

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

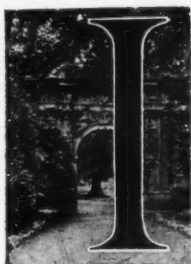
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"LANDSCAPE" ARCHITECTURE

By GEORGE BURNAP, *Landscape Architect of Public Buildings and Grounds, Washington, D. C.*



It is difficult to dissociate architecture and landscape design, and we see evidences of the close alliance of these two arts in the fact that the architect frequently makes excursions into the landscape field, and the landscape architect, as seen from the accompanying illustrations, sometimes ventures into the field of architecture. If each man could be as well trained in the allied profession as in his own, it would really make very little difference under which profession, landscape or architectural, work were done.

From a large point of view buildings are but parts of the landscape. William Morris has said "Architecture is a great subject truly, for it embraces the consideration of the whole external surroundings of the life of man; we cannot escape from it if we would, for it means the moulding and altering to human needs of the very face of the earth itself." This statement, if it may be accepted, would say in application that the landscape and the building must be

studied as one design and composition. Unfortunately, too often in the past the gardening and building have not been conceived or designed as a whole, but, due to the architect's being first on the ground, the building has received first and individual attention, and the landscape architect has been called in to lay out his lines to accord with the architecture already conceived. With this handicap in many cases, the landscape architect is expected to work out a design harmonious as a whole and with perfect adjustment between the

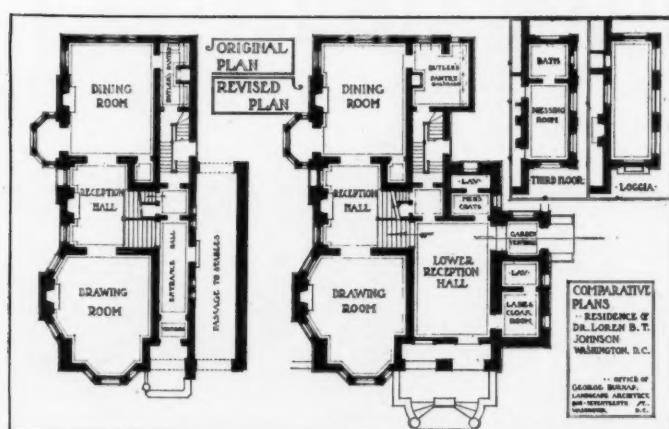
garden and the building. The landscape architect is thus called upon to remodel the landscape to compose with the arbitrary conditions imposed by the architect. He is rarely given the converse problem of remodelling the building architecture to conform with the proposed landscape composition.

In the estate of Doctor Loren B. T. Johnson of Washington, the house was recognized as being undoubtedly discordant with any landscape project which might be developed, and the landscape architect was retained specifically to design the landscape as a whole, including such changes in the ex-



THE SQUIRREL HOUSE
DESIGNED BY MR. GEORGE BURNAP

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RESIDENCE, ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
MR. GEORGE BURNAP, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

terior of the house as would be necessary to the success of the picture. The client expressed himself as very definitely opposed to extensive remodelling of the residence in a general way, and his chief and only motive in altering it was that it should not detract from the success of the landscape project; therefore while the landscape architect seemed to be given a free hand in an architectural problem, he really was confined in his recommendations to the problem of out-of-door design.

The residence was the end one of a row of buildings, with an open elevation to the south but adjoining by party wall the buildings on the north. When the several buildings to the north were torn down to make opportunity for a gardening development, the broad expanse of party wall remained; and it was from this side, absolutely without means of prospect at the start, that the garden scene was contemplated. To complicate matters, the stable had been built with party wall to the north, and the rear line of the property was marked by a third building with party wall. Three uncompromising party walls of various heights are not the happiest setting for a garden. Furthermore, the residence was built of yellow brick, very suitable for store front design but difficult as the governing note of a landscape composition,—and the party walls were of the usual red brick. The problem confronting the landscape architect in this case transcended the art of gardening, and re-

quired an application of the principles of architectural design in the broadest sense. Study of proportion, relation of parts, uniformity of scale, and harmonizing of material all entered as governing elements in determining the landscape picture. Architectural appreciation in this case required precedence over engineering or horticultural consideration.

In studying possible treatments for the north party wall of the residence, several possible *partis* were considered; a porch or terrace treatment leading directly from the ground floor, with suitable fenestration above; a Venetian balcony design on the second or living room floor, with possible stairway leading down to the garden level; or a broad projecting window treatment on the second story, with garden entrance door below. All of these motives, however, appeared as make-shifts: sort of parasitic excrescences on the wall of the building, rather than an organic part of the residence, and they were finally discarded in favor of the loggia treatment shown, which required a larger addition, but composed at once as a component part of the building. The loggia, carried up three stories only, supplemented by a reduction in the height of the party wall by the substitution of sloping roof for the gable end of the fifth story, brought the north elevation more in scale with its surroundings, and aided in pulling down the stilted effect of the entire building.

The addition having been agreed upon, it at once made possible a very radical change in the ground floor of the building. It is interesting to note the reverse order in which the architectural design was developed, for the landscape architect in his work was obliged to consider the architectural plan, while not of secondary importance, yet second in the order of his study. An entire building, designed in elevation without reference to plan, would undoubtedly disprove a landscape architect's fitness for handling architectural design; and well aware of this, the landscape architect

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was careful to make no recommendation as to change of exterior which would not be still in keeping with the interior arrangement and expressive of the interior plan. As may be seen from the accompanying drawing, the original design provided for a covered carriage way leading to the stable court, on a level with the first floor and as

means of communication with the garage, and at once establishing this area to the south as a usable part of the estate,—not merely a vacant building lot.

The radical change of driveway opened several opportunities of plan. The ground floor space previously pre-empted by the carriage way was rendered immediately



A FLOWER BOX, ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
MR. GEORGE BURNAP, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

part of the house design. This confined the lower hall to a very restricted area quite out of scale with the general house scheme, and with very meagre provision for lighting. The revised plan shows this entrance treatment done away with, the driveway brought to the front door on a circular turn, thence to the garage court in the rear across the previously unused and open area between the residence and the adjoining property to the south, thereby providing more direct

available for substantial enlargement of the lower hall with space for window lighting. The first floor of the garden addition could then be utilized for a ladies' cloak and retiring room. The rear portion of the covered way gave sufficient space for a men's coat room with small lavatory. These added rooms on the ground floor rendered the house convenient for receiving guests. An entrance to the garden was provided from this floor coming very hap-

pily on the axis of the main stairway. A slight lowering of the garden grades allowed the introduction of several steps in this garden vestibule, which apparently continued the steps of the main stairway. Double folding doors, to be kept open in summer, accentuated the direct and effective means of communication with the garden treatment.

The interior of the garden vestibule was worked out in green and white marble, with green tile inserts in the floor pavement, and somewhat ornate plaster work in the ceiling cornice, which was colored in blues and greens, resembling tile and carrying out the color harmony. The platform step outside the archway was paved wholly in green tile, aiding the transition from the white marble of the interior to the green sward of the lawn.

In detail, the exterior of the house was kept as simple as possible, no remodelling being permitted other than was absolutely necessary for uniformity of effect. For structural reasons it was necessary to retain the double arch entrance motive, which, however, was handled in such a way as to compose as a single unit. The entire house was stuccoed with a very fine grain pebble-dash finish. The frieze motive of the loggia addition was continued across the front of the house, serving as a tie between the loggia and the house and, by marking the fourth floor as an attic story, tended to decrease the height of the building. The only changes in the front elevation were this band of ornament, the double arch treatment of the entrance motive, and the joining of the sill courses of the windows of the bays. The proportion of the arch openings was slightly heightened, but no attempt was made to change the Romanesque feeling, which, moreover, was frankly disregarded in the proportions of the loggia. The drawings provided for the closing of the ends of the loggia, which would have improved the

design. Details of the cast cement ornament are illustrated, showing that no pretentious ornamentation was attempted. The stable and garage were also stuccoed; a half story screen wall is to be added to increase the height of the garage as seen through the entrance gateway, which will screen out an objectionable background as well as lessen the contrast with the height of the residence.

The final act in the remodelling of the house was the substituting of a red tile roof for the previous one of drab green slate. From the standpoint of remodelling the house to relate with the landscape of the estate as a whole, the changing of this roof material was not actually necessary, but the effect as a whole was brightened and rendered more Italian in character making possible a more festive style of garden architecture than would otherwise have seemed in keeping.

Arriving at the garden-
ing problem, which in this
case—as should be recog-
nized in every instance of
landscape architecture—
was not considered as an
individual study, the
framework or main struc-
tural lines were developed
with reference to the
streets and other bound-

aries of the property, the existing grades of the land, and the ground floor elevation of the house. As a general precept, it may be stated that in allotment of space a garden plan must be devised with exactly the same care and attention to proportion that is given to an architectural plan; and this should be quite as preliminary to the planting or other treatment as should the plan of interior arrangement precede the exterior design of the building. The planting, the height of the walls—either retaining or individual—the introduction of architectural motives are all matters of third dimension wholly dependent upon the governing dimensions of plan.

The general type of garden design per-



DETAIL OF FRIEZE
DESIGNED BY MR. GEORGE BURNAY

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missible in this case was, as in most cases, predetermined by the existing conditions. The landscape architect is required with unfortunate frequency to prepare his design along formal or informal lines according to the preference and sometimes whim of the client. If the landscape architect is to be sincere, he must recognize that it is as impossible to determine the style of his design irrespective of the governing elements of site as it would be for the architect to design a building without reference to suitability of surroundings. Even William Robinson, in his emphatic advocacy of naturalistic garden design, admitted that "The gardener is the trustee of a world of living things, to be kept with care and knowledge in necessary subordination to human convenience, and to the conditions of his work."

In this particular problem, the assurance of the encompassing architecture, due to the height of the party walls, predetermined a landscape scheme of well defined lines. The presence of objectionable view to the rear of the property seemed sufficient reason at once for screen wall along that boundary line, but of more fundamental importance was the necessity of establishing some relation between the house and the party wall of the stable and the other residence, both walls of which incidentally were problems in themselves to render sightly. For the sake of ample service court in the rear of the residence it was not possible to connect the house and stable by line direct,—in fact, a previous low wall existing there was

torn down; also it was necessary to provide a service connection with a blind-end alley to the rear of the stable. Therefore, a wall line was determined as shown on the plan, which permitted a somewhat formal service court yard, with turn-around, and also cut from view the lower portion of the stable end. The south and east sides of the garden becoming thus enclosed with a strong architectural line, it seemed imperative to balance the design by enclosing the other two sides with a similar strengthening of line; and up to this point of the design it was not considered whether or not the two remaining sides fronting the street should be of solid screen construction or not. It was more a matter of giving equal definition to the boundary lines of the area to be devoted to gardening.

