PROTECTED SITE APPLICATION PART C, SECTION VII ZONING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board 201 E. Washington Street City Hall Commons, Room 500 Syracuse, NY 13202 315-448-8108

APPLICANT

- 1. Applicant Name:
- 2. Address: 500 City Hall Commons, 201 E. Washington St. City: Syracuse State: NY

Zip Code: **13202**

3. Phone: (315) 448-8108

Contact Person: Kate Auwaerter

STRUCTURE / SITE IDENTIFICATION

- 4. Structure/Site Name: The John Gridley House
- 5. Address: 205 East Seneca Turnpike Ward No. : 14-8
- 6. Assessor's Atlas Section No.: 071 Block No.: 16 Lot No.: 11.0
- 7. Current Deed for property at Book: of Deeds Page:
- 8. Ownership: Public Private Other
- 9. Present Owner: A. Dale and Ann K. U. Tussing

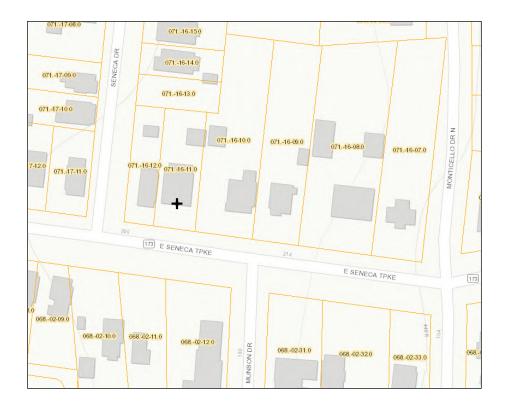
Address: 205 East Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13205

Phone: n/a

10. Is this application for designation of the exterior only? Yes No Interior only Interior and Exterior If the designation request is for an interior space, please attach a separate sheet identifying that space in detail.



John Gridley House, May 2020.



STRUCTURE/SITE IDENTIFICATION (CONT'D)	
	Exterior Building Material: clapboard stone brick cobblestone stone store concrete curtain wall masonry block other
	Structural System: wood frame with light members cast iron frame steel frame steel frame other other
	Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
	Integrity: original site moved if so, when?
-	Alterations: exterior only interior only both X Exterior alterations include the following:

Exterior alterations: In 1936, the Historical American Building Survey report noted that the John Gridley House was "in good state of preservation, the owner taking great pride in keeping it so and in restoring it to what he believes it to have originally been." The report continued that the then current owner, Girard Parce, had removed a modern porch on the front of the house and that he intended to install a new six panel door "in duplication" of the former door. (Note: The current six-panel door was installed by the present owners, Ann and Dale Tussing.) It also noted that the side lights to the door were patterned from the sidelights originally on the Samuel Forman House at 405 W. Seneca Turnpike. The report also stated that Parce had raised the roof pitch from a one-to-two pitch to a one-to-three. The report noted that the rear porch was not original.

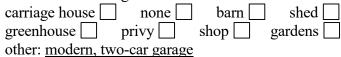
The original windows in the house were likely 12-over-12, double-hung sash. The current windows are 6-over-1, double-hung sash and appear to date to the late 19th-century. One potentially original,12-over12 window is located on the second floor of the rear façade and two of the kitchen windows have 12-over-1 double-hung sash.

The current owners, Ann and Dale Tussing, have kept meticulous records of the restoration and rehabilitation work that they have overseen since purchasing the house and site. (A summary list of repairs and other work is included in the project file.) Between 1969-71, they rebuilt the entire back porch including its stone supports. Evidence was found at that time indicating that the original porch was wider, running the full width of the house. In 1989, the Tussings built the current garage.

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Interior alterations: The 1936 HABS report stated that an earlier owner (pre-1900) had changed the location and design of the stairs in the house to its current orientation. There is evidence that indicates that the interior stairs led from the kitchen directly up to what is now the southeast bedroom. The upstairs bedrooms were connected through interior doorways. In the late 1800s, the house was converted into a rooming house. In order to provide private access to the upstairs bedrooms, a center hallway was carved out of a portion of the second floor bedrooms and the staircase was reconfigured to its current position. The staircase is now accessed on the first floor through a set of French doors from the sitting room. In the 1950s, the northeast and southeast bedrooms were combined and turned into a small apartment unit, which included a private kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The Tussings removed the upstairs kitchen in 1979. (Ann Tussing prepared a revised floor plan and notes about changes to the interior that have taken place since the HABS report, which is included in the project file.) In 1983, the Tussings expanded the kitchen by partially removing the wall between the kitchen and what was identified as the "library" in the HABS floor plans. The house features modern wiring, plumbing, and heating, the installation of which required enclosure of four original, shallow closets (though five remain, one with original pegs for hanging clothes, etc.). The basement plan was altered post-1936 to remove the cistern and install furnaces, a water heater, and stationary tubs. The Tussings restored the summer kitchen in 2005.

17. Related outbuildings:



18. Interrelationship of structure/site and surroundings:

The John Gridley House is located on the north side of the 200 block of E. Seneca Turnpike in the Valley neighborhood of the city, formerly known as Onondaga Hollow. The 200 block of E. Seneca Turnpike is located at the base of a steep hill that rises to the east. To the west, the ground levels out into the original floodplain of Onondaga Creek. The immediate residential area surrounding the Gridley House consists of late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth-century frame houses with varying setbacks. The Gridley House is set back approximately 35 feet from the road on a level parcel. The front yard includes lawn area to either side of a stone front walk that leads from the city sidewalk to the front steps. There are planting beds at the base of the house and along the foundation on the east side of the house next to an asphalt driveway that is shared with the neighboring property. The driveway splits to the rear of the house leading to a single, story, gable-front frame, two-car garage. The neighboring house to the west is located within 10 feet.

STRUCTURE / SITE HISTORY

19. Date(s) of initial construction: 1812

20. Architect(s): Unknown

21. Builder(s): Moses and Aaron Warner

- 22. Original Owner(s): John Gridley
- 23. Original Use: Private Residence
- 24. Present Use: Private Residence

STRUCTURE / SITE SIGNIFICANCE

25. Exterior building features:

The John Gridley House is an imposing, two-story, Federal-style house with a raised foundation and a full attic. It was built 1812 of ashlar-cut Onondaga limestone with thin, light-colored mortar joints. The walls are 3' wide at the base and taper to 1.5' thick at the roof line. The side-gable roof features stepped parapet end gables with paired chimneys, one to each side of each center parapet. The roof is asphalt shingle.

The front façade is four-bays wide. The two western-most bays and the outside eastern-most bay include vertically aligned, single window openings on the first and second stories. The windows are 6-over-1, double-hung, wood sash with narrowly projecting stone sills and flush, flat-segmental arch stone lintels. The recessed entrance is located at the top of four, wide, stone steps. The entrance is framed by a dressed, stone arch with a decorative keystone design. The keystone is carved with a masonic symbol below a capital letter "G". Below the arch is a glass fanlight inset behind coffered, wood paneling. Below the fanlight, the six-panel, solid-wood door is recessed below a flat, projecting cornice with a decorative scalloped edge. The cornice is supported by four, fluted, thin wood, engaged columns which frame the center door and sidelights. Each column capital features a carved oval sunburst detail. The columns sit on rounded bases. The side lights to either side of the front door feature leaded glass tracery and sit on tall wood paneled bases. The second-story window above the entrance copies the general tri-partite division of the entrance below, featuring a large 6-over-1, double-hung sash window flanked by narrow double-hung vertical, 2-over-2 sash side lights. Each window is inset behind thin, paired, engaged columns that feature the same decorative capitals as the entranceway columns below. The window is inset under a flat stone sill and lintel.

The east and west facades are mirror images of each other, each facade featuring a single first and second story window opening. On the east façade the window openings are set to the right of the center of the façade and to the left of center on the west facade. The windows are 6-over-1, wood, double-hung sash with projecting sill and flush stone lintel. Below the first-floor window on each facade is a small recessed basement window with a 6-pane fixed sash. At the attic level on each facade, at the center of the parapet end is a single oval window with eight panes divided by wood muntins.

The rear façade features a 3/4-width, shed-roof porch across the first floor located at the top of a set of wooden steps. The porch has open rafters and is supported on simple square posts. Below the porch is a below-grade basement entrance. The entrance door is deeply recessed behind plain wood paneling. To the right of the door are two window openings at foundation-level and to the left of the door is a single foundation-level window. The windows are each 6-over-1, double-hung, wood sash with plain stone lintels and sills.

