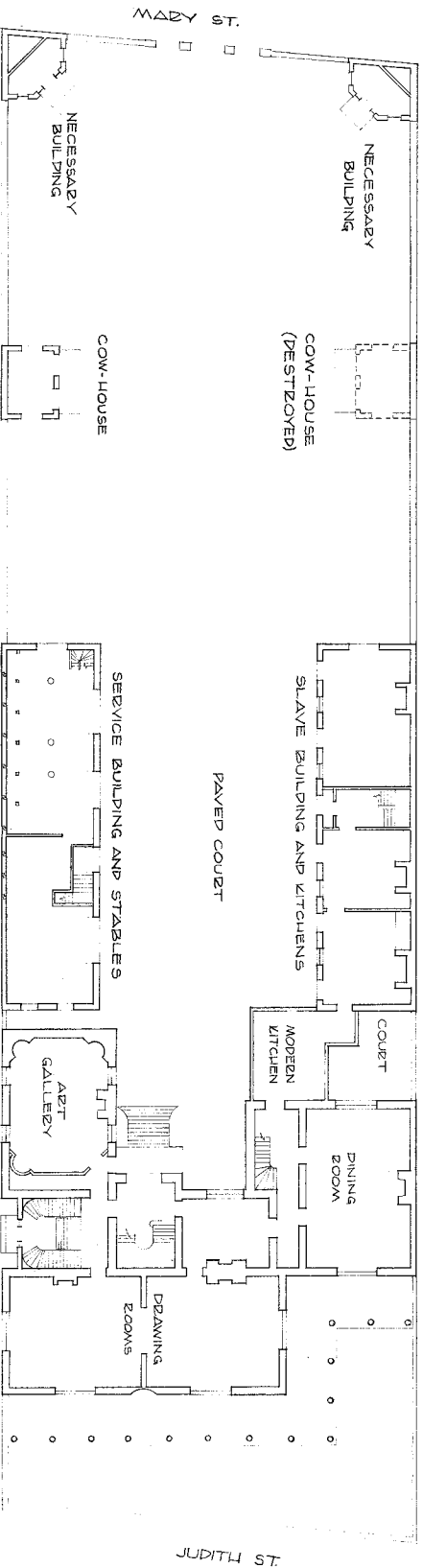


ROBINSON-AIKEN HOUSE

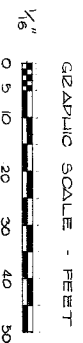
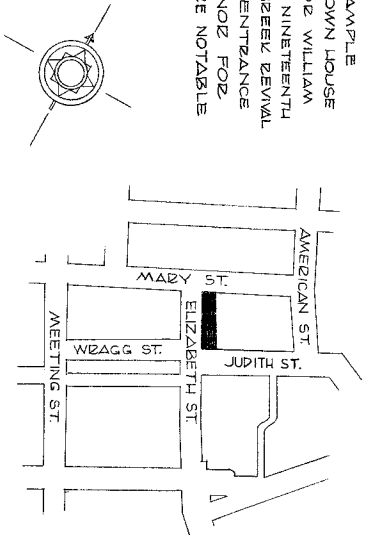
48 ELIZABETH STREET, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



PLOT PLAN SHOWING MAIN FLOOR PLAN OF HOUSE
SCALE - $\frac{1}{16}'' = 1'-0''$

AN UNUSUALLY COMPLETE SURVIVING EXAMPLE OF A FINE ANTE-BELLUM PLANTER'S TOWN HOUSE GROUP, ONCE THE HOME OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM Aiken, THIS WAS BUILT EARLY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND ADDED TO DURING THE GREEN REVIVAL PERIOD. IT CONTAINS A MONUMENTAL ENTRANCE HALL AND ROOMS USED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR ENTERTAINING. THE SERVICE BUILDINGS ARE NOTABLE INDIVIDUALLY AND AS AN ENSEMBLE.

MARK W. STEELE, DEL.
ROBERT A. BUSSEY, DEL.



THIS PROJECT WAS FINANCED BY FUNDS OF THE MISSION 66 PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. MEASURED AND DRAWN JUNE, 1963 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JAMES G. MASSEY SUPERVISORY ARCHITECT H.A.B.S., AND PROFESSOR HARLEY J. MCKEE, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY BY STUDENT ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS ROBERT A. BUSSEY, YALE UNIVERSITY MARK W. STEELE, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, AND MARTIN E. WELLS, SOUTH CAROLINA FIELD OFFICE.

