

FIRST PERIOD SURVEY

FORM NO.

18

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
30 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

PHOTOGRAPHS:

- 57:34 Front and left facades
- 57:33 Rear and left facades
- 57:18 Summer beam in east first-floor room
- 57:24 Cornice molding still in situ on plate cut to receive planks
- 57:27 East end wall in attic showing exposed planking
- 57:32 George Giddings First-Period Barn "1702"
- 57:36 George Giddings Farmstead; relationship (35A) of house to barn

Town ESSEX

Address 66 Choate Street

Historic Name George Giddings House & Barn

Use: Present residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1690s

Source visual analysis

Style First Period / Second Period

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards

Outbuildings Barn - pre 1702; non-contributing

19th century shed-roofed chicken house

Major Alterations (with dates) reorientation of house 1750-1800; large rear leanto with two large gabled dormers and large two-story gable addition with hyphen - modern 20th century

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 1.69 acres

Setting rural setting of hours farm with

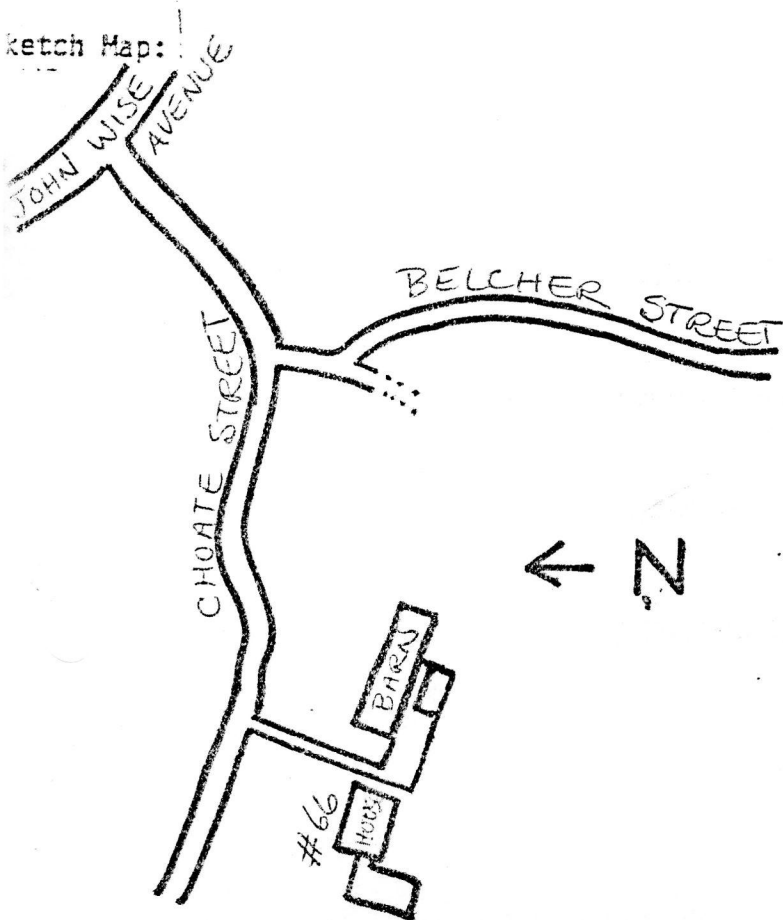
acres of post and rail fencing - house set

back from road surrounded by open fields

Recorded by James Kyprianos

Organization Boston University

Date December 1985



REFERENCE 19 / 351-890 / 4722-920 = house UTM

ES QUADRANGLE Ipswich

SCALE 1:25,000

19 / 351-910 / 4722-920 = barn UTM

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Communit, ESSEX	Form No: 18
Property Name: George Giddings House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Giddings House and Barn retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. In their design and construction they embody both unique characteristics and distinctive patterns of First Period building practices which make both structures eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. Both have yielded and may continue to yield important information for the understanding of seventeenth century vernacular architecture and rural agricultural life, and may be further eligible under Criterion D.