The general area having been thus determined and defined, it became at once evident that some subdivision should be made to make the area more symmetrical in its relation to the house and to establish if possible some axial relation with the view from the loggia. Marking off a somewhat equal area each side of this axis line and diverting the axis line to the west to as great degree as unnoticeable, this space was set aside as one division for separate treatment, the one existing large tree of the place coming fortunately at the approximate center of the area. Emphasis may be placed on the fact that the tree did not determine the location or extent of this area, which was determined, as previously shown, by purely axial relations of design. The existence of this tree, however, a very beau-



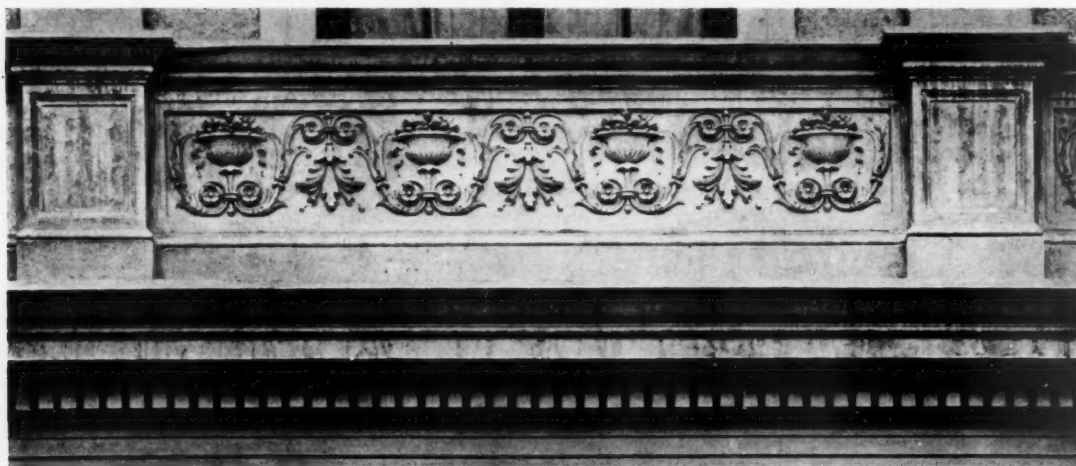
DETAIL OF GARDEN VESTIBULE FRIEZE, ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
DESIGNED BY MR. GEORGE BURNAP, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

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tiful specimen of black walnut, was at once in itself the direct reason for identifying this space as open lawn, later to be framed in with foliage masses for termination of the view from the loggia and as screen from without the garden.

The remaining area, rectilinear in shape, at once suggested itself as a formal garden. To correct the chunky effect of this area—again an architectural consideration of proportion in design—it became necessary to decrease its width. This left for the disposal of the architect a long thin strip separating the proposed formal garden and the area already set aside as garden lawn. The planting plan illustrates how

posed of several units of interest, was devised in no sense as a collection of garden features but was the result of a logical sequence of design, both in the allotment and proportioning of spaces and in the subsequent type of garden work developed. The planting and architectural treatment of the various wall lines were designed purely as matters of detail just as the architectural development of a façade follows the requirements of the plan. The general lattice work treatment was a condition imposed by the client. The hanging garden, a secondary development of the general scheme, was designed as a means of pulling down in scale the high blank wall



A PANEL DETAIL, RESIDENCE, ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
MR. GEORGE BURNAP, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

this remnant was utilized in a way to supplement the interest of the garden design. The difference of grade between the lawn area and the formal garden, occasioned wholly as an after result of the previous allotment of areas, permitted the introduction of five steps. These steps were designed as a part of a formal entrance to the garden which, coming naturally on the axis, served to exactly divide the long anonymous strip.

It then became possible to develop the halves as separate units differentiated by levels, one as a hedged alley—and the other as a terraced perennial border, each of individual interest in itself.

From the foregoing it will be seen that this entire garden development, while com-

by lowering the center of interest and incidentally introducing plant growth at an upper level. The design of the central motive at present seems in itself incomplete, apparently lacking a fountain head or some similar insert. This, in fact, is the case, as at the last moment all water features together with all garden furnishings were eliminated from the design by direction of the client. The basin, however, has been planted with ferns and climbing purple clematis which will supply sufficient interest in season to hold this motif.

The original design showed an arborway along the line of the present alley, and also an architectural balustrade separating the formal garden from the lawn

(Continued on page 40)

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THE CITY AND THE PROFESSION

IS the function of city government restricted to securing health, safety and property rights to its citizens collectively, or is it so broad as to include the rendering of business and professional services to individual citizens with a view to profit? That a certain class of persons holds the latter view, may be assumed from a report that a comparatively prominent Eastern city is considering a plan for making the building department self-maintaining.

The method proposed is to charge an owner a stated amount per \$1,000 on each permit issued, the owner to get, in return, the benefit of expert inspection for his building during the course of its erection.

It is argued that it will be worth more than the fee for an owner to have the benefit of expert supervision, to know that his building is being erected in strict compliance with the building code, and that the contractor is giving him full value in the matter of workmanship and material. Those advocating the measure claim with apparent seriousness that the department now costs the city several thousand dollars a year whereas it should be a source of revenue. Following the same method of reas-

oning, the city should, to make its theory of government consistent, turn the Bureau of Public Health into a profit producing agency by assuming the duties of physicians who are now engaged in private practice. As a further protection to public health and an additional source of revenue the city might secure to itself a monopoly of the grocery and drug business; while it would obviously be acting in strict conformity with the proposal cited, to make the legal department of the city a revenue producer by exacting fees from all parties coming in contact with it, in return for which some service now performed by attorneys in private practice might be (theoretically at least) rendered.

Without desiring to enter the lists with an argument in favor of or opposed to any of the many forms of so-called Socialism, we believe that in society as at present constituted the reported proposal of the city building commissioners is essentially unwise and opposed to the true interests of the public. In this country the government's duty to, or authority with, the individual has heretofore extended only so far as his relations with the public are concerned. If he is a criminal he is wisely or unwisely dealt with by the government as a menace to society, and not for the express purpose of his own moral reform. If he is hungry, he has the privilege of consuming food which may or may not be suited to his condition and the government is interested only in making it possible for the individual to protect his own interests by forbidding merchants to misrepresent their goods.

When a building is being erected by a private individual or company, the only rightful concern of the government in regard to it is that it shall in no way be a menace to neighboring property rights, in the matter of design or otherwise, or to the public health and safety. This being a function of government exercised on behalf of the general welfare, it should be paid for, as heretofore, in whole or large part, by the public purse rather than by the individual.

Concerning the relations between business men, the law provides redress in case of proven misconduct resulting in loss or damage, on the part of either; but it does not provide that the city government shall

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act in the capacity of professional adviser to the individual. That function is a purely personal one which is, and obviously should be, reserved to private persons acting, in general, under authority of a certificate of proficiency granted by the government.

While it is almost unbelievable that such

a commercial and undemocratic method as that said to have been proposed could be put in operation by an intelligent body politic, yet architects and other professional men will probably be active in representing any such threatened encroachment on their field of activity.

"LANDSCAPE" ARCHITECTURE

(Continued from page 38)

portion. The present arrangement of hedge lines is equally effective, and shows how plant material used in an architectural way, even though not formally clipped, is often interchangeable with architectural material. A portion of the design which does not show in the illustration is the curved naturalistic terrace framing in the lawn to the north, with a walk on the upper level leading to a mound in the northeast corner which serves somewhat as a gazebo, and will be of especial interest in affording a view of a future park which is to be developed just across the street. This walk, with mound, will be completely hidden from view of the house when all planting material is grown. The only indication of it will be the rustic steps appearing in the midst of the planting at the far corner of the lawn.

The garden is intended to be of pleasure both to the owners and to the public, the *clairvoyées* of the upper garden to be provided with lattice shutters which may be closed when the garden is in use. It might be mentioned that the perspective lattice of the hanging garden is purely a fantastical conceit and like the lattice peacock is intended simply to divert and amuse. The latter, however, is to be replaced with a less striking motif.

The planting, in detail, has been designed for thick mass effect, all individual specimens, though in themselves selected for richness of leaf and bloom, so placed as to be always of secondary importance to the planting composition as a whole. At the time the material was being put in, much criticism was expressed by gardeners regarding the closeness of the planting, especially in instances where recognized

trees were planted sometimes as close as four or five feet to each other. It is intended however that the inevitable future crowding will result only in a more naturalistic composition, forcing all growth to greater height, and almost automatically providing the informal walk with the somberness of a pleached alley.

The photographs shown were taken immediately after the planting was completed, and therefore are wholly lacking in delicacy of deciduous foliage and refinement of planting detail, which later photographs will show. This is especially noticeable in the planting of the terrace bank and the plantation outside the wall, also in the beds just in front of the lattice hooded seat at one end of the garden, and in the recess close by the garden house at the other end, which is designed as a tiny rose garden planted with low growing and standard roses. There are several unusual varieties of planting material used, some of which were specially imported for this garden, which will be much appreciated when in bloom, but are not of noticeable interest when out of season except to the professional gardener. The huge sentinel box bush close by the garden house and the matched pair of ten-foot umbrella pines flanking the front entrance are unusually large and beautiful specimens very difficult to obtain.