The rear entrance, which is vertically aligned with the basement entrance below, is a half-light, wood, paneled door with two upper fixed transom lights. (The 1936 HABS drawings indicate a solid, 6-panel door.) To the right of the door is a single, 6-over-1, double-hung sash window. To the left of the door are two, 12-over-1, double-hung sash windows. Of these two windows, the window farthest from the door has a plain stone lintel and sill. The window closest to the door features a concrete lintel and sill, which indicates that it may be a later addition. The second-floor features only two window openings. The westernmost window features 6-over-1, wood, double-hung sash. The easternmost window features 12-over-12, double-hung, wood sash and is likely original to the construction of the house. Both windows feature flat stone lintels and sills.

26. Interior building features:

The ground floor consists of a large sitting room (southeast quadrant), parlor (southwest quadrant), dining room (northwest quadrant) and kitchen and bathroom (northeast quadrant). The front entrance enters directly into the large sitting room. A center staircase is located directly from the sitting room behind French doors.

The second story is arranged around the center hallway, which provides access to three upstairs bedrooms, a dressing room and bathroom. The two largest bedrooms are located at the southwest and northwest quadrants of the second story and are accessed off the west side of the hallway. The southeast bedroom is accessed at the top of the stair. It is narrower than the other bedrooms and is connected to the dressing room through a small bathroom. There is also a door to the dressing room from the hallway. A second bathroom is located at the northeast corner of the house and is only accessed from the hallway.

The basement includes the former summer kitchen featuring a large stone and brick fireplace with brick hearth and brick behive bake oven. Three rooms lead off the summer kitchen and are used for storage, as a furnace room, a potting room and a laundry room.

Exceptional interior features include the exquisitely carved, Federal-period, neo-classically inspired wood trim found throughout the first and second floors including window and door surrounds. The arch-and-keystone motif on the exterior entrance is repeated in wood on the inside of the front entrance. This motif is mirrored again in the massive, carved lunette located above the parlor threshold to the sitting room. The lunette is supported on fluted pilasters with square capitals. The parlor, sitting room and dining room on the first floor as well as the three bedrooms on the second floor have fireplaces with delicately carved mantelpieces and wood surrounds, each one unique in design. The house retains its original pine plank floors and many period paneled doors with mortise and tenon construction.

In 2003, while removing wallpaper in the bedrooms, the present owners discovered the original stenciling on the walls. The pattern of the stenciling also exposed where original doorways were located prior to the rearrangement of the stairway. The owners repaired the walls and recreated the stenciling, leaving a portion of the original stenciling exposed. In 2018, more original stenciling was exposed in the upstairs hallway.

27. Historic and architectural significance:

As noted in the National Register nomination, the John Gridley House is one of a small handful of buildings that remain from the frontier settlement period of Onondaga Hollow, which predates the City of Syracuse by more than 30 years. Onondaga Hollow was founded at the junction of

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Onondaga Creek and the Seneca Turnpike, which was an important east-west road in New York State at the time (Gobrecht).

John Gridley arrived in Onondaga Hollow from Massachusetts with his family in 1790. His future wife, Nancy Seely -- the daughter of Gideon Seely, a prominent a prominent civil engineer and surveyor-- arrived in Onondaga from Westchester County 1797 (Riehardt). In 1810, John and Nancy Gridley purchased 2 acres of land from George Kibbe for \$1400. The sale also included the rights to a nearby spring. Gridley, who was a tanner, likely piped water from the spring to his house and to his tannery that was also located on the property (Campbell). The current owners, Dale and Ann Tussing, discovered a section of period, hollowed-out wooden water pipe on the property, which appears to support this theory.

The house was completed by 1812 and the Gridleys lived in the house until the 1830s. Unfortunately, the tanning business did not survive, and the house was lost in a sheriff's sale in 1832. Gridley and his family left New York State for a new life in Lake County, Illinois where he passed away in 1872 (Chase). John Gridley's granddaughter, Toni Mann, sent the Tussings a copy of a poem written by John Gridley titled "Retrospective View" in which Gridley recounts in part his time in Syracuse and the loss of his business and the house (excerpted below):

I've seen the folly of my youth which riper years would now condemn Too ambitious—that's the truth, to gain a rank 'mong wealthy men.

Prosperity I could not bear temptations were alluring, built up castles in the air, foundations unenduring..

Bought up sundry lots of lands with houses on to rent, to accommodate my laboring hands, all were bought with good intent.

Built an expensive house of stone, not counting on the cost, had all the money been my own, my friends would not have lost.

Hired money – *bought up hides, and trusted out my leather, bad debts on hand were multiplied which proved my ruin altogether.*

I estimated house and land, figured up the cost, Could not be sold for cash in hand, was 'bout as good as lost.

Most willingly I left the place, to seek a home far, far away. My injured friends I could not face, and feel contented there to stay.

According to the HABS documentation and deed information provided by Ann Tussing, the house passed from the Gridleys to John Taylor (Newark, NJ) in 1832 in the sheriff's sale. He sold it that

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same year to Daniel Comstock. In 1836, the house was sold to William J. Cook and in 1842 to Edward T. Slocum. From the Slocum family the house passed to Mary Blanchard in 1903. In 1909, the Parce Family purchased the house. The Parce family owned the house until 1957, when it passed to Howard and Eunice Thomson. In 1966, William Gordon purchased the house. He was only in the house for two years before he moved to New York City. The house sat empty for nearly half a year before the current owners, Ann and Dale Tussing purchased the house in May of 1969. The Tussings came to Syracuse in 1958 for Dale Tussing to study economics at Syracuse University. He joined the faculty of the Department of Economics in 1962 and retired in 2008. Ann Tussing is a retired editor and teacher. The Tussings raised 5 children in the Gridley House.

The John Gridley House is an excellent example of a "turnpike step-gabled house" and the best, most intact example in the Syracuse area. The stonemasons Moses and Aaron Warner are the purported builders. The Warners also built the Onondaga Arsenal, the original Valley Academy and the General Hutchinson House (now the Inn of the Seasons) (Case). It was an unusually elegant house to be constructed in Onondaga Hollow in 1812. Outstanding Federal-period design features include the prominent step gables with oval windows in the gable ends; the richly detailed front entrance, which features a dressed stone arch above a semi-circular fanlight and leaded-glass sidelights, and decorative wood trim; and the equally decorative tripartite window located directly above the entrance. The classically inspired carved woodwork is carried on into the interior in the elegant window and door surrounds, large carved lunette in the parlor, and the decorative trim around six of the seven fireplaces.

The Gridley House was one of only three Syracuse buildings included in the 1935 Historic American Buildings Survey and measured drawings of the house are in the Library of Congress. The property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

28. List all sources

Campbell, Sue. Remember When...Pieces of Our Past. The Scotsman Press, Syracuse, NY, 1989.

Documentation provided by Ann and A. Dale Tussing, 2019-2020.

Gobrecht, Lawrence. "The John Gridley House." *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.* New York State Office of Parks & Recreation, Division for Historic Preservation (Albany, NY), February 16, 1977.

Gridley, John, "Retrospective View." Manuscript. Unknown date.

Historic American Buildings Survey. "The John Gridley House, 205 East Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY-Onondaga County", HABS NY-222, 1936.

McKee, Harvey J. et al. *Architecture Worth Saving in Onondaga County*. New York State Council on the Arts, Syracuse, 1964.

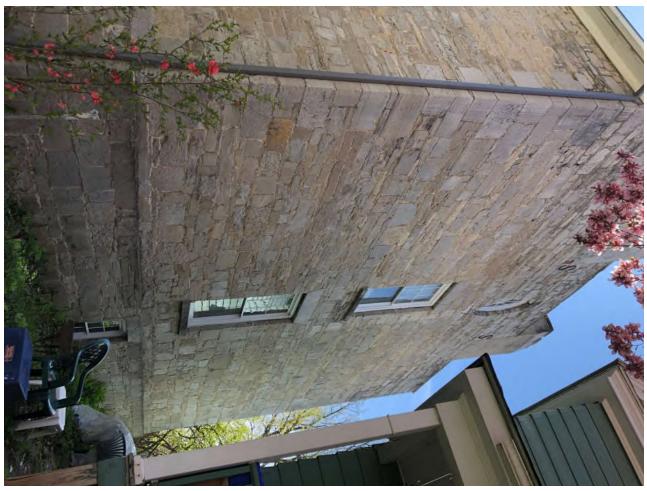
Riehardt, J.O. The Life and Times of Joseph Owen Seely: 1796-1879. Lulu.com, 2016.