SETTING

The buildings are situated in a rural setting surrounded by 350 acres of farmland, which has been subdivided for tax implications and conservation restrictions. House now faces north and is surrounded by a modern agricultural landscape with a contributing barn (see below) and a nineteenth century non-contributing shed-roofed chicken house.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The late seventeenth century George Giddings House began as a two-story, gable roofed, single cell house later enlarged to a double cell with central chimney and lobby entrance. The original roof was replaced during the eighteenth century, before the removal of the central chimney. In the early nineteenth century the original south-facing orientation was changed with the insertion of a rear central door as the main entrance and two new chimneys along the new front(north) wall. Over the past twenty years the house has been privately renovated under two owners. There is a modern rear leanto addition with two large gabled dormers and irregular rear facade fenestration, as well as a two-story gabled roof addition at right angles to the original main block, set back toward the rear and connected with an inset two-story hyphen.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

The present north front facade has a framed overhang between the two floors, and the gables a similar overhang at the attic floor level. During the restoration, it was discovered that the house had a plaster cove cornice, its framing, and a unique survival of molded finish were exposed inside the present house. The plaster shows evidence for the 2" plank walling which sheathed the frame of the house, as well as a 4.5" quarter round molding to its face.

The east room on the first floor has a 17" summer beam with quarter-round chamfers, flat 2" collar, and 2.5" lamb's tongue stops. The joists are 22" on center. On the south wall lath and plaster was

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applied to the vertical plank wall, with 2" studs for the window (now missing). The west room is Second Period, but its framing is exposed.

The upper chambers both have paired double summers, each only about 7" wide, with narrow flat chamfers like the plate and girts. In the attic the roof is later, but there is evidence of a gable window 15.5" wide and 37.5" high cut in the planks.

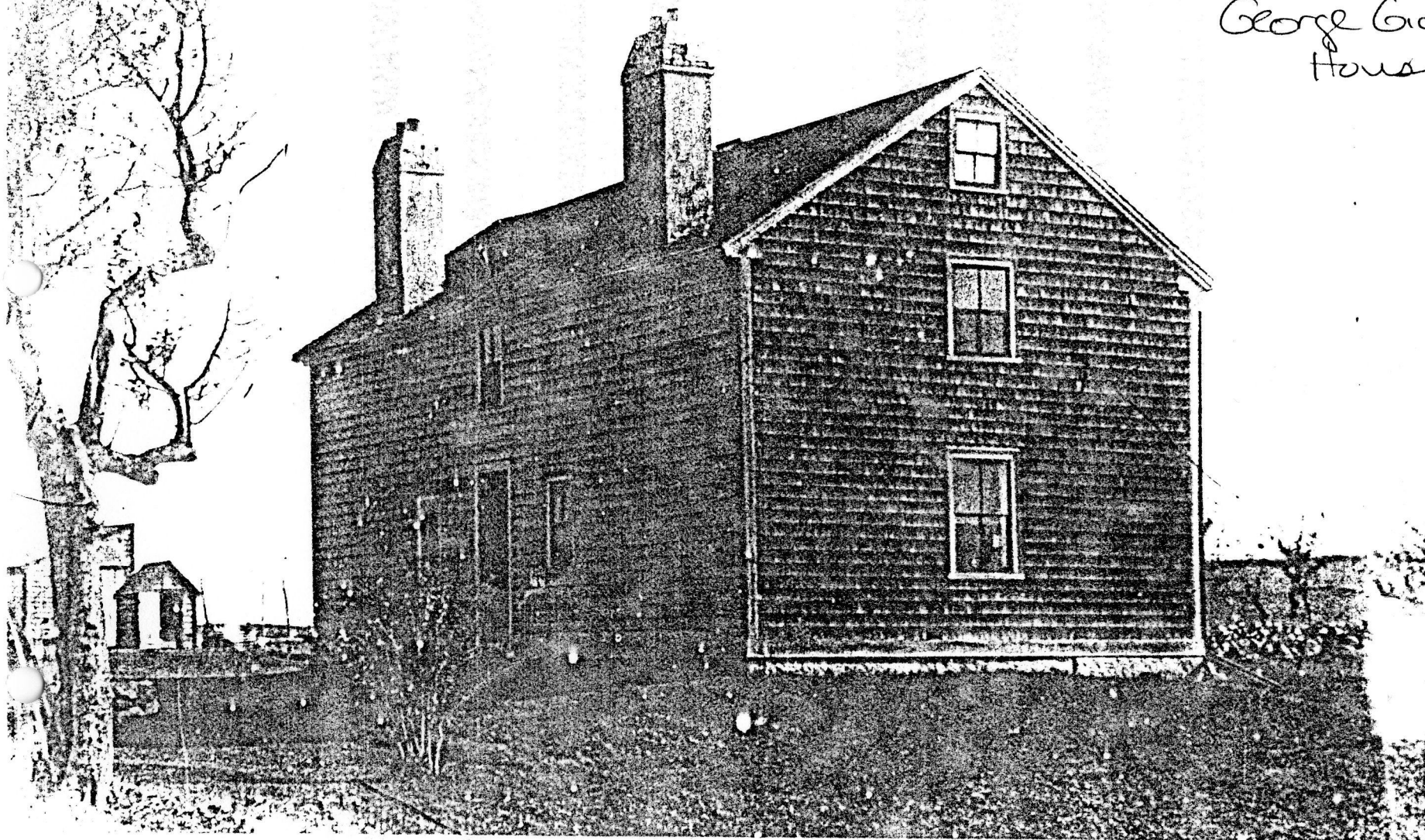
THE GIDDINGS BARN is equally significant as the house, the barn is six bays in length, of with one is a later addition at the east end. The central bay of the original five bays held the entrance door and a threshing floor in the middle. The roof is significant as it has angled struts, like those of the Stanley-Lake barn, that may have evolved from the earlier building tradition in East Anglia of purlin posts. The barn has been dated to before 1718 and is one of only a handful of examples of First Period barns yet identified.