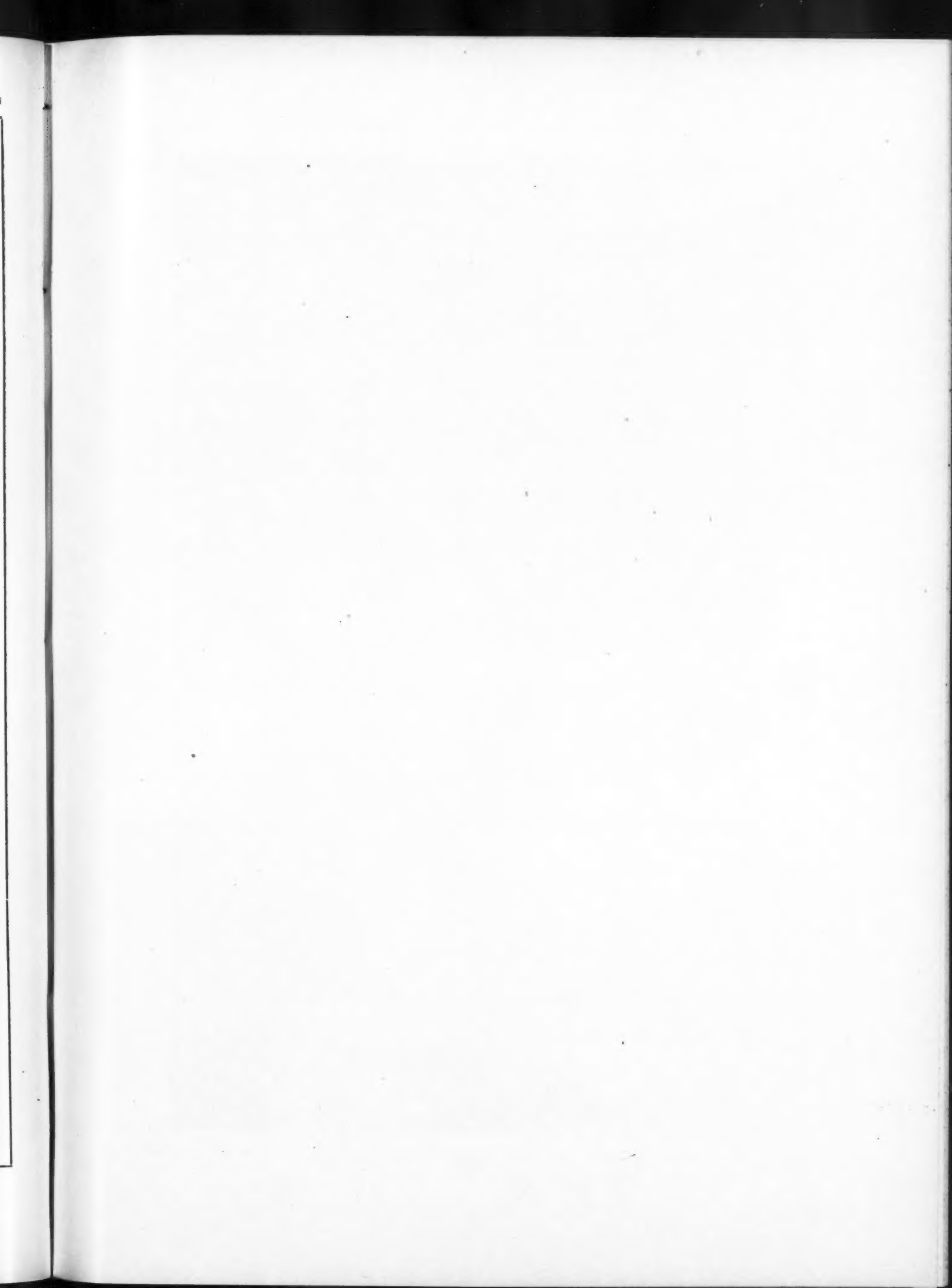
The landscape architect's work will be much simplified when it becomes generally possible, as was done in this case, for him to let out his planting and grading by contract as in a building operation, and not be compelled, as too often at present, to undertake his own work almost in the nature of a contractor if he wishes to see it executed in a way even remotely suggestive of his carefully prepared plans.





ABOVE, RESIDENCE BEFORE ALTERATIONS; BELOW, RESIDENCE REMODELLED

ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
MR. GEORGE BURNAP, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT





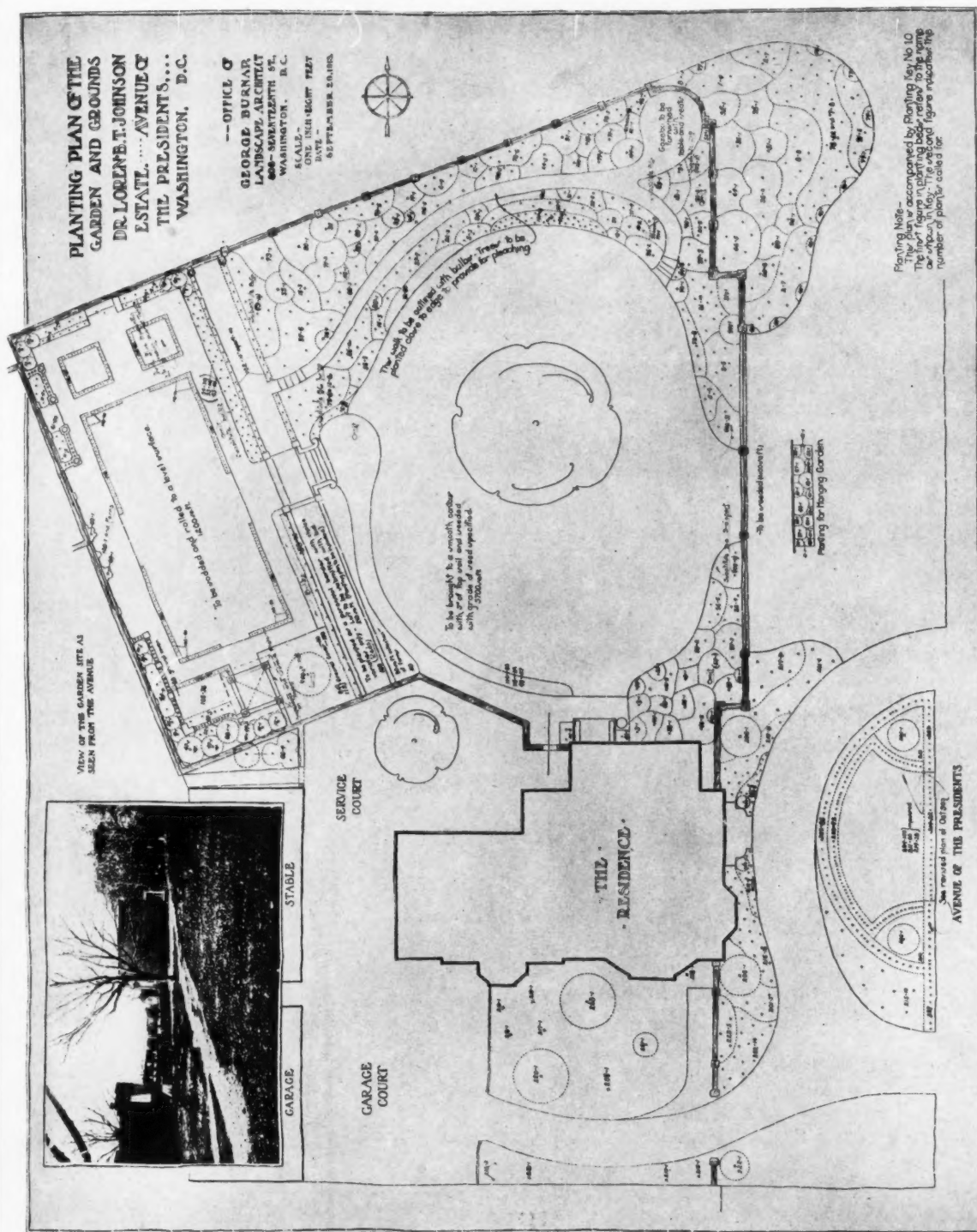
NORTH ELEVATION. INSERT SHOWS ORIGINAL PARTY WALL

ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
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VIEW OF RESIDENCE FROM THE PARK
ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
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PLAN OF GROUNDS. INSERT SHOWS VIEW OF GARDEN SITE

