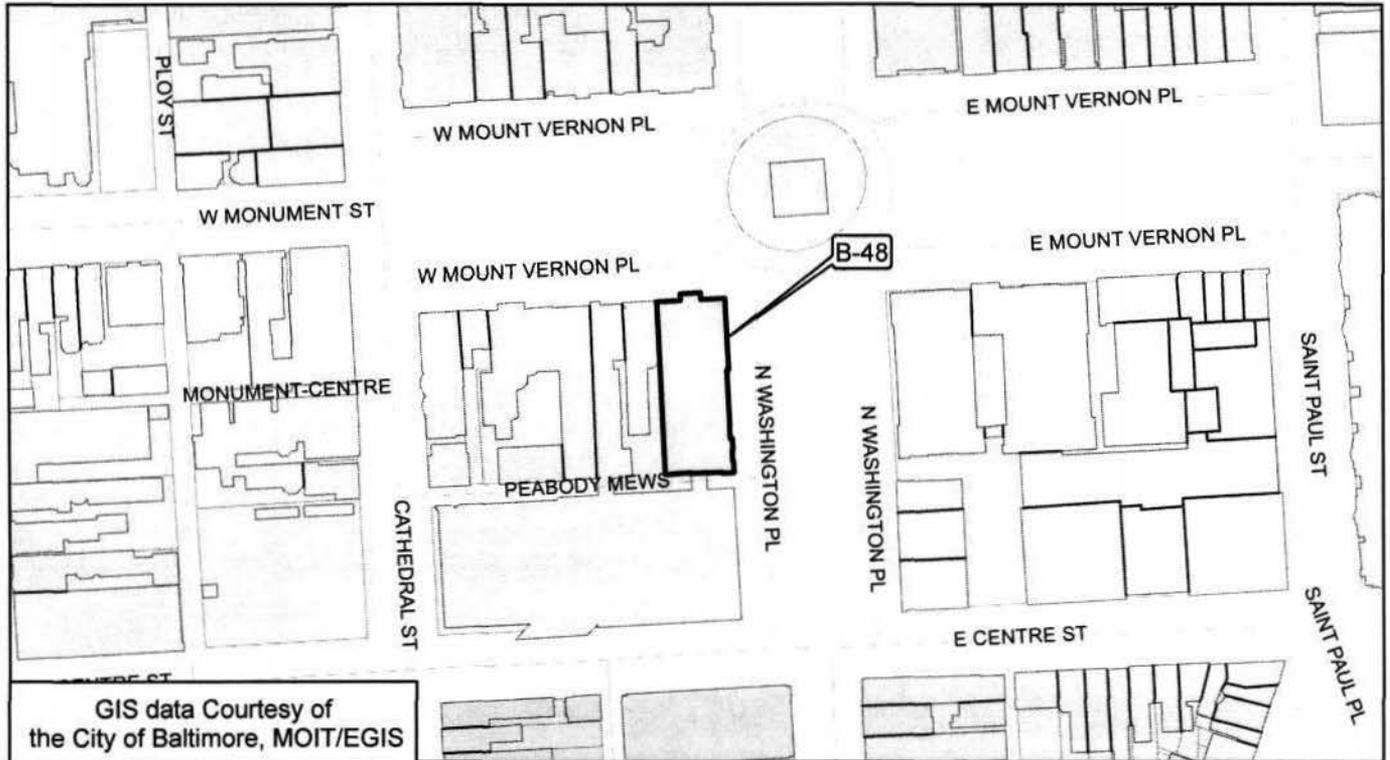
32'-0"

0'-29"

1'-3"

0'-16"

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Hackerman House (Thomas-Jencks-Gladding House)
1 W. Mount Vernon Place
Block 0534, Lot 011
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.