REFERENCES

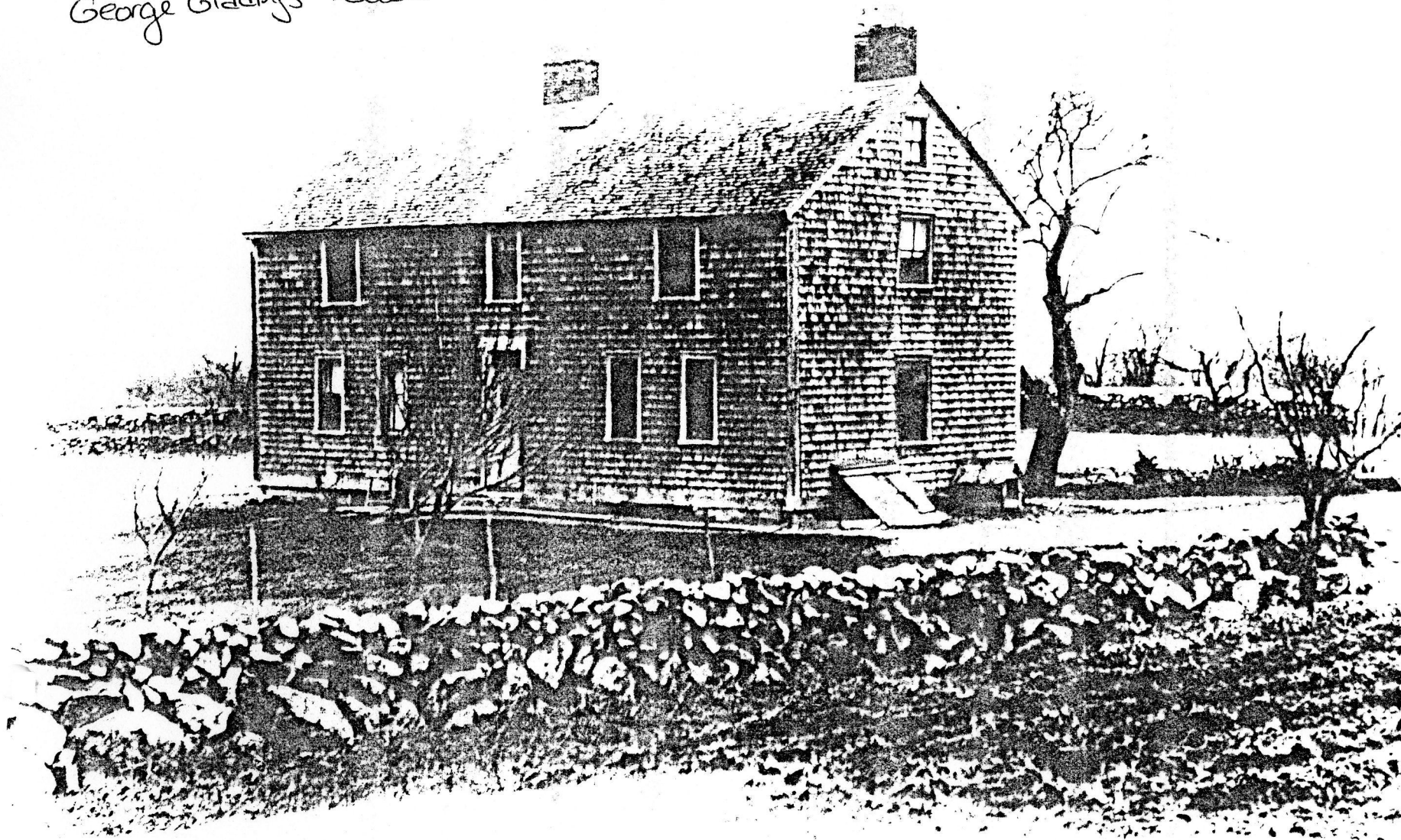
Cummings, Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725, pp.91-92, 127.