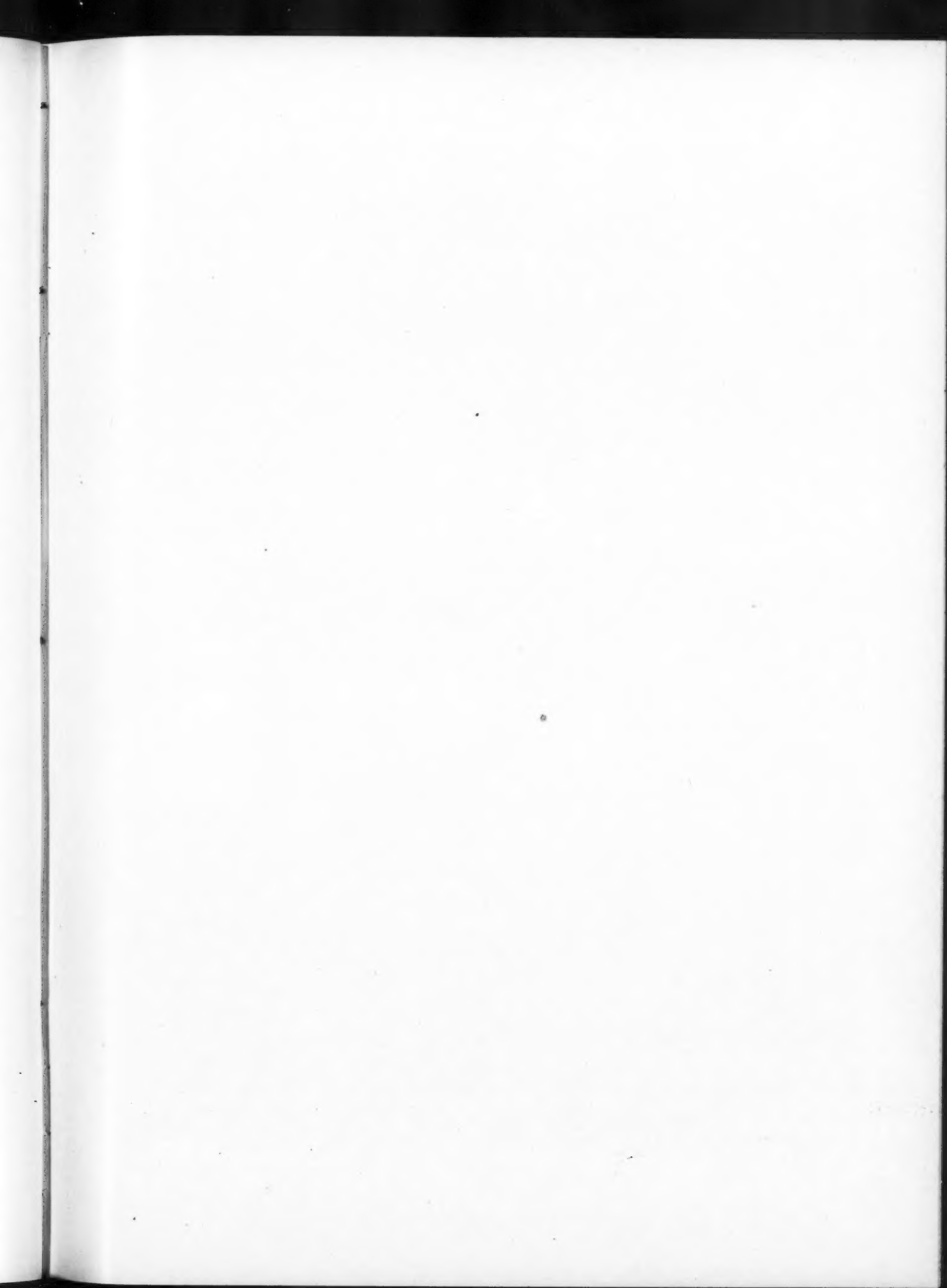
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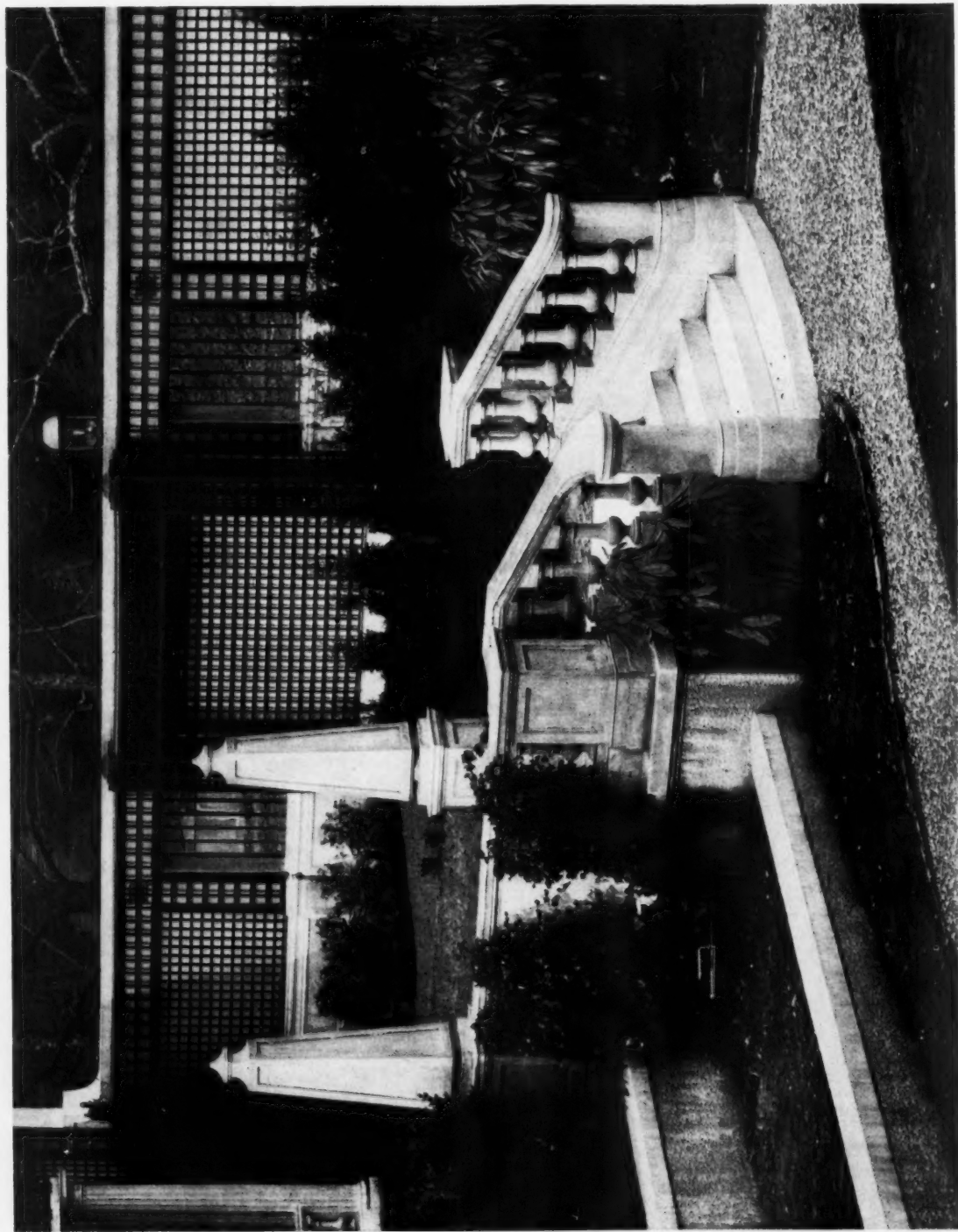


VIEW TOWARD GARDEN FROM THE MOUNT

ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

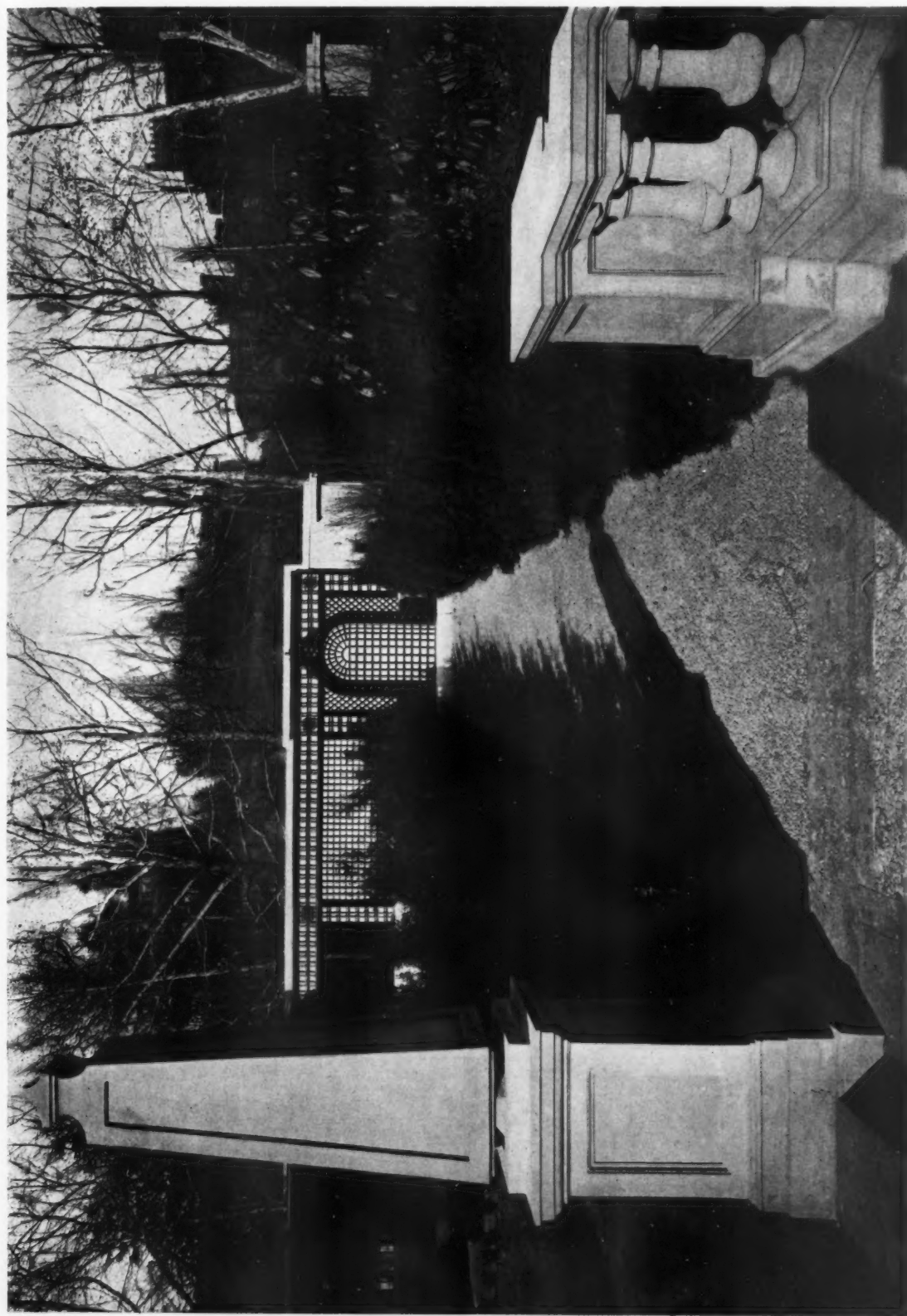
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ENTRANCE STAIRWAY TO THE GARDEN