John Gridley House, May 2020. Front facade, View SW



John Gridley House, May 2020. Front facade, View NW



John Gridley House, May 2020. West facade, View E



John Gridley House, May 2020. Front facade, View W



John Gridley House, May 2020. Rear facade, View S



John Gridley House, May 2020. Rear facade, View S



John Gridley House, May 2020. Front facade, View N



John Gridley House, May 2020. Front facade, second story window, View N



John Gridley House, May 2020. Front facade, front entrance, View N



John Gridley House, May 2020. Basement entrance, View SE

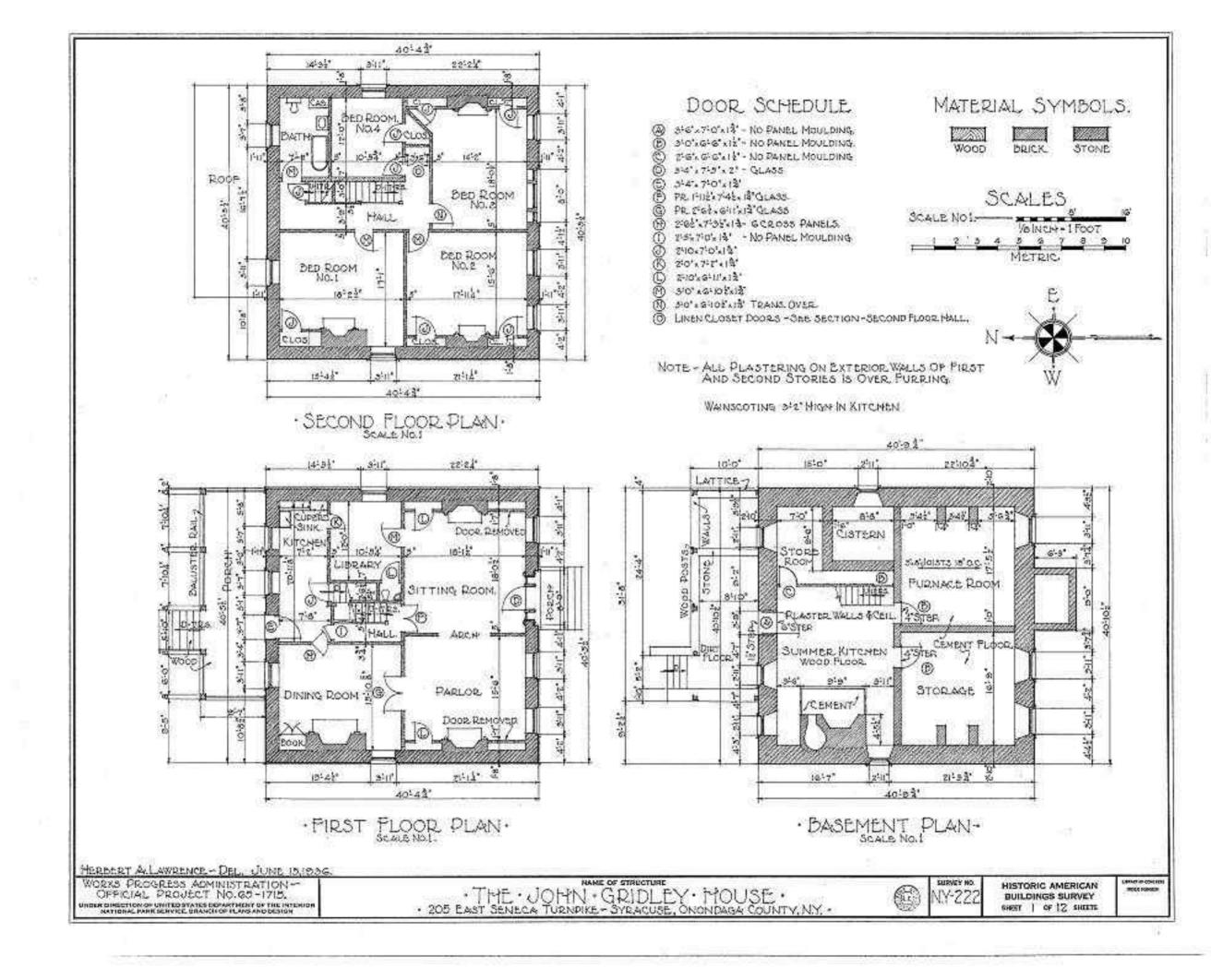


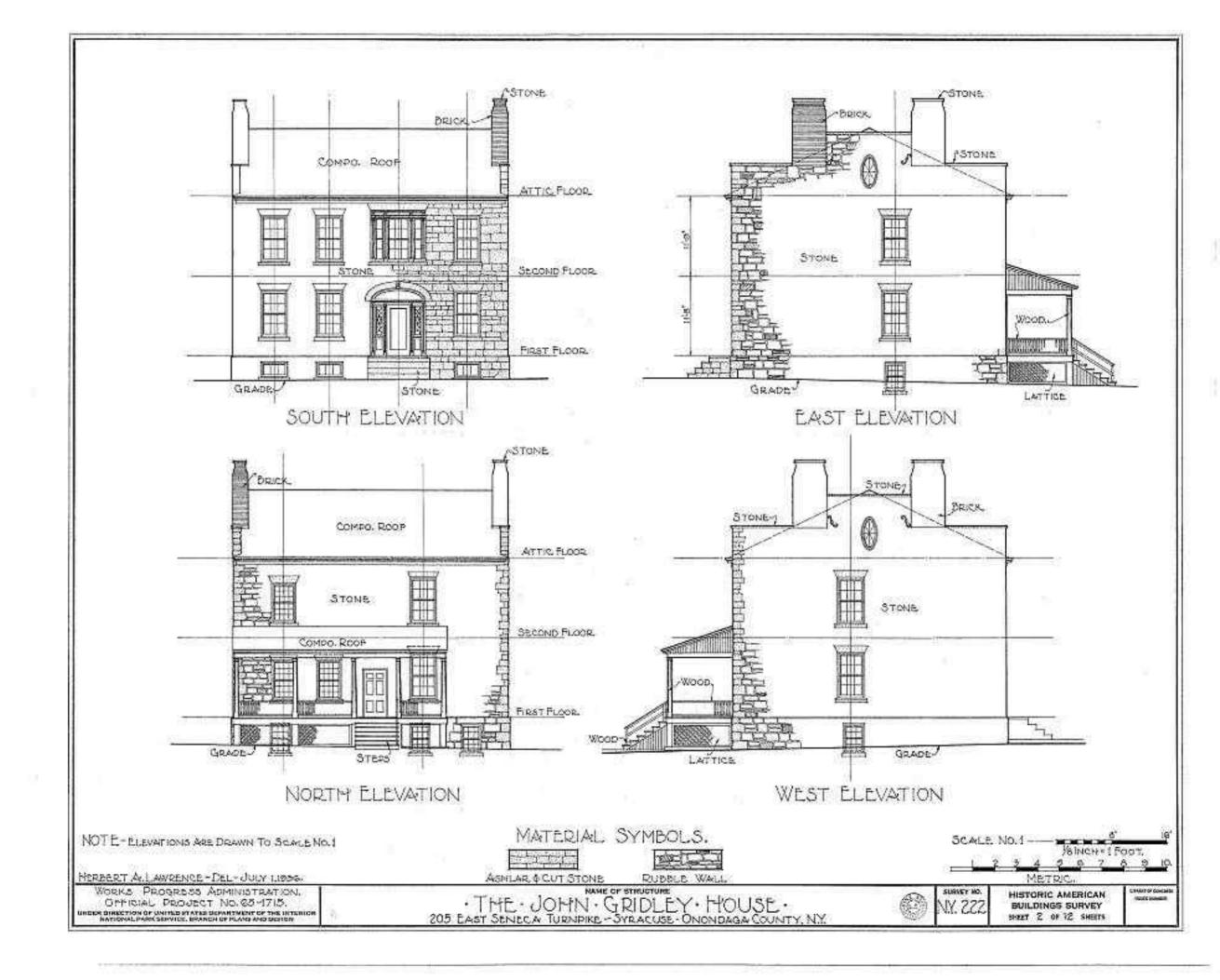
John Gridley House, May 2020. East facade detail of gable end window, View W