Cummings, "Massachusetts and Its First Period House", p.140.

Essex, MA
66 Choate Street
George Giddings
House

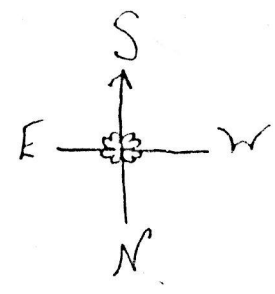


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66 Chastiz Street
George Giddings House



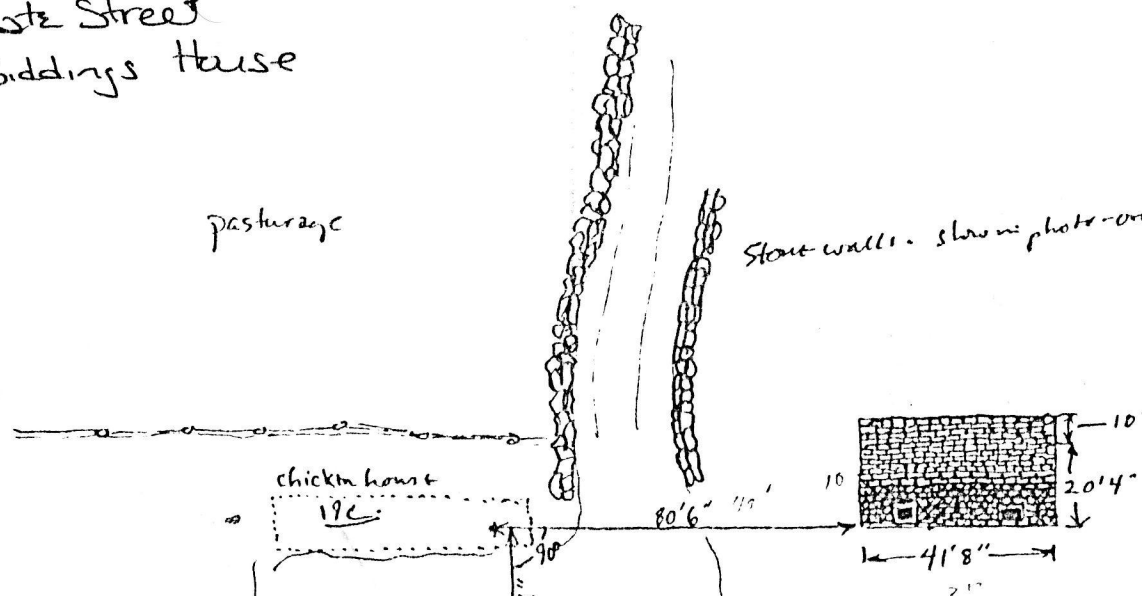
Essex, MA
166 Chotez Street
George Giddings House

Bottom Lands to River.

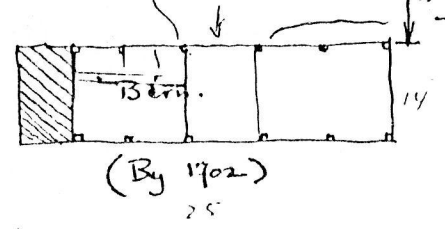


pasturage

Stout walls - shown in photo - order from Sauer.



10'3" lanto. (probably c. 1760-70?)
Chimney moved ca. 1750-1800?
(geopinesque movement)



Giddings/Low property.
~~Low~~
(Sauer.)