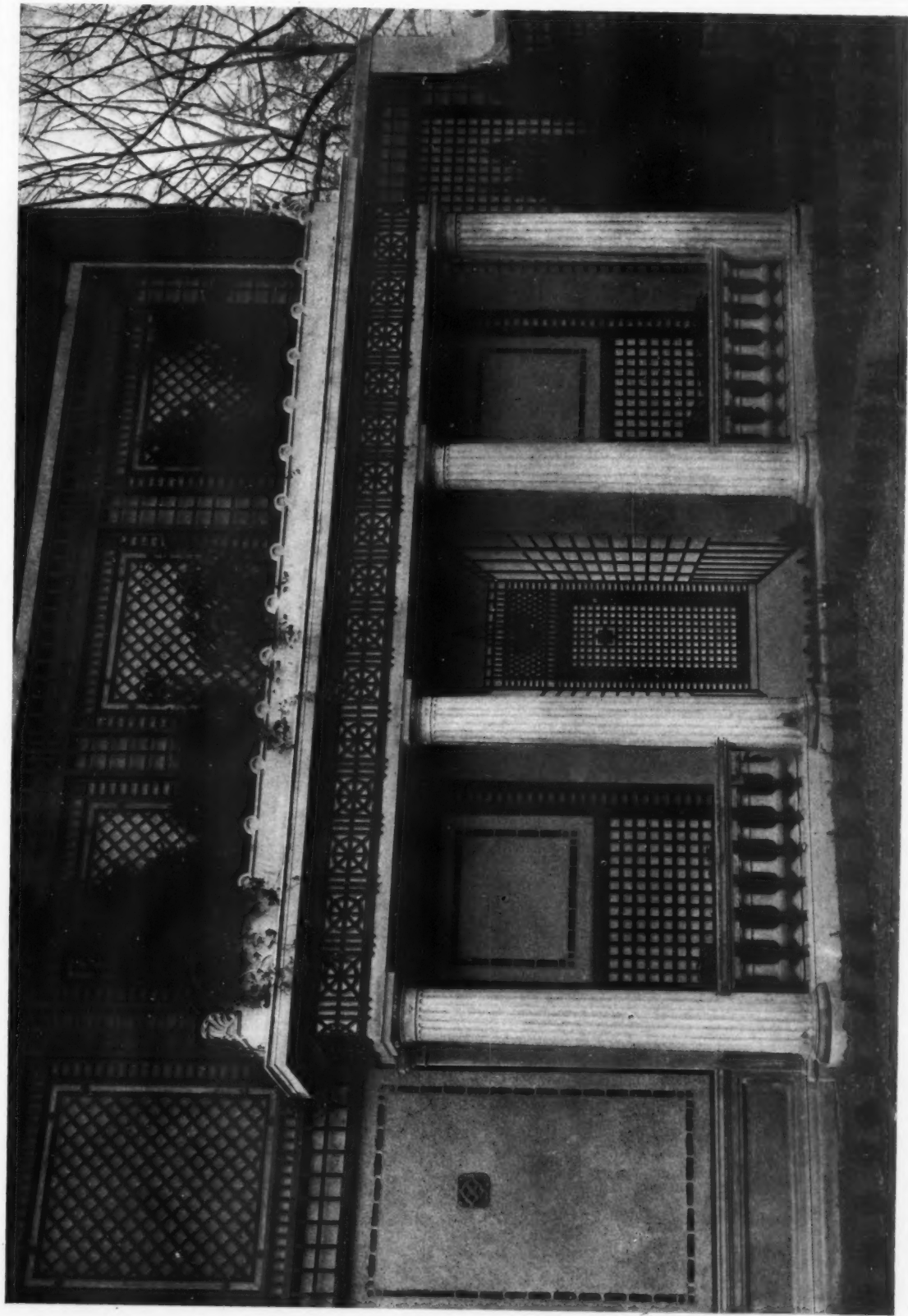
ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
MR. GEORGE BURNAP, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



THE HEDGED ALLEY

ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

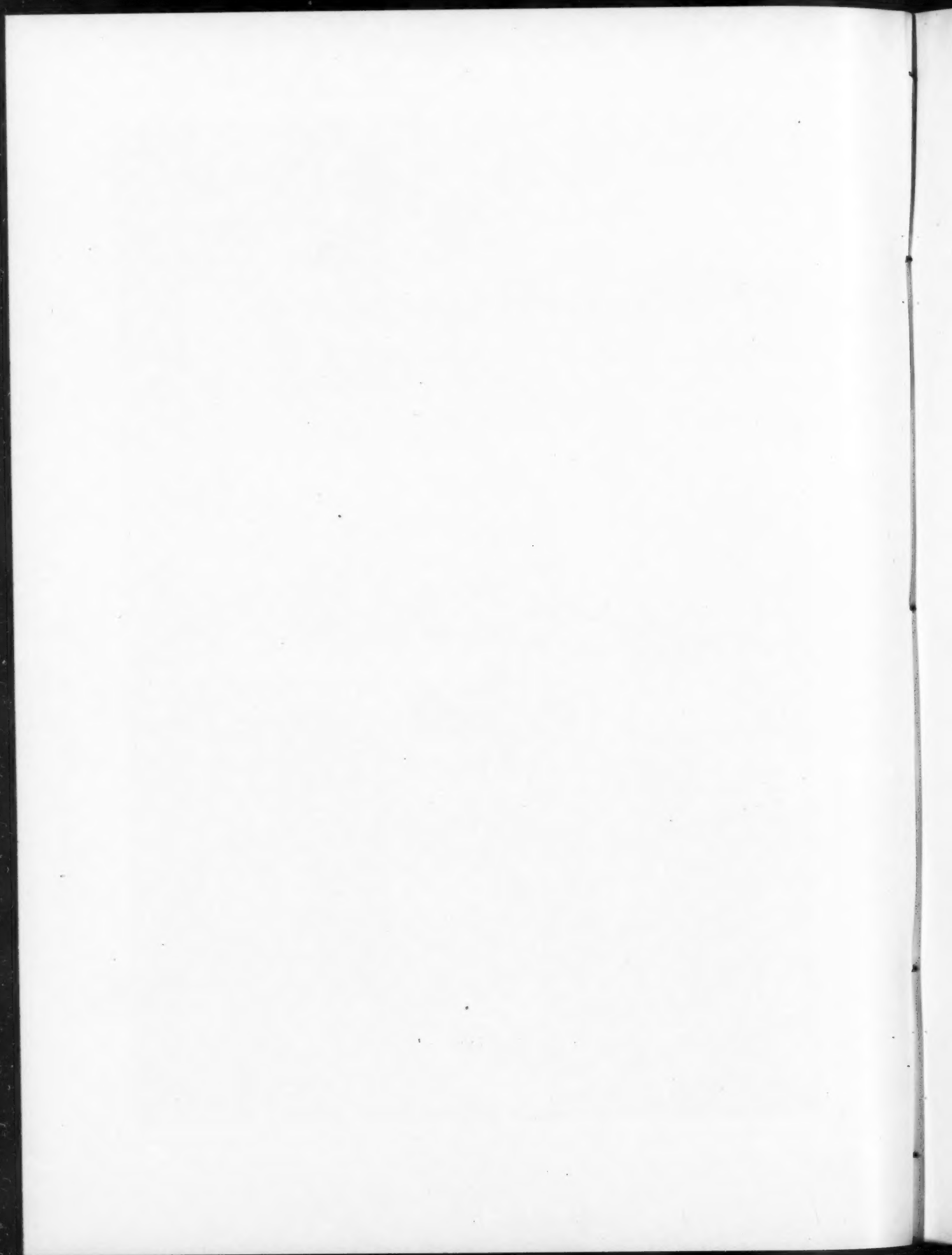
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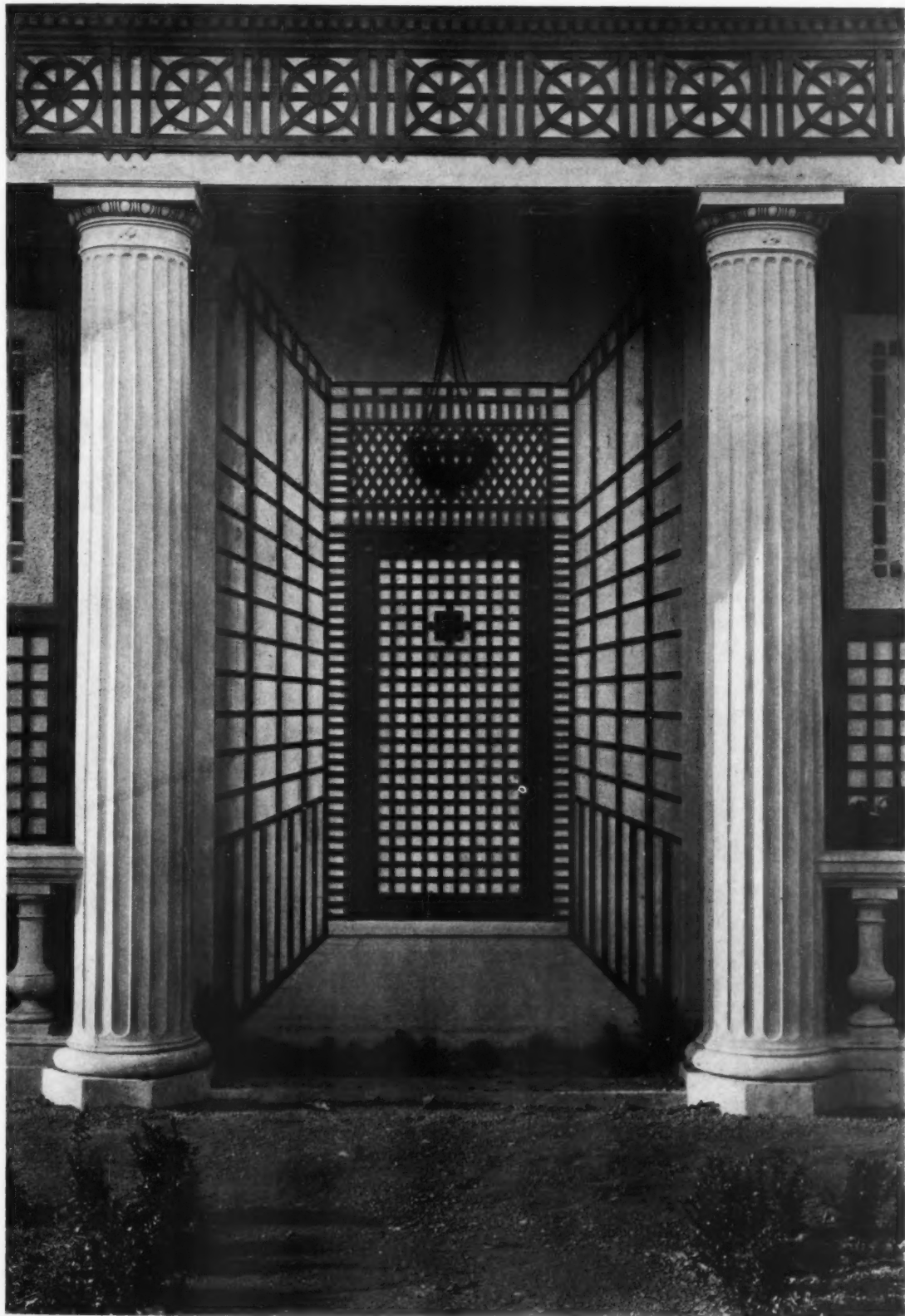


THE HANGING GARDEN

ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MR. GEORGE BURNAP, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