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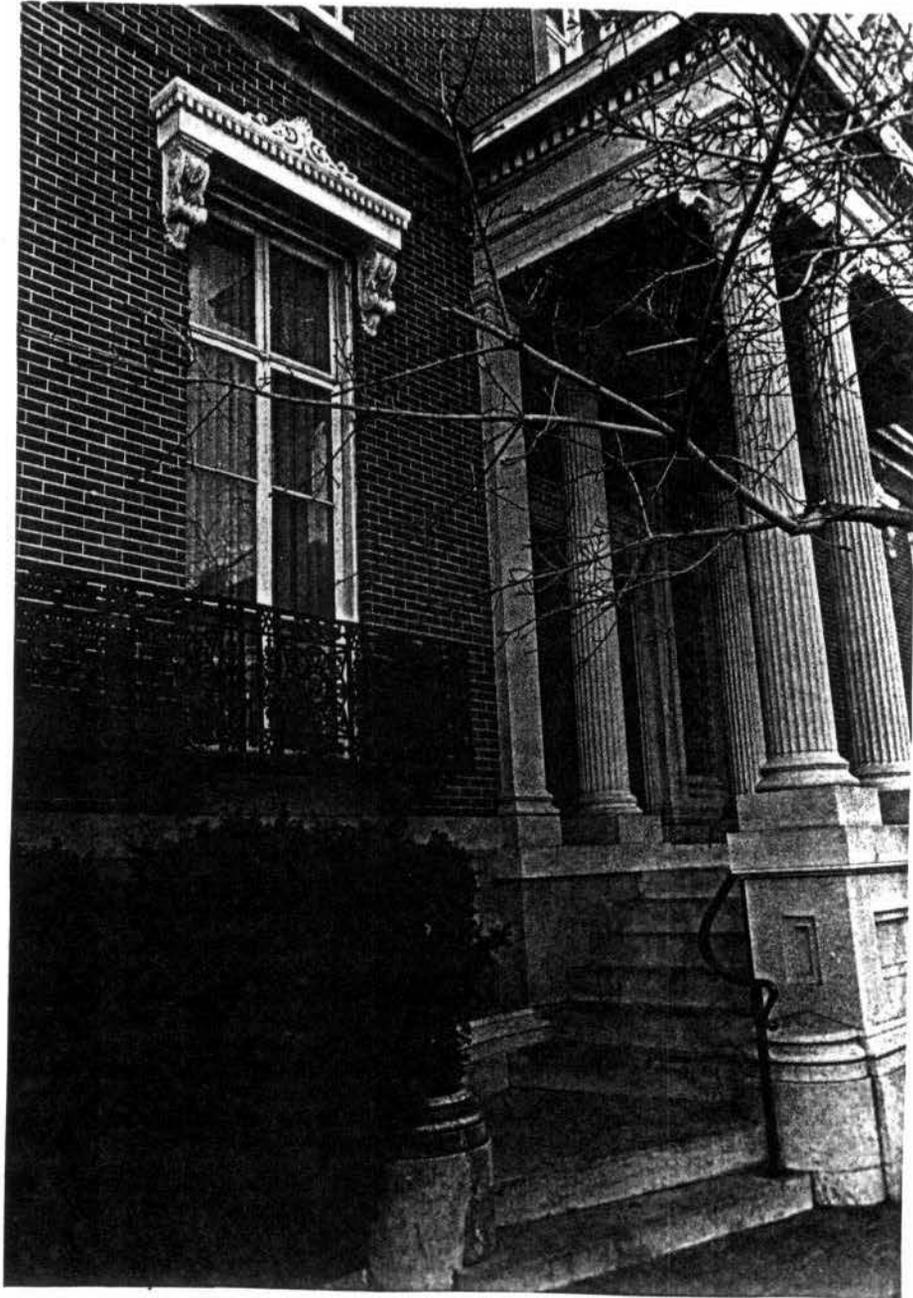
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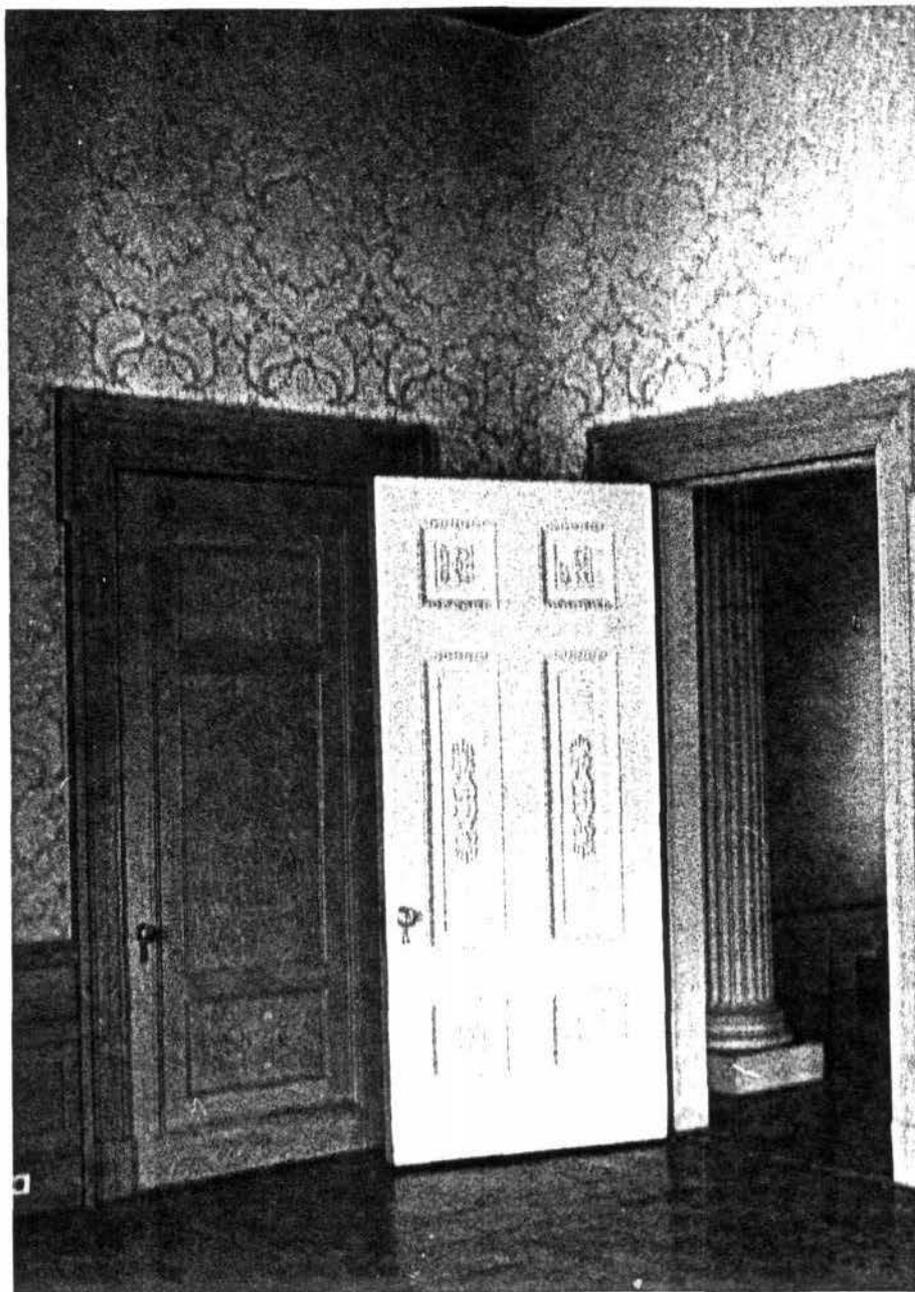