SOUTH CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY
PROJECT 1963
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE
THE ROBINSON-AIKEN HOUSE
48 ELIZABETH STREET CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY S.C.

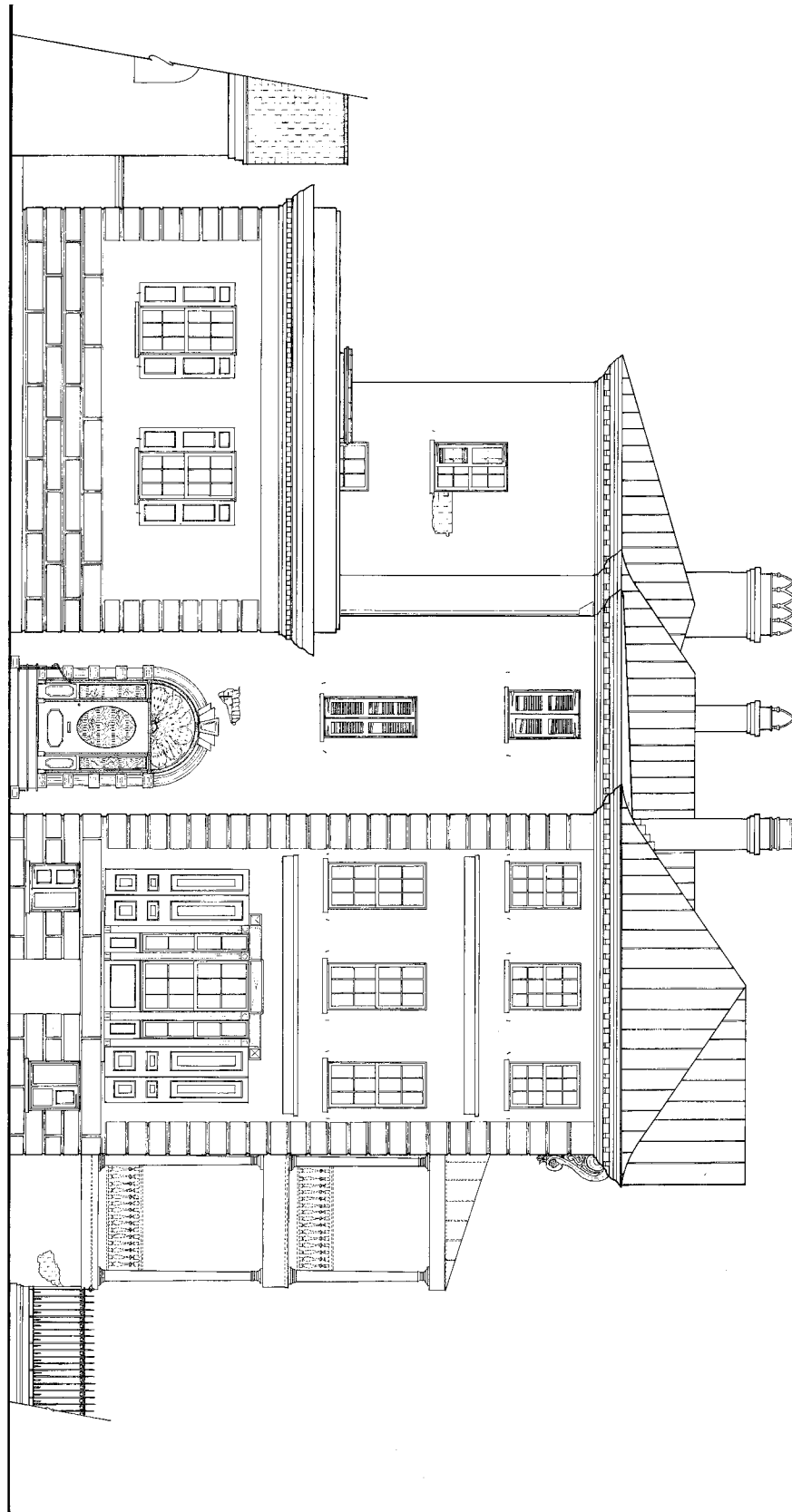
SURVEY NO.
SC-269
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS

LISTED OF COPIES
ARCH. ARCH.