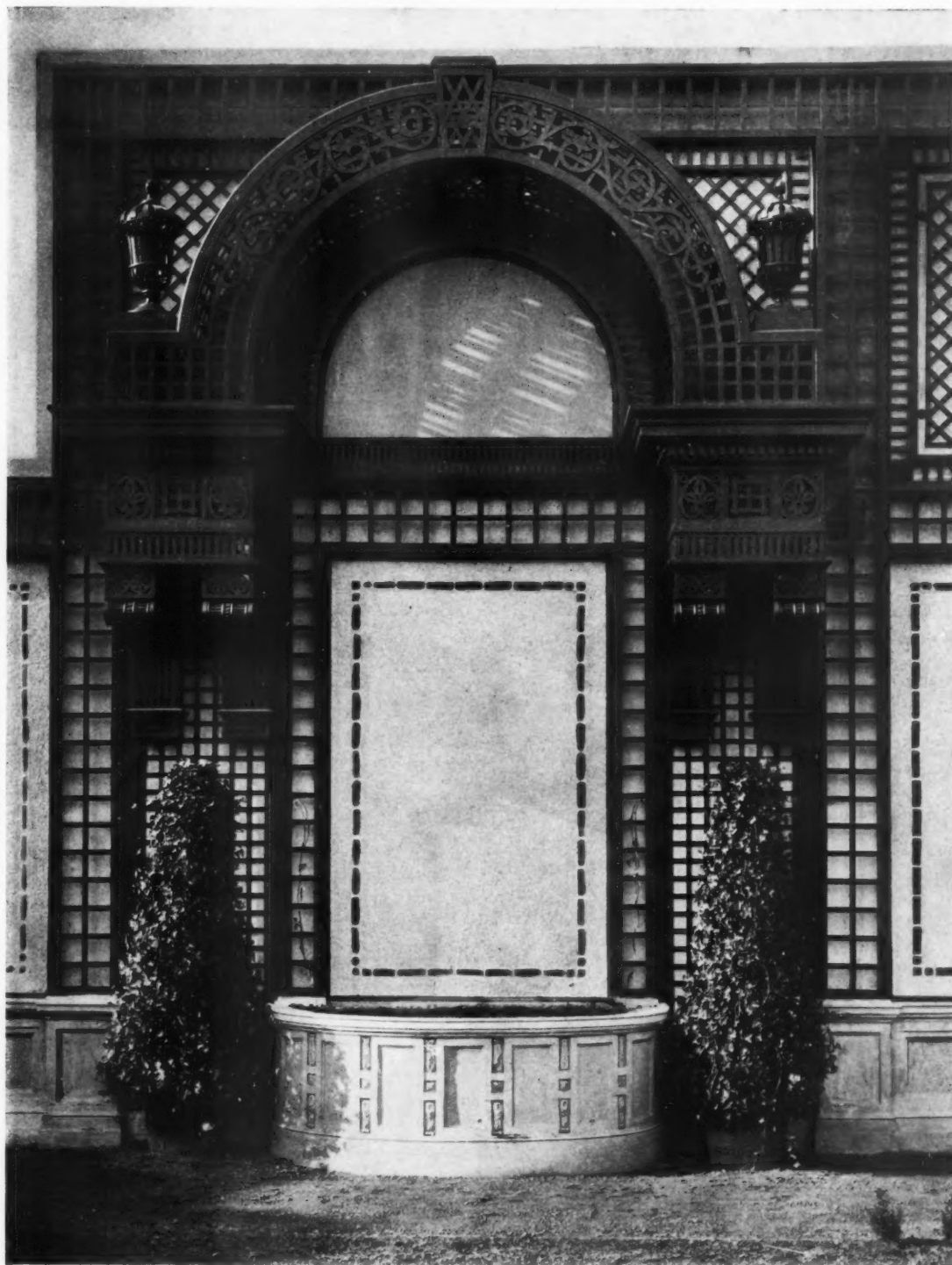


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LATTICE TREATMENT OF FLAT WALL

ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

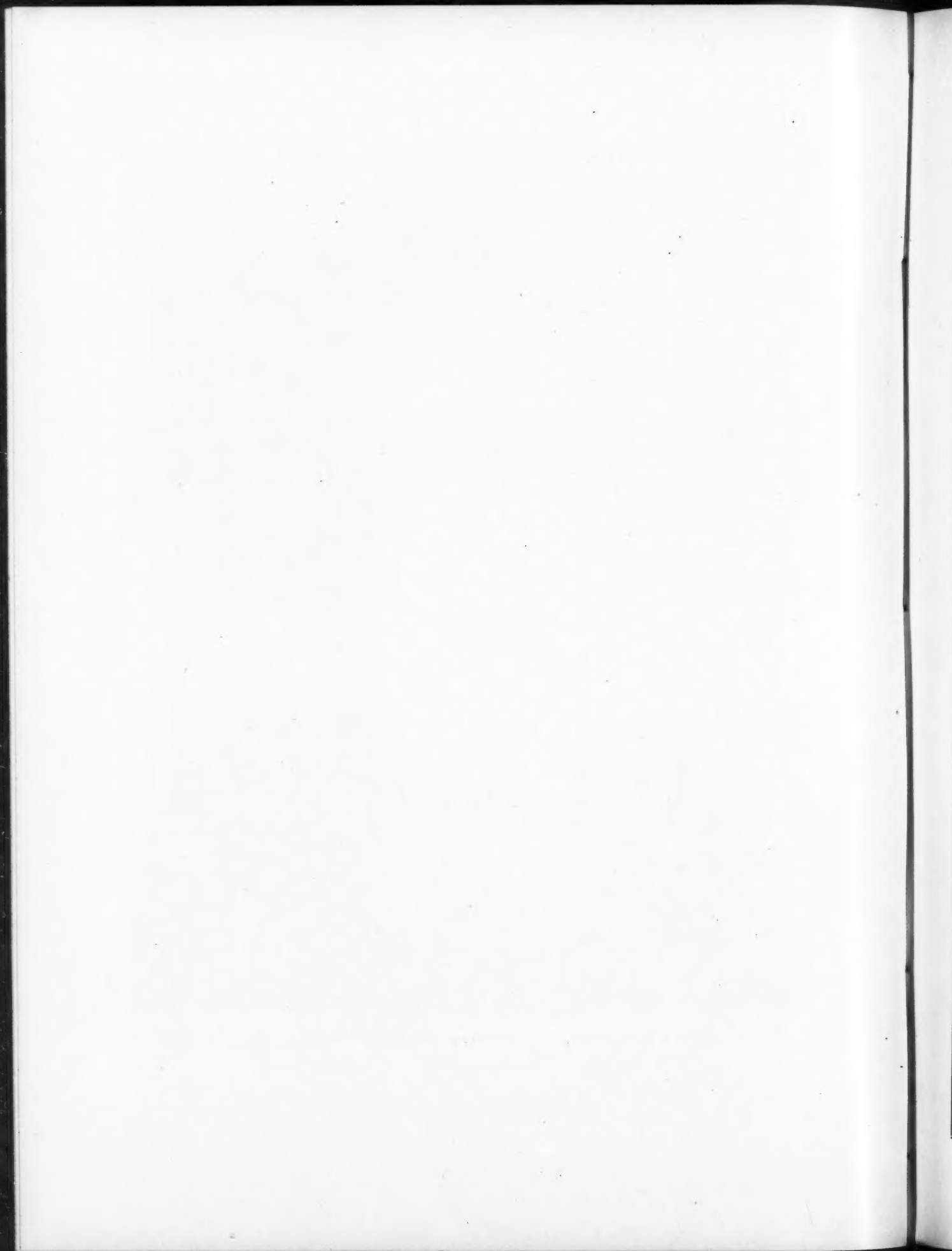
MR. GEORGE BURNAP LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

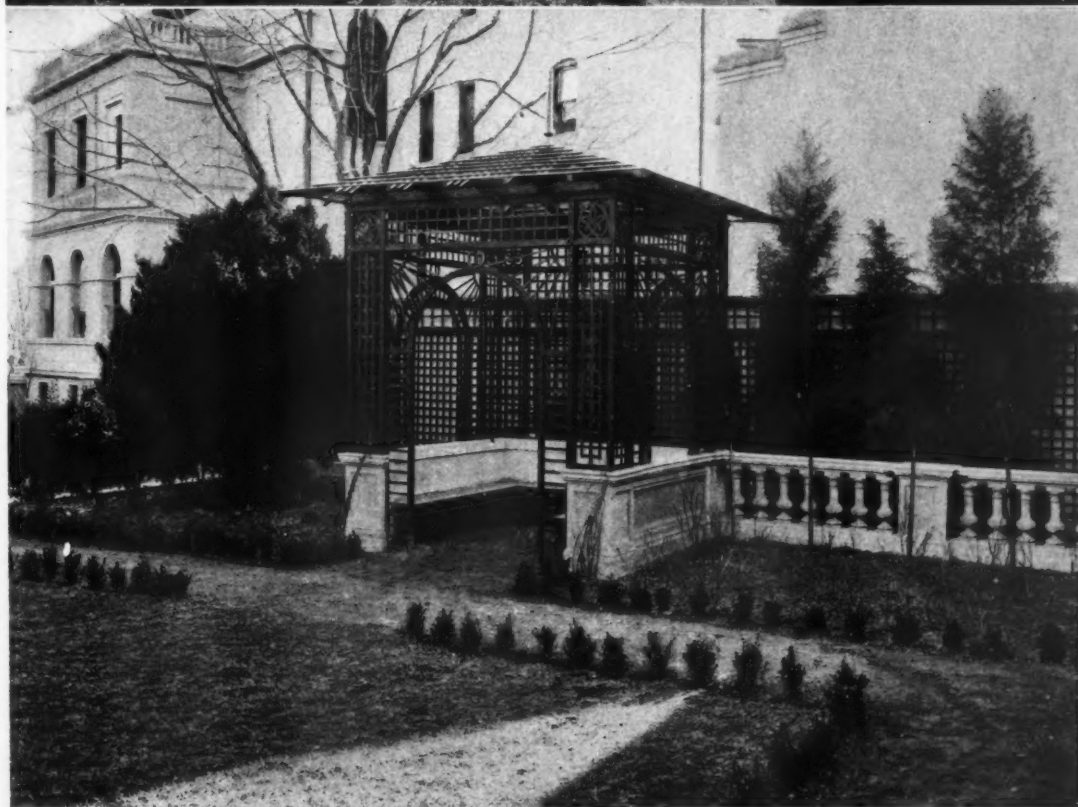


CENTRAL MOTIF OF SCREEN WALL

ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MR. GEORGE BURNAP, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