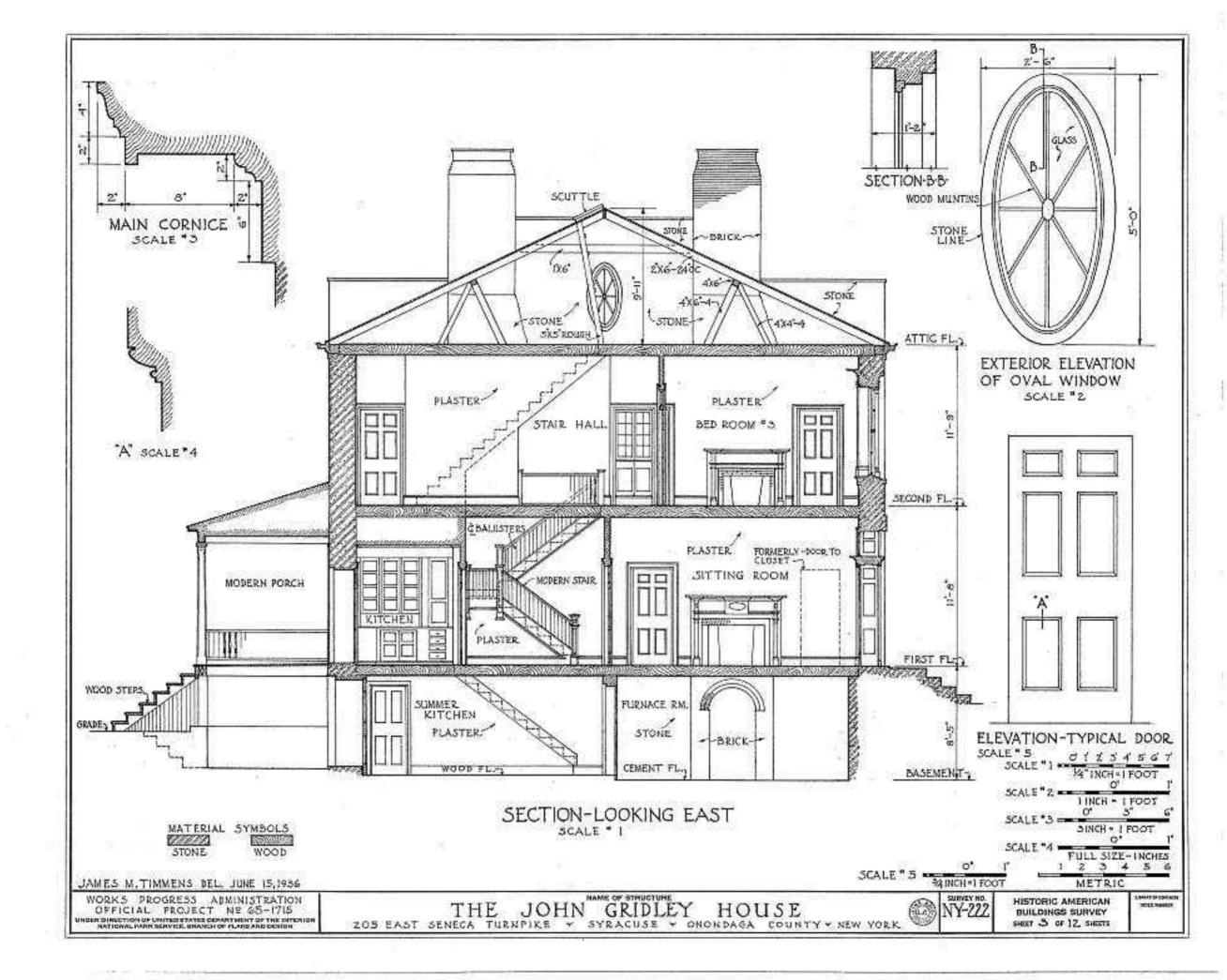


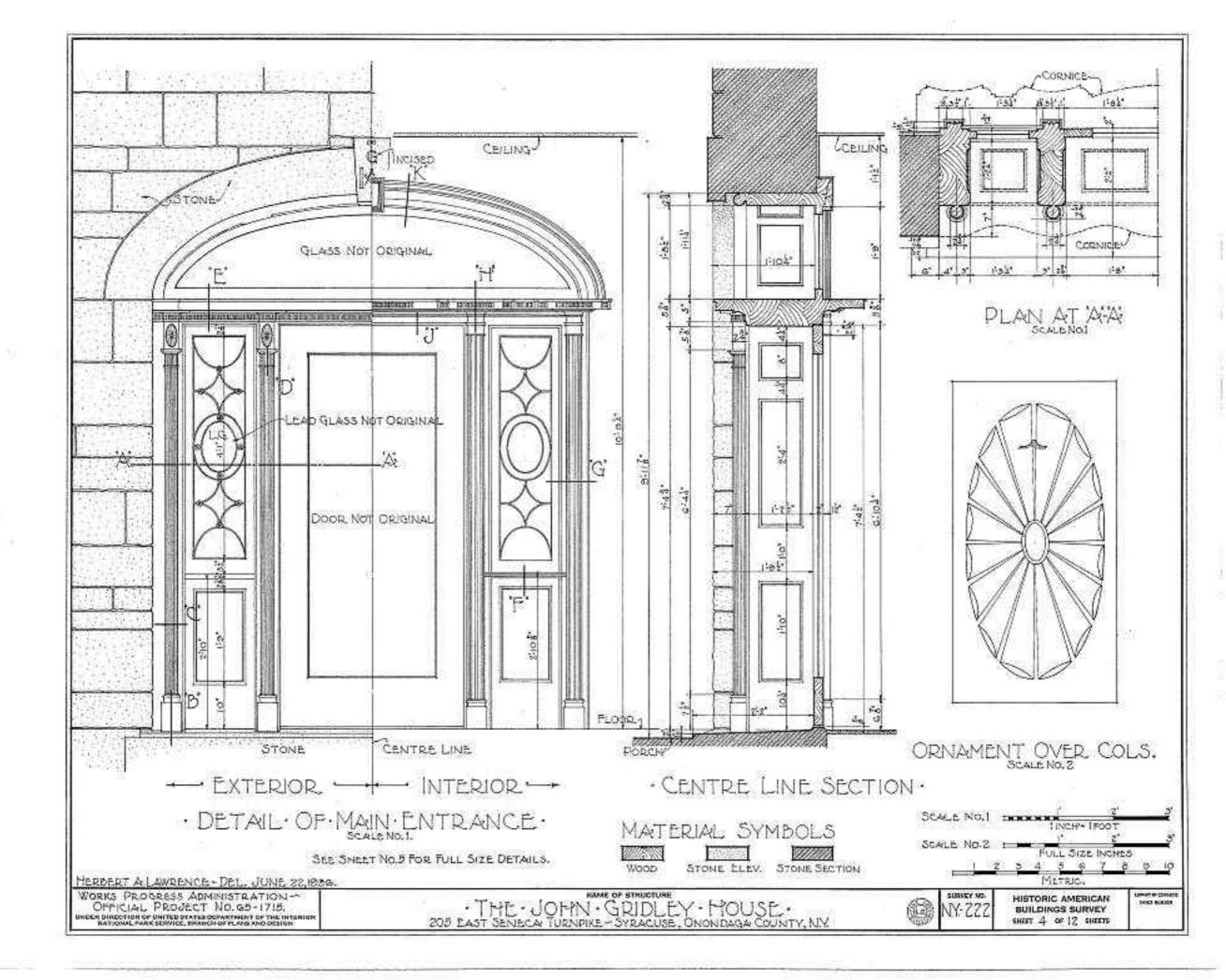
John Gridley House, May 2020. East facade, stone detail, View W