Fields

Fields

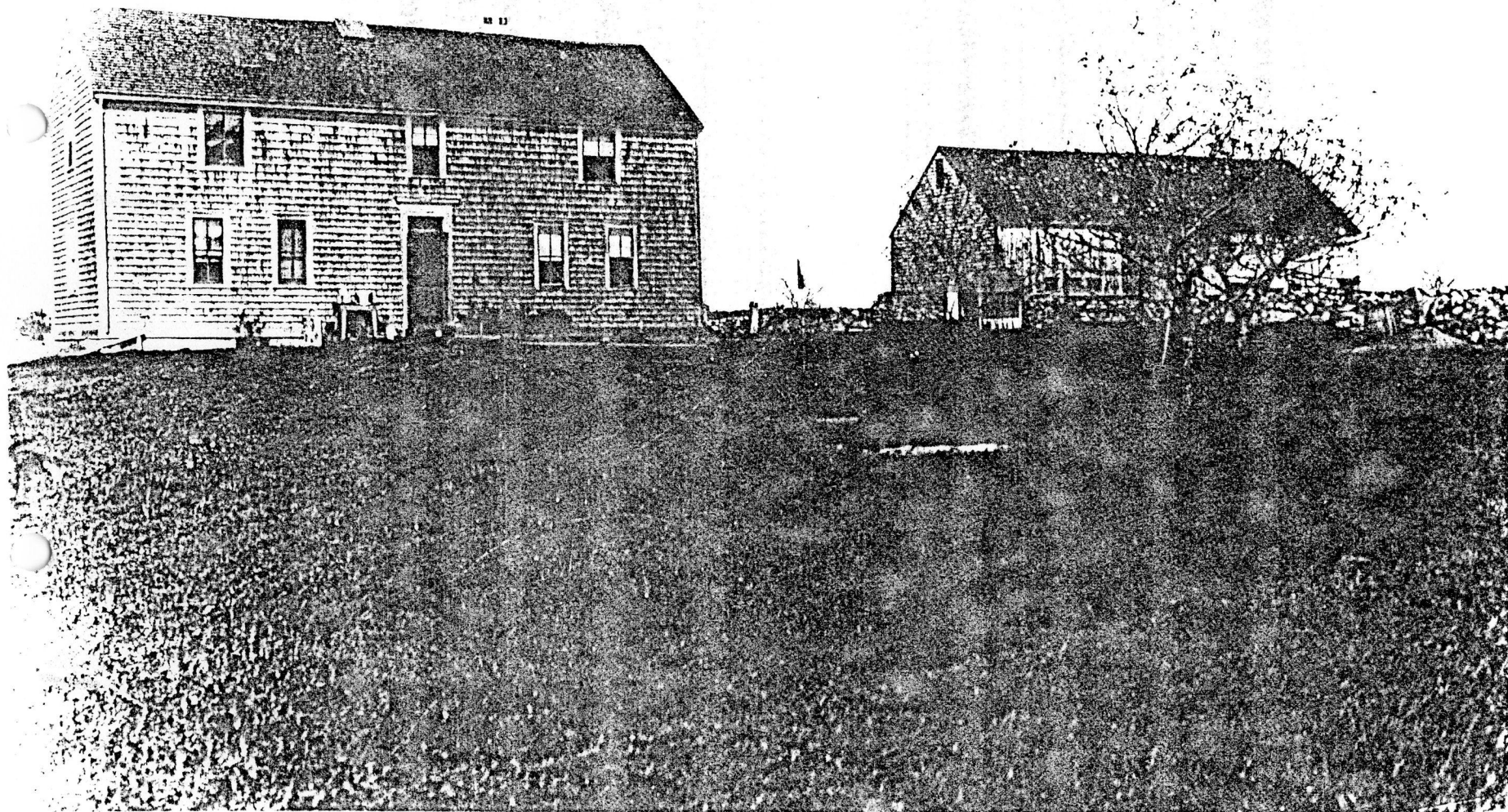
Ipswich ←

→ Essex & Gloucester

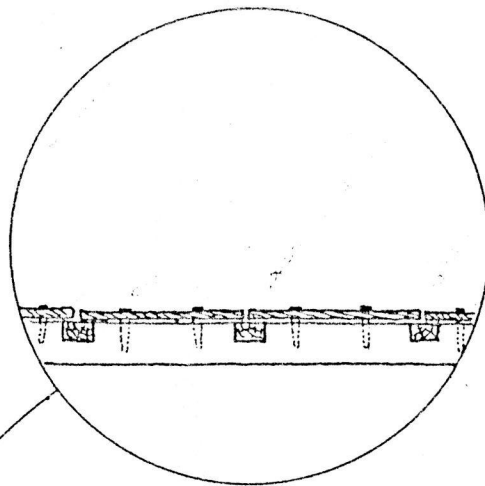
(Chotez Road)

Old Road from Ipswich to Chelmsford.