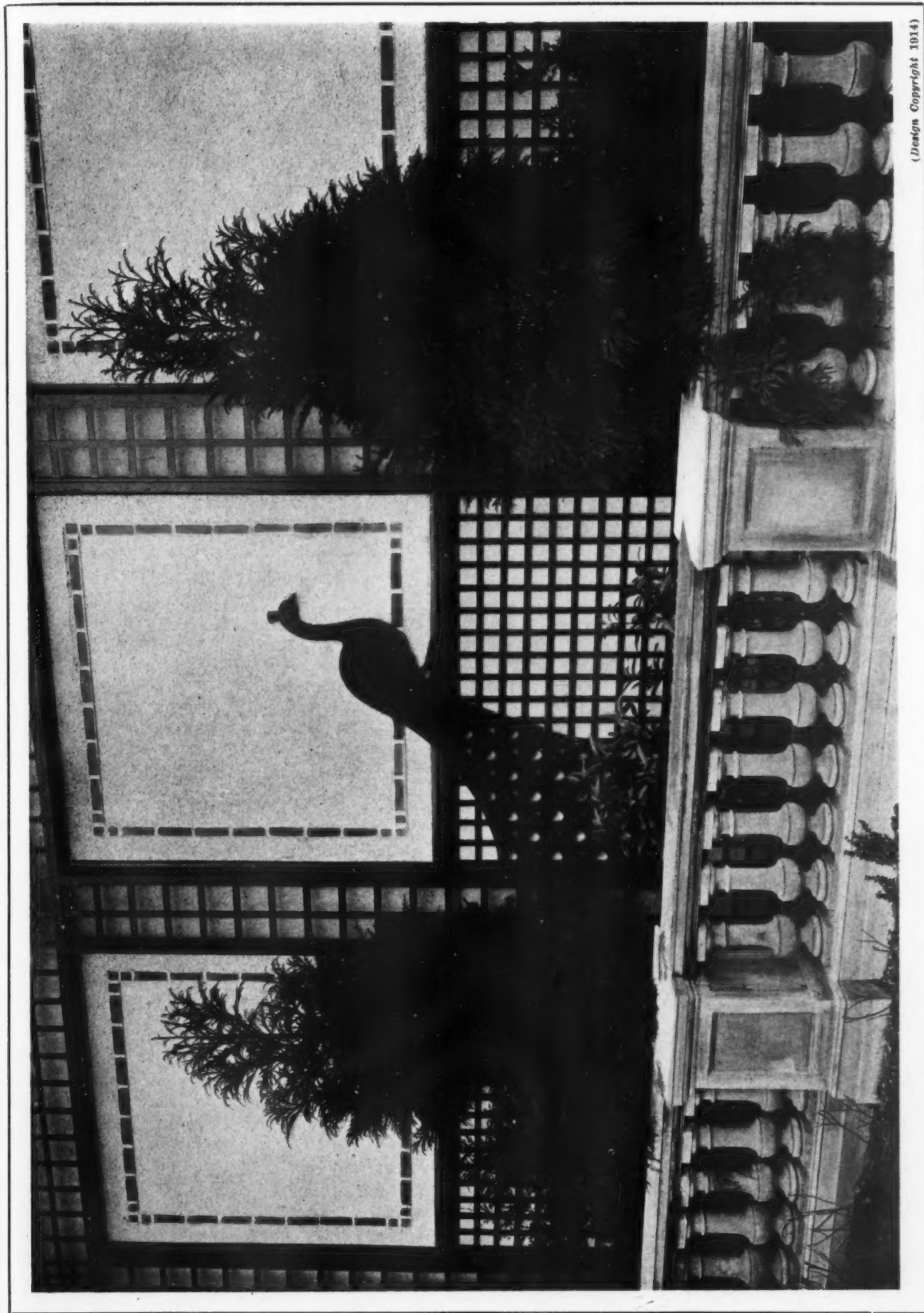


ABOVE, VIEW OF GARDEN FROM ENTRANCE STAIRWAY; BELOW, THE GARDEN HOUSE

ESTATE OF LOREN B. T. JOHNSON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MR. GEORGE BURNAP, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT





(Design Copyright 1914)

DECORATIVE LATTICE MOTIF

DESIGNED BY MR. GEORGE BURNAP, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

CURRENT NEWS AND COMMENT

FRANKLIN PIERCE STATUE

The Franklin Pierce statue commission of New Hampshire is reported to have accepted the design by Augustus Lukeman of New York City, for the proposed statue of Pierce for the State House yard at Concord. The cost of the work is to be \$14,500, and the monument is to be completed by October 15th, 1914. The model submitted by Mr. Lukeman is a striking likeness of New Hampshire's only President, and in the pose the sculptor is said to have caught the spirit of the man.

CINCINNATI ARCHITECTS TO MEET WEEKLY

Members of the Cincinnati chapter of the American Institute of Architects plan to establish a closer local organization. At a meeting held recently it was arranged to follow the lead of the local real estate men and have weekly meetings which would bring the members of the profession closer together.

It is expected that special speakers will be invited to address the architects.

It was at first thought that the meetings, in general, should be open to full members only and not to the draughtsmen or associate members. This, however, was deemed too exclusive and it was decided to invite all who are interested to attend.

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER A.I.A.

The January meeting of the Washington State Chapter, American Institute of Architects, was held January 5th with twelve members present.

A vote of thanks to the Louisiana Chapter for its hospitality to the Washington State Chapter delegates to the convention was passed. An interesting report of the delegates, Messrs. Alden and Sayward, was read.

The subject "Quantity Survey System" was informally discussed and it was decided to have a full discussion of the same at a later meeting.

ARTHUR L. LOVELESS, Secy.

WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PROPOSED

The Massachusetts advisory council of the George Washington Memorial Association is employed now in the endeavor to raise \$200,000 in the state before Washington's birthday, for the proposed memorial to be erected in the Federal capital.

The memorial is to be built by the National Civic Hall and Peace Association, representatives of the people of the entire country. The governors of twenty-six states have accepted the honorary chairmanships, and Gov. E. N. Foss, the honorary chairman of the Massachusetts council, has appointed a state committee, of which Samuel L. Powers is chairman, Philip S. Parker is vice-chairman, and William A. Gaston is treasurer.

LOWELL, MASS., PLANNING BOARD

The first meeting of the planning board for the city of Lowell was held in the mayor's reception room at city hall recently.

The members of the planning board are: Mayor James E. O'Donnell, chairman (ex-officio); J. Walter Bowers, Charles E. Anderson, secretary of the Trades and Labor council; John H. Murphy, secretary of the Lowell Board of Trade; Jesse D. Crook and Arthur Genest. The Commissioner of Public Property and Licenses is also a member ex-officio.

The act to provide for the establishment of local planning boards by cities and towns was passed by the legislature for 1913 and its duties include the making of careful studies of the resources, possibilities and needs of the city or town, particularly with respect to conditions which may be injurious to the public health or otherwise injurious in and about rented dwellings, and to make plans for the development of the municipality with special reference to the proper housing of its people.

The board must report annually to the city council giving information regarding the condition of the city and any plans or proposals for the development of the city and estimates of the cost thereof; and the board must file a copy of all reports made by it with the homestead commission.

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A RESULT OF TOWN PLANNING

VITAL STATISTICS OF LETCHWORTH, IN ENGLAND,
SHOW LOW INFANT MORTALITY

Charles G. Reade, writing in the *London Town Planning Review*, shows how the Garden City idea, among its many benefits, reduces infant mortality.

The vital statistics for Letchworth, now available, once more confirm the claims of the Garden City as a herald in pointing the way to a better age of housing, health and human happiness. The figures contrast grimly with those of other towns. For instance, consider this table compiled from the registrar general's annual summary:

	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births
Letchworth.....	50.6
Hampstead.....	62.0
Bournemouth.....	70.0
Lewiston.....	70.0
Hammersmith.....	90.0
Bethnal Green.....	96.0
London.....	101.0
Hartlepool.....	104.0
Stepney.....	105.0
Stockport.....	107.0
Poplar.....	107.0

The medical officer of health for the district in which Letchworth is situated in his annual report says:

"Numbers of the children coming from large, populous towns were anaemic, poor in physique, and large numbers were suffering from adenoid growths and throat affections. This state of things is fast disappearing with the new conditions under which they live."

TOWN IS TRADED FOR ONE SKYSCRAPER

Announcement was made recently that the town of Philipse Manor, a mile above Tarrytown, N. Y., had been traded for a twenty-story building at the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-first Street, New York City.

The town consists of 250 acres and has many houses, costing from \$10,000 to \$20,000. The Fifth Avenue property is valued at \$2,200,000.

DOMES OF U. S. CAPITOL BEAUTIFIED IN SPITE OF ERROR

ENTIRE ARCHITECTURAL LINES DECLARED
DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINAL
PLANS — MISTAKE OF
SCULPTOR

Arthur L. Blakeslee, an architect in the Treasury Department, has evoked great interest among Washington architects by his discovery that a sculptor's error improved the beauty of the United States capital dome, says the *Washington Post*. The sculptor's mistake, Mr. Blakeslee found by delving into history, caused an entire change in the architectural lines of the dome. Originally it was planned that the dome should follow a semi-ellipsoidal curve. The dome now has a semi-spherical curve, which architects say gives a greater appearance of majesty and stability and is devoid of flamboyancy.

The change in the design of the old dome, or rather the replacing of this dome of wood covered with copper with a dome of cast-iron, was authorized by Congress in 1855. The design of the new dome was prepared by Thomas U. Walker, architect, and consisted of an octagonal stylobate or base, which was to be supported by walls of the old dome, on which was placed a peristyle, 124 feet in diameter, composed of columns 27 feet in height.