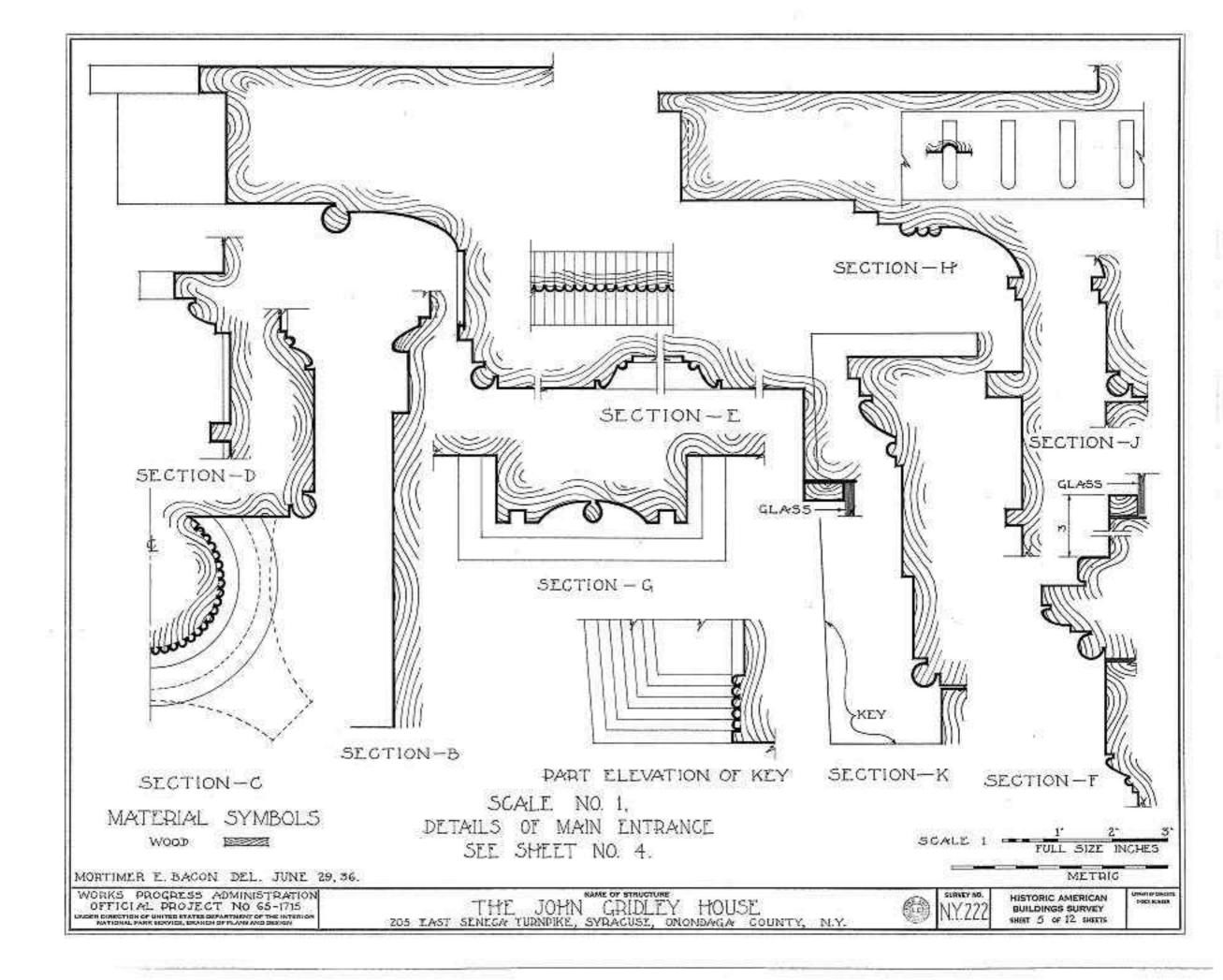
THE JOHN GRIDLEY HOUSE 205 EAST SENECA TURNPIKE - SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA COUNTY, NEW YORK EAST SENECA TURNPIKE SKETCH MAP 1. SHOWING LOCATION ERECTED IN 1812 ARCHITECT- UNKNOWN BUILDER. 41 DIST.N Y-2 CENTRAL NEW YORK WALTER CASSEDIER, NSTOFFKER 84 EXCHANGE ST. JOCHESTER, NY. FIELD PARTY JOSEPH A. MCENNISS HART LOT, ONONDAGA CO. EARL L. STANTON SURVEY NO. INDEX NO. HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY Walter 10.6-MEASURED APRIL- 1956 Par DISTRICT OFFICER. NY-222 DRAWINGS APPROVED: NT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DRAWN MAY-JUNE 1936 a hoster Vent? 34.5+RA NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ORAWINGS APPROVED Centr A SHEETS 1-12 BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN -6309 tk. MEADUREMENTS CHECKEDS JUNE 30, 1936 JM.T. ACCEPTED FOR LINK ARY OF CONCRESS