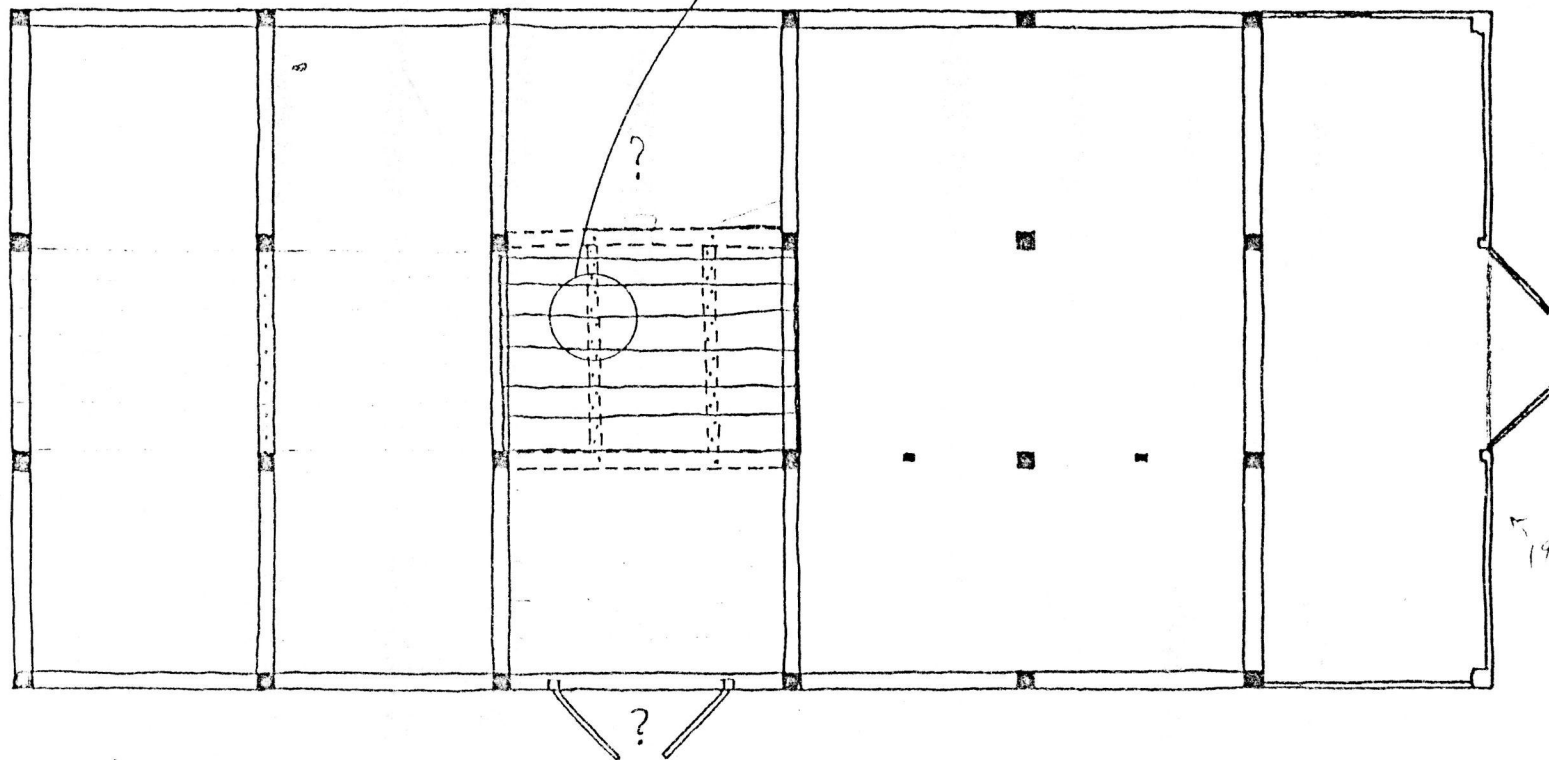
Essex, VA
66 Choate Street
George Giddings House



Essex, MA
66 Choate Street
George Giddings House/Barn

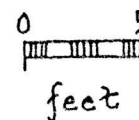


detail of inset joists
under threshing floor



19c. addition

Giddings-Low Barn
Ipswich (Chebacco), Mass.