"Through the caprice or indifference of Mr. Crawford, the sculptor," declared Mr. Blakeslee, "the model of the statue was made with utter disregard for the measurements allowed by the architect's drawings. To meet this change in the dimensions the architect was forced to change the profile of the dome proper, which differs essentially from the original design and from the various modifications which were rejected by Congress. The dome proper became semi-spherical, with a diameter of 86 feet. The tholus was enlarged from a diameter of 17 feet to a diameter of 20 feet. The figure of Freedom was increased in height to 20 feet and increased in other dimensions proportionately, requiring a pedestal 18 feet in diameter.

"The change in the architect's drawings was made in 1859," states Mr. Blakeslee. "Meanwhile the execution of the work had been progressing as rapidly as possible. The question of the profile of the dome was al-

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most continually before Congress during this time, yet Crawford, the sculptor, worked on, regardless of their discussions, apparently without thought of the wishes of Congress and certainly without regard to the architectural lines of the dome."

PERSONAL

Mr. Brice Hayden Long, Architect, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., announces that his offices have been moved to the Miners' Bank Building. The practice will hereafter be known as the Brice Hayden Long Company.

The formation of a new firm of architects in Macon, Ga., is announced. Mr. Frank R. Happ, who has been practicing in that city for the past eight years, has taken into partnership his former associate, Mr. C. W. Shelverton, the new firm being known as Happ & Shelverton.

Messrs. McLaughlin & Johnson, Architects, of Lynchburg, Va., announce the removal of their offices to Suite 604, Peoples' National Bank Building.

Mr. C. E. Frazier, Architect, desires to announce that he is now located at 1224-25 Candler Building, Atlanta, Ga., and will be pleased to receive manufacturers' samples and catalogs.

Mr. S. P. Craighill announces that he is engaged in the practice of architecture in the Peoples' National Bank Building, Lynchburg, Va., and requests that manufacturers' catalogs and samples be sent to him at that address.

Messrs. Bebb and Mendel, Architects, Seattle, Wash., announce dissolution of their former partnership. Mr. Charles H. Bebb will maintain the offices 503 Denny Building, and Mr. Louis L. Mendel will open offices in the Oriental Building.

BOOK NOTES

THE CIVIL ENGINEER'S POCKET-BOOK. By John C. Trautwine, C.E. Revised by John C. Trautwine, Jr., and John C. Trautwine, 3d, Civil Engineers. Nineteenth edition, third issue. Leather, 1,257 pages, four by seven inches, illustrated. Trautwine Company, 257 S. 4th Street, Philadelphia; Chapman & Hall, Ltd., London; Renouf Publishing Co., Montreal. Price \$5.00.

With engineers and some architects the name "Trautwine" seems to have achieved as great significance as the word "sterling" to silversmiths. Concerning a technical reference work that has been published in nineteen editions and to the number of 120,000 copies, little need be said as to merit.

The mechanical make-up of the present volume appears to be all that could be desired in the way of convenience and appearance. The paper is thin yet opaque. The type is chosen so as to aid ready reference, and to this the thumb index is an additional help. The pages have full gilt edges; the flexible leather binding is a dull red.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND SUPERINTENDENCE. Part II, Carpenters' Work. By F. E. Kidder, C.E., Ph.M., etc. Rewritten and enlarged by Thomas Nolan, M.S., F.A.I.A. Ninth edition, revised. Cloth, 909 pages, six and one-half by nine and one-half inches, illustrated. The William T. Comstock Company, 23 Warren Street, New York City. Price \$6.00.

The published works of Mr. Kidder have done much for the architect in giving him full and clear, yet concise, information as to the safe and logical use of the many kinds of material entering into building construction. The present volume appears to embody all the merits of previous editions as well as an account of many recent improvements in construction which have been tested and approved in practice.

The text and illustrations have been nearly doubled in quantity and reference has been facilitated by an unusually complete index system.

INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION

IN this section will be found information concerning late catalogues issued by manufacturers of building materials, fixtures or equipment. Also under this head will be printed, from time to time, certain data relative to new devices or methods of construction considered to be of interest to architects. Architects are invited to make use of THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT'S Catalogue Files and Information Department whenever they can do so to advantage. Any assistance we can render or information we can furnish in this connection will be freely given.

STEEL CEILINGS AND WAINSCOTING

It is perhaps a truism to say that steel ceilings and wainscoting should harmonize with the character of the building in which they are installed, but the very fact that this principle is frequently ignored gives value to the catalog published by the La Crosse Steel Roofing and Corrugating Co., La Crosse, Wis.

Their extensive line of pressed steel is illustrated in ceilings designed after the manner of the Gothic, the Colonial and the French Renaissance Schools. In addition to ceilings there are designs for side wall treatment as well as metal cornices and other mouldings.

Detailed drawings are furnished with orders for material which show the exact size and arrangement of each member entering into the metal construction.

FLOORING TILE

Architects may find valuable suggestions in the selection of marble and granite mosaic flooring tile from the pamphlet issued for free distribution by The Frank A. Seifert Plastic Relief Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Attention is called to the adaptability to design, durability and low initial as well as up-keep cost of their product.

The tile is said to be made from the best quality of Portland Cement and marble or granite chips, pressed into different shapes by hydraulic pressure, then steam cured and further water cured until the maximum strength of the cement is obtained. It is said that in the crushing of marble and granite into the proper sizes for the tile, all of the weak and defective parts of the aggregate are reduced to dust. As only the sound and perfect parts will stand the terrific force of a crusher, only sound and perfect chips can be used to make the tile.

Although the material used is the same as in the ordinary terrazzo floor, yet various points of superiority are claimed, namely:— that it can be laid without cracks appearing

within a short time, that it can be subjected to hydraulic pressure and can be cured for a greater length of time than is practicable with the usual terrazzo floor.

Illustrations of various grounds and borders are reproduced in color, which offer helpful suggestions in making selections.

WALL COATINGS

The vexing question of wall treatment for residential work is offered a solution by the Muralo Company, New York and Chicago. Their unusually attractive pamphlet is written by one of distinctive style, who ably discusses the merits of Muralo wall coatings. These products are ready for use when the prepared powder is mixed with ordinary cold water and the application is extremely simple. A color card with twenty-seven colors and shades is enclosed, which indicates the wide range of effects obtainable.

PLUMBING AND HEATING APPLIANCES

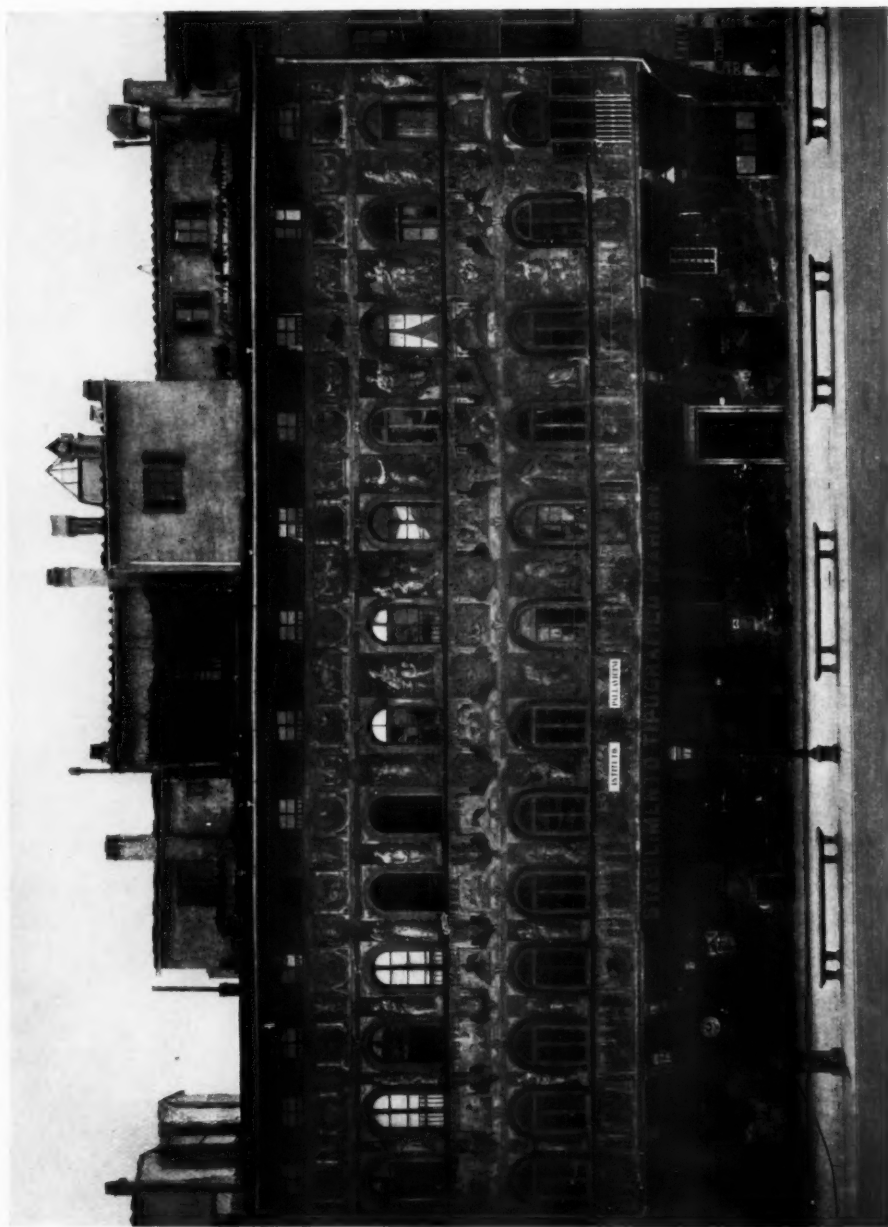
That the success of a modern building depends in large part upon the efficiency of its plumbing and heating equipment is generally acknowledged. To aid in the selection of suitable sanitary appliances and steam-heating goods, an Architects' Edition of The Nelson Blue Book has been issued for free distribution by the N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co., whose general offices and show rooms are at St. Louis, Mo., and branch houses at Los Angeles and Oakland Cal., and at Pueblo, Col. The company states that they have carried on this business for over a third of a century and have kept pace with the advancement of sanitary science.

All the staple lines formerly shown as well as their latest improvements in plumbing and heating fixtures are well illustrated, described and indexed, making it a ready reference book for architects' use.

Among their specialties may be mentioned the various forms of Nelson Sanitary Drinking Fountains which are said to comply with the health laws of all states.



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PALAZZO DAL BORGO, PIAZZA S. CROCE, FLORENCE