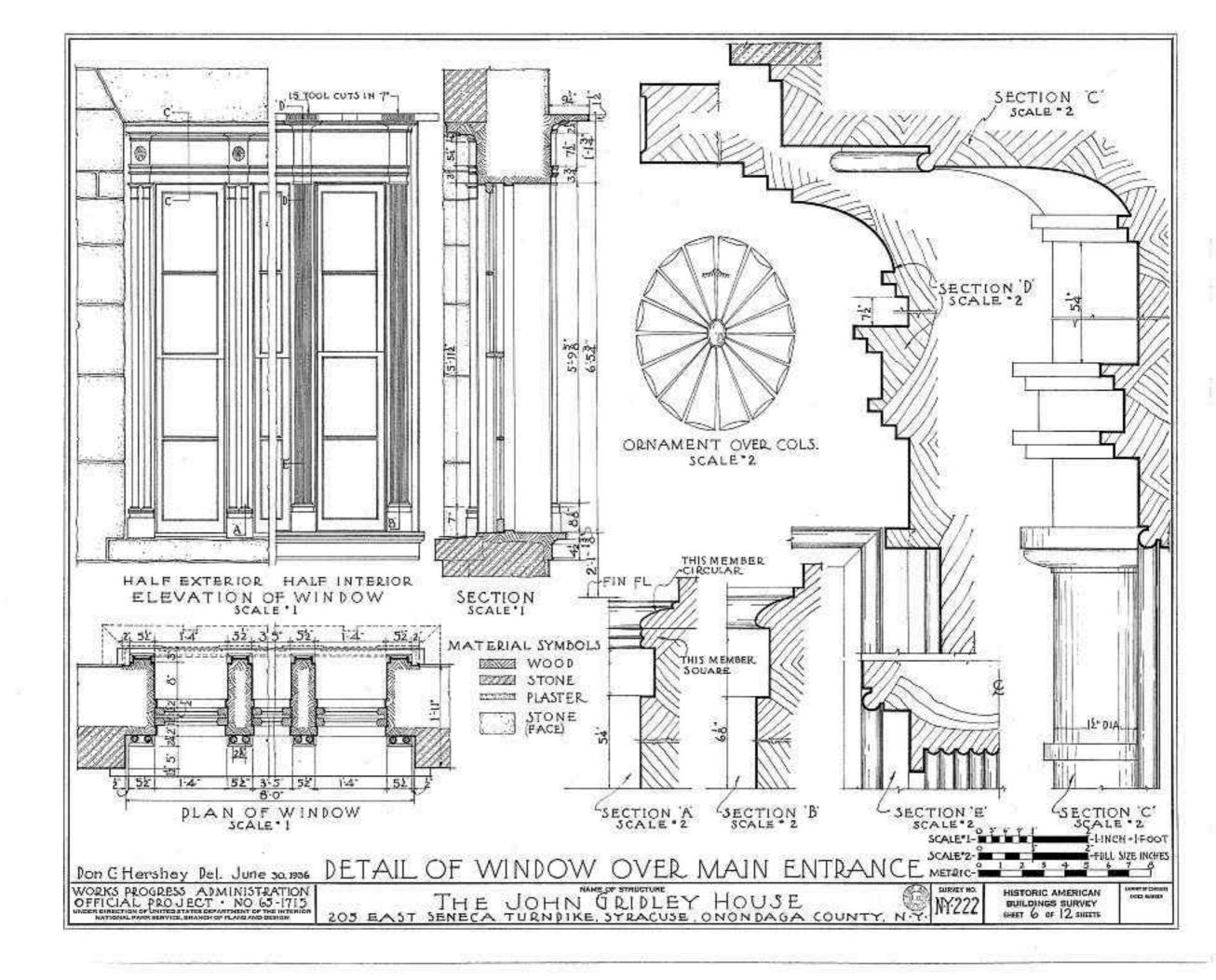


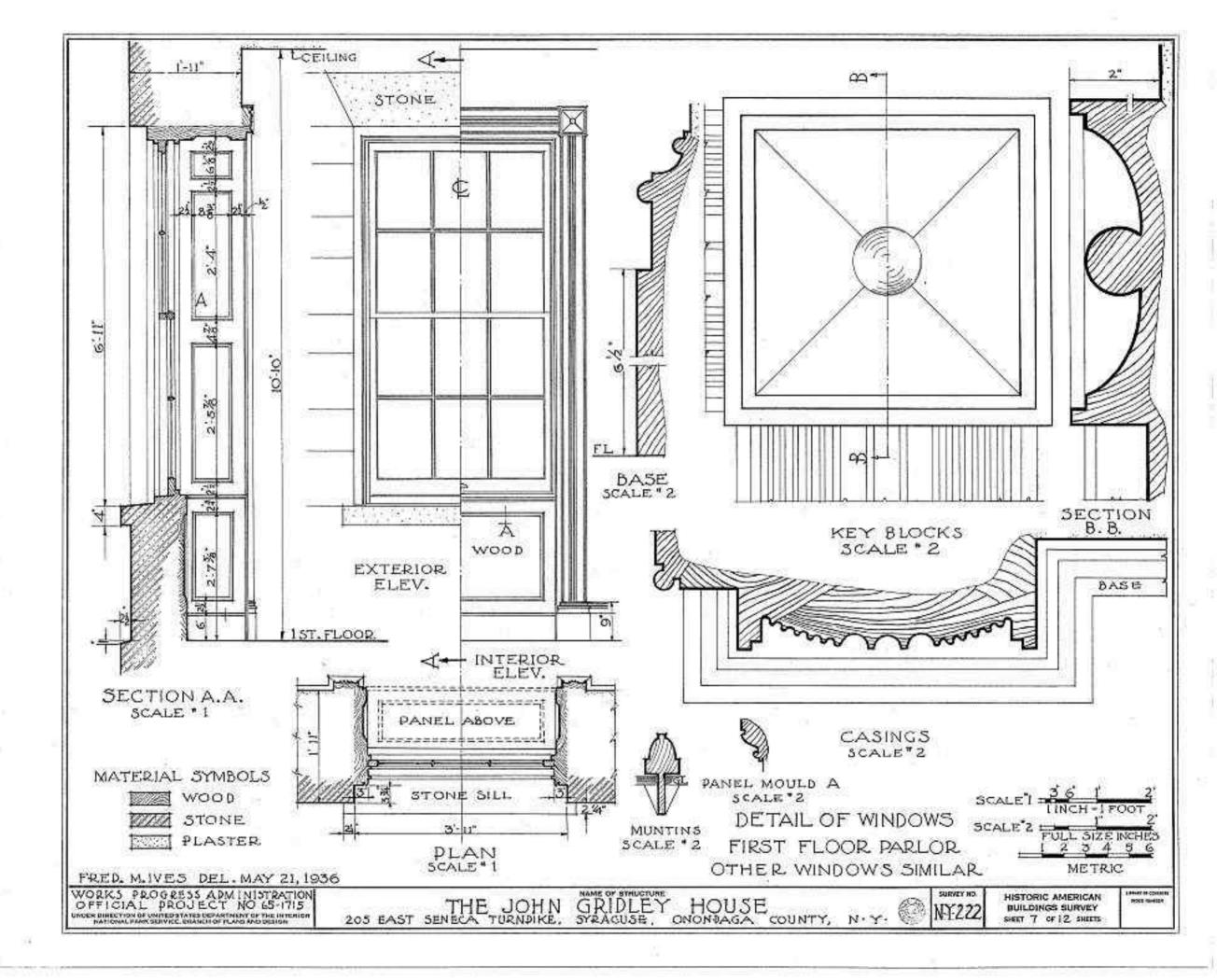


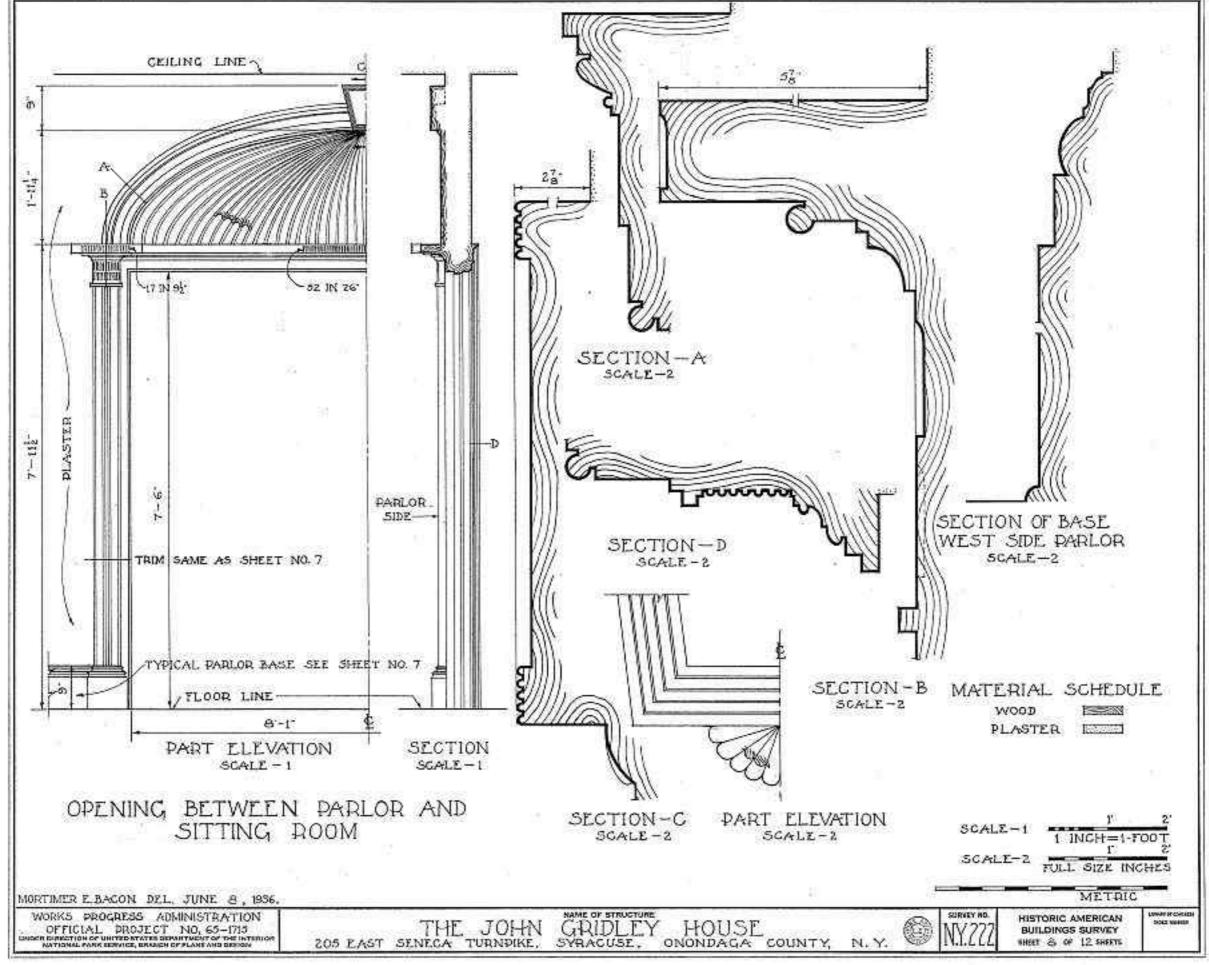


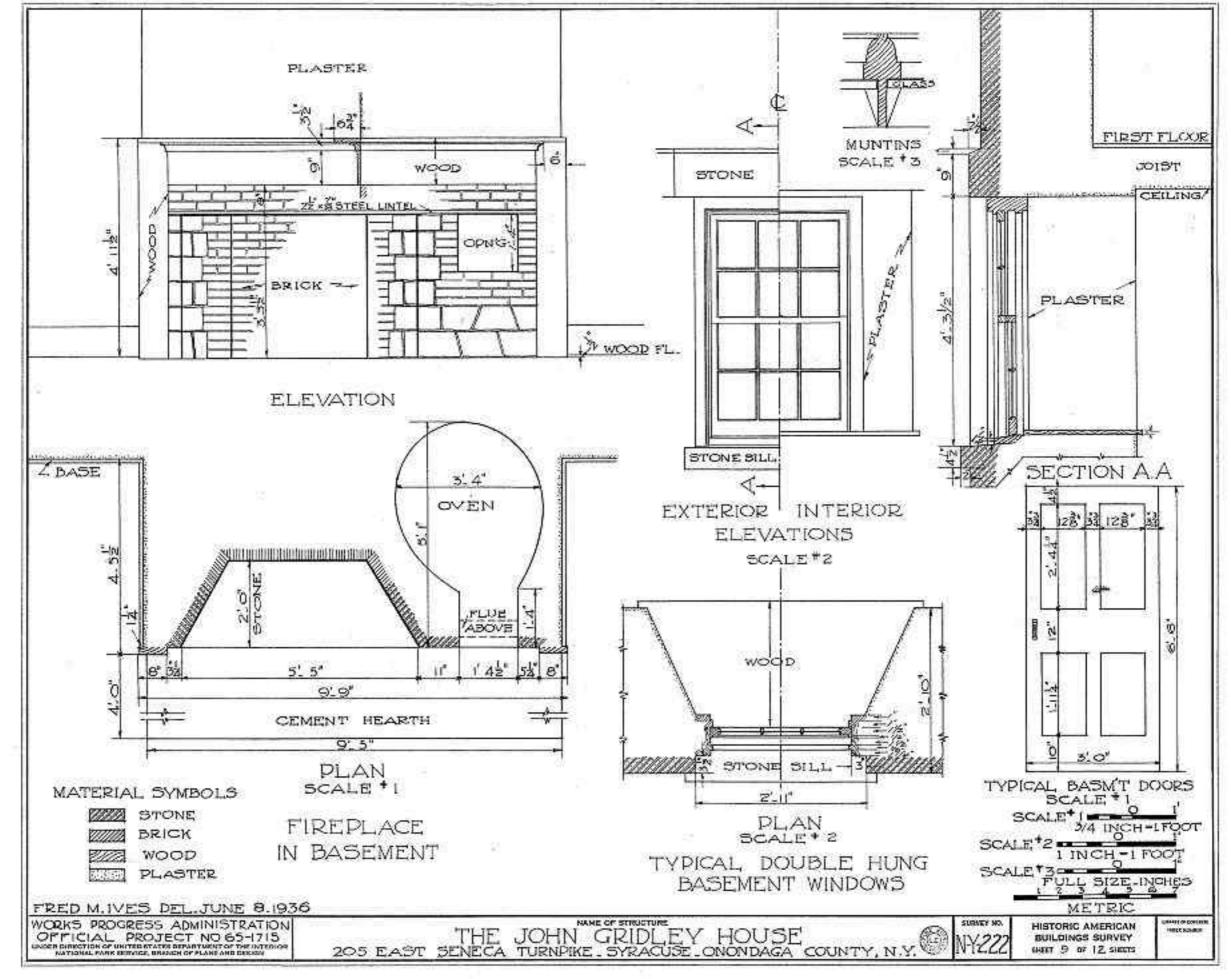