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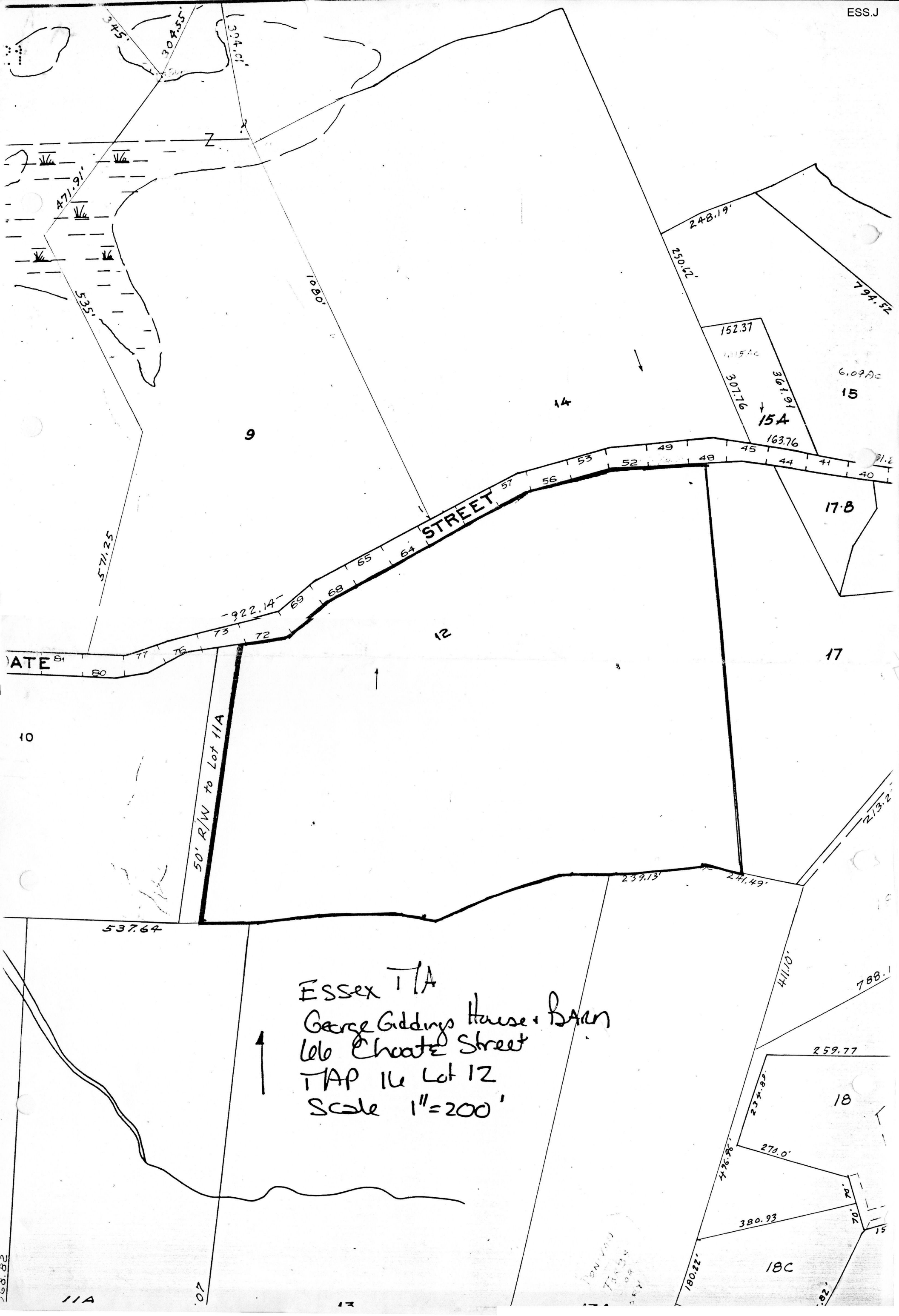
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Essex TIA
 George Giddings House + Barn
 66 Cheate Street
 TAP 16 Lot 12
 Scale 1"=200'

BENJAMIN
 TAYLOR
 1888