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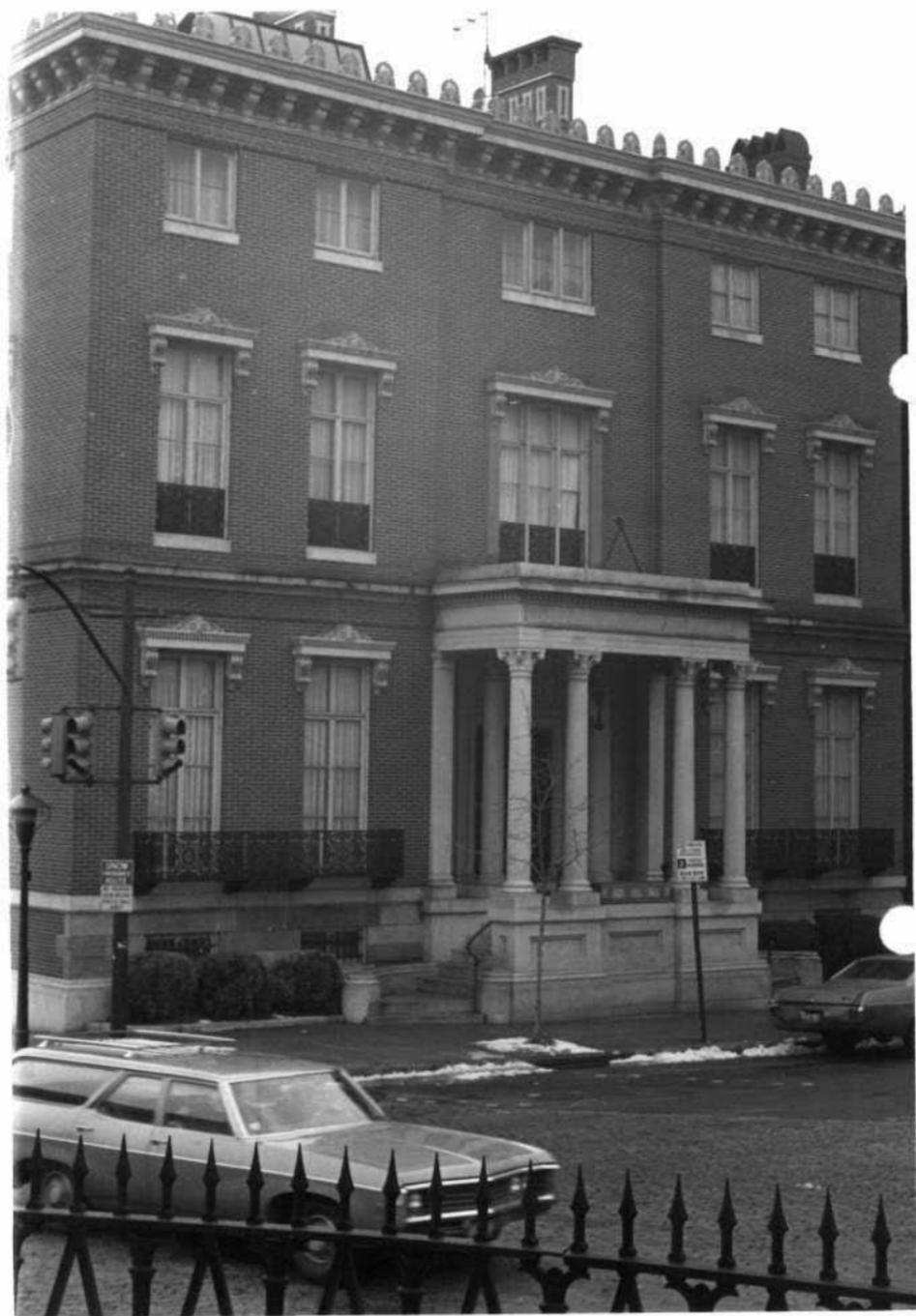
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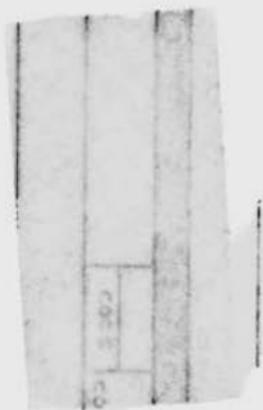
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Thomas - Jencks - Gladding House ^{B-48}
(Mt. Vernon District)
from the north



Negative
w/CHAP

photo by Gretchen Redden
Feb. 1971