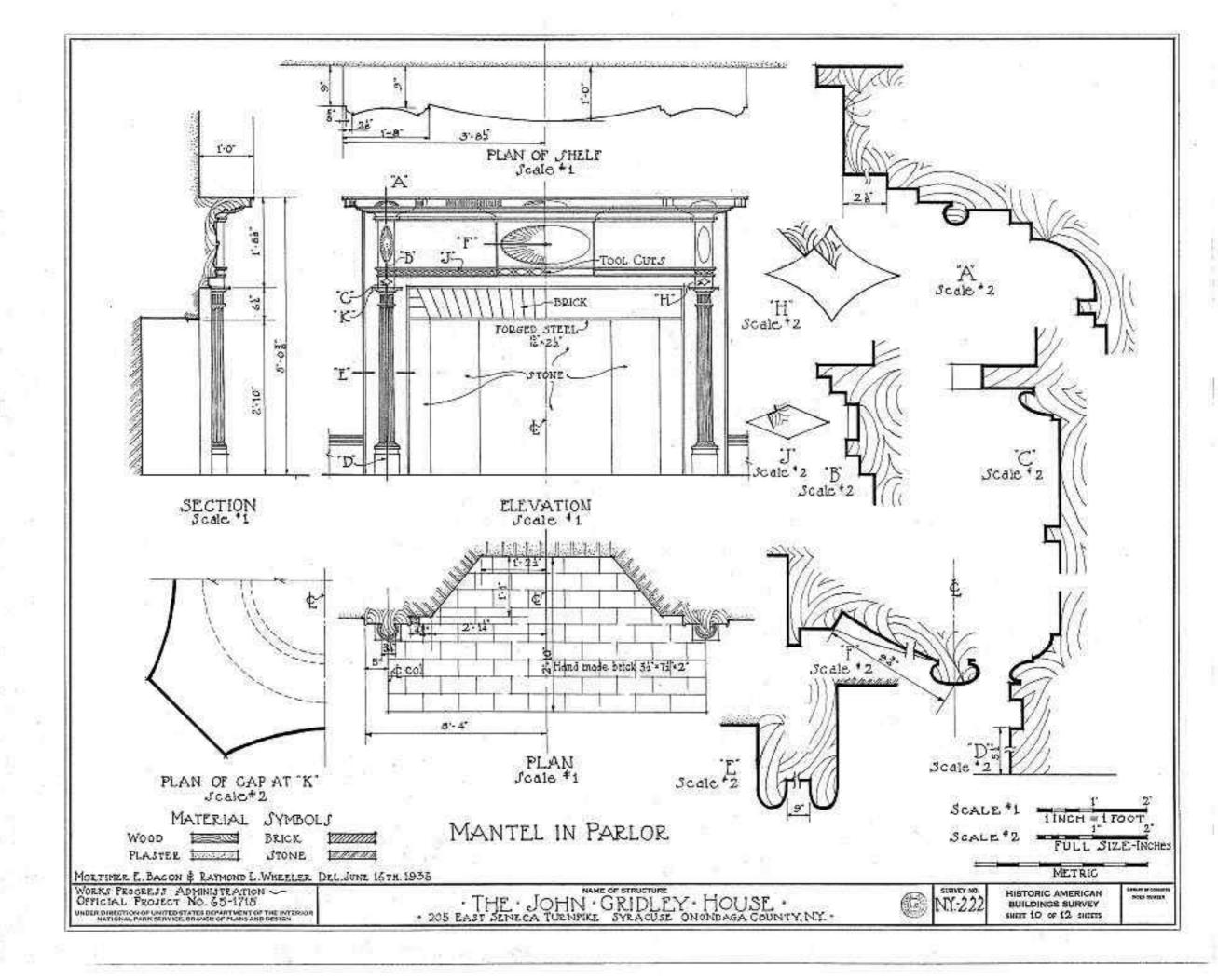


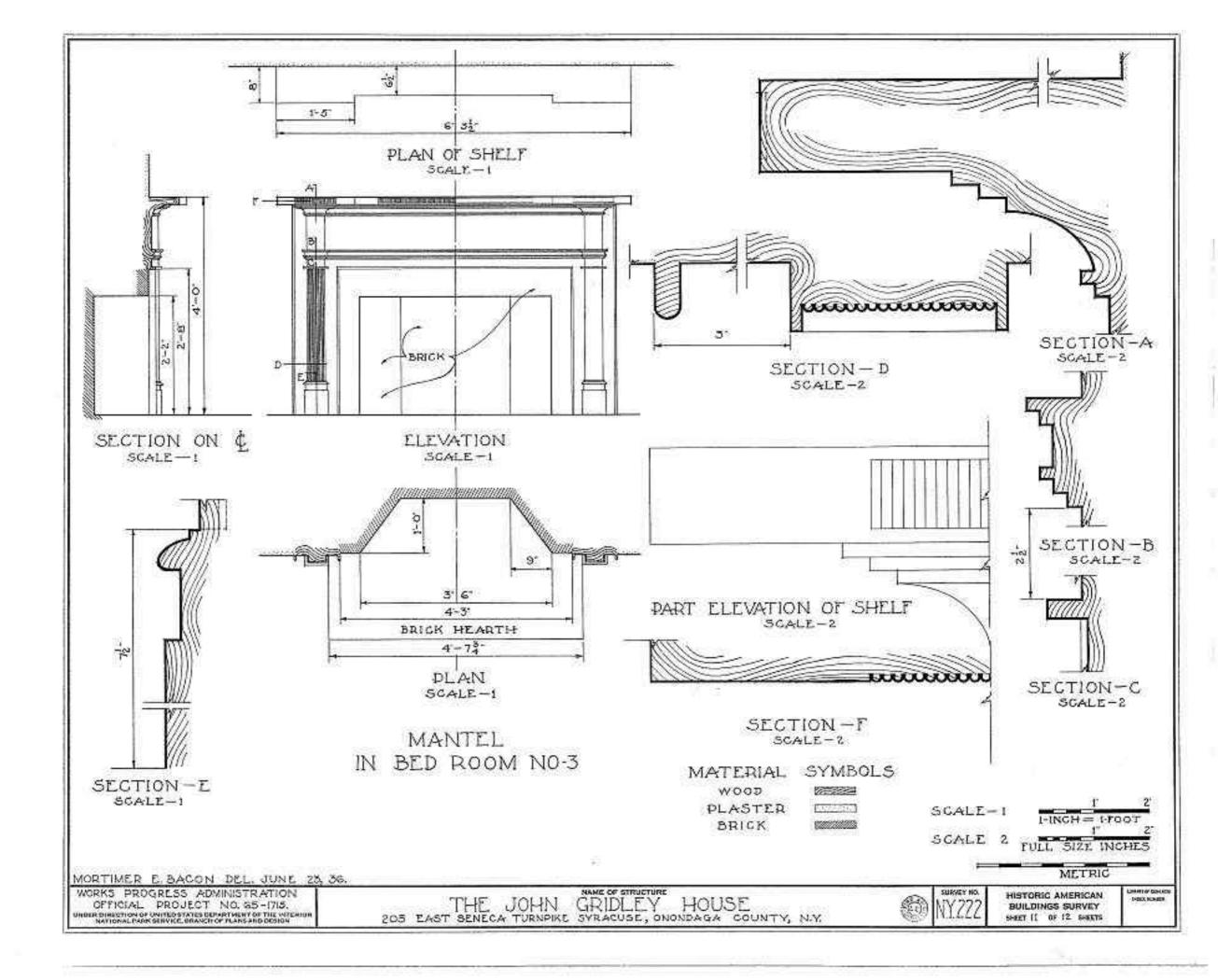


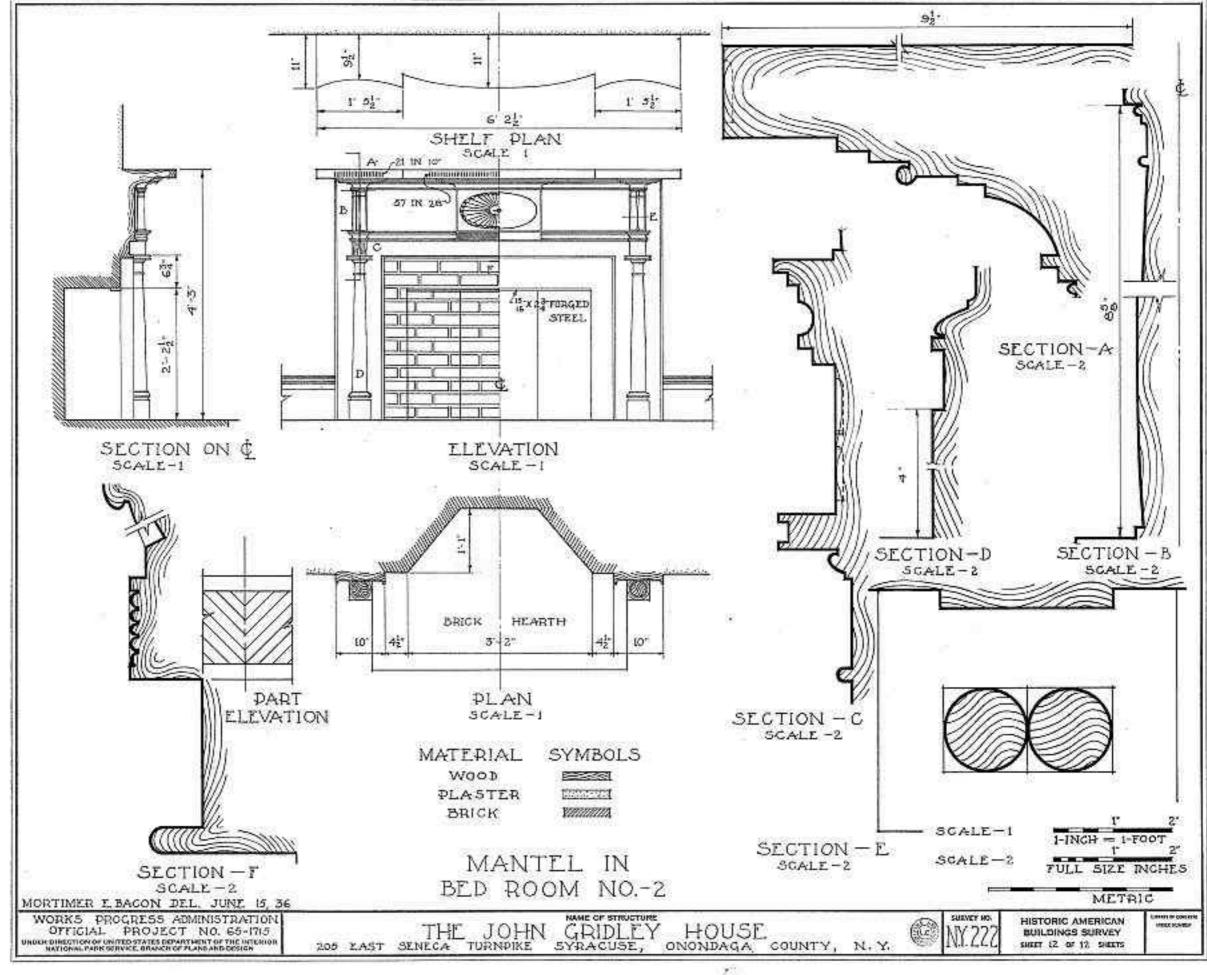




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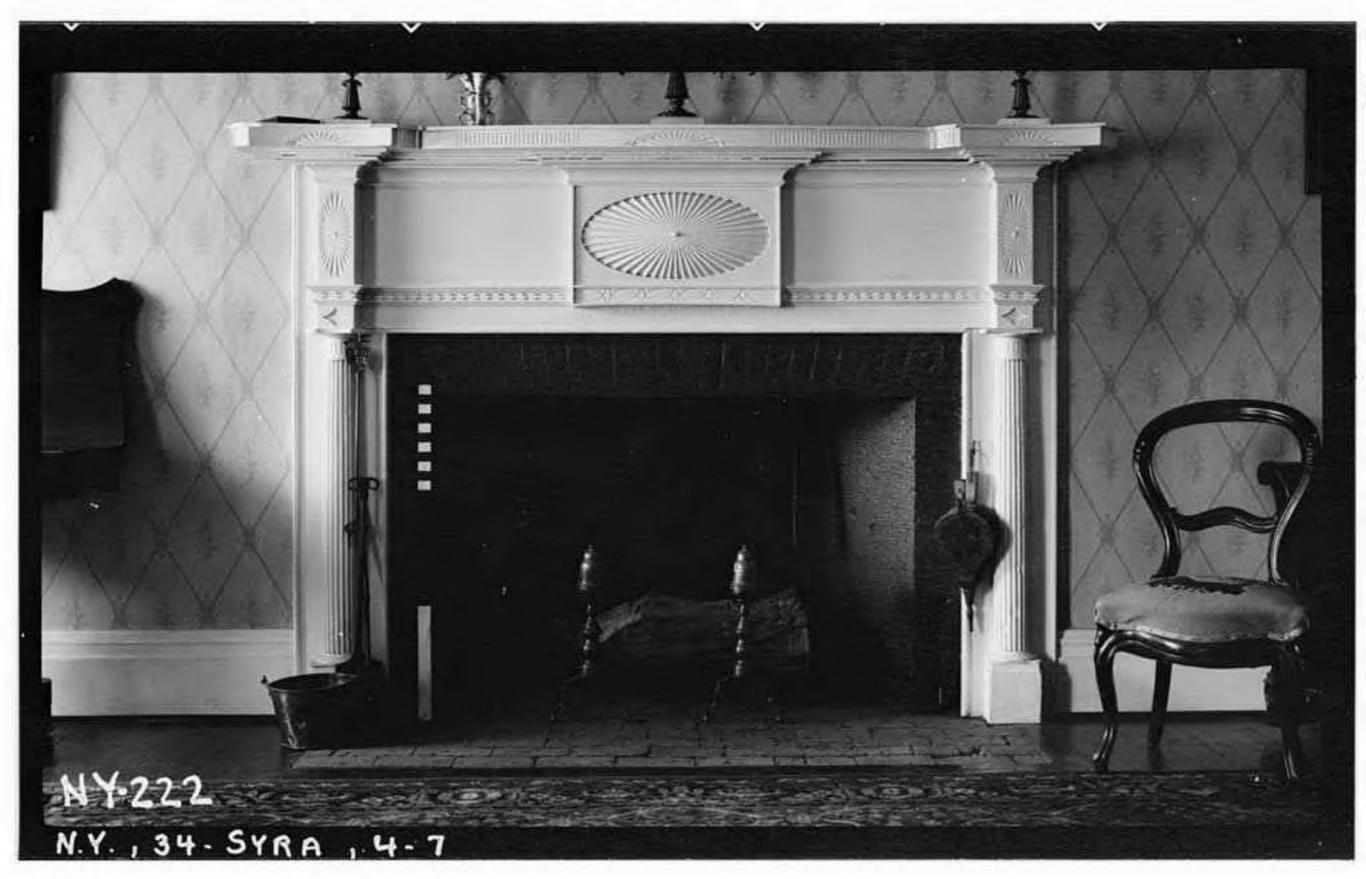
















John Gridley House, Images of original wall stencils, SE bedroom, 2003 (photograph courtesy of Dale and Ann Tussing)