Scale of Feet
0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 ft

West Elevation

Metric Scale
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 m



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

48 ELIZABETH STREET

ADDENDUM TO ROBINSON-AIKEN HOUSE
CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

SC-269

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 9 OF 9 SHEETS

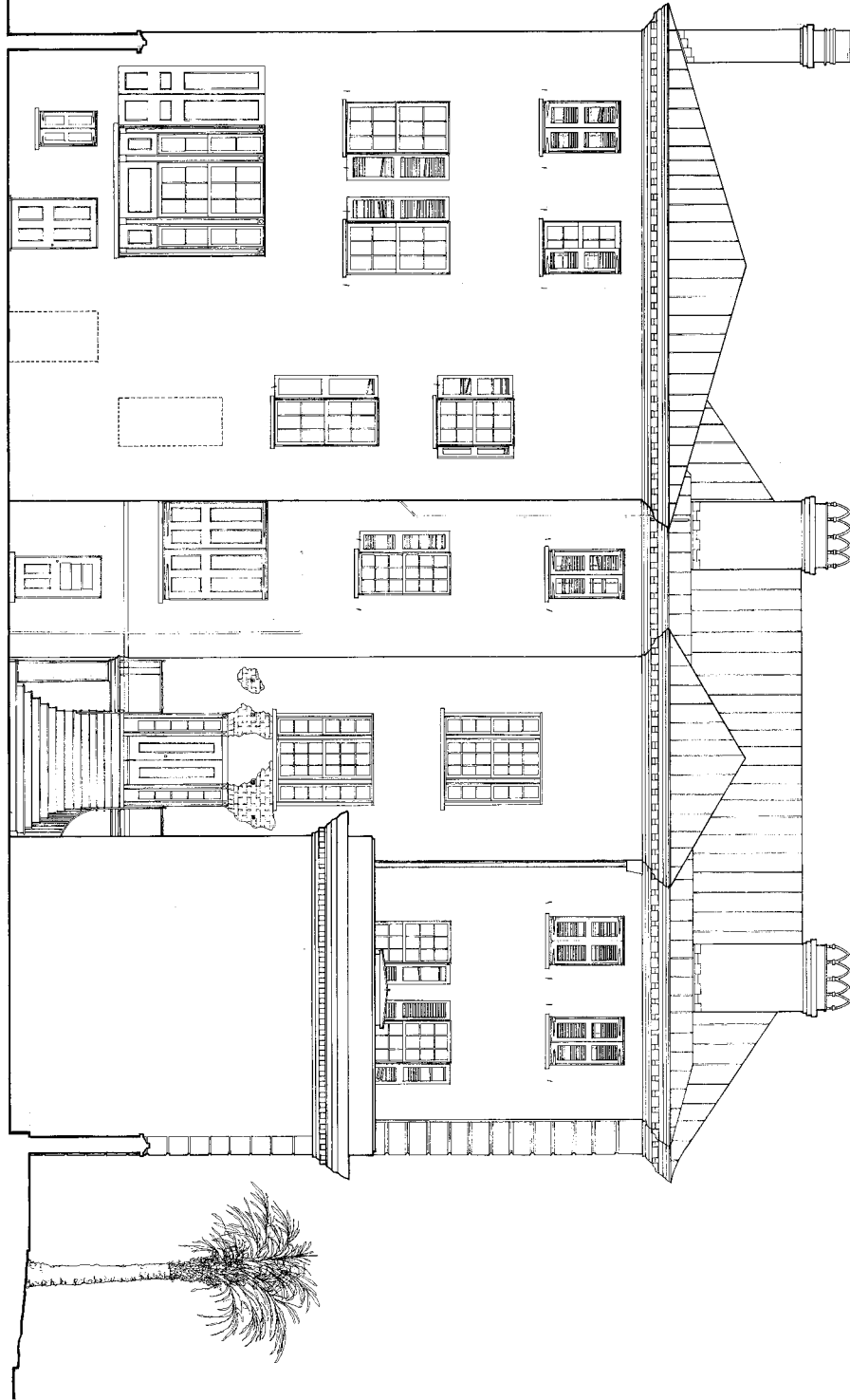
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Scale of Feet
0 5 10 15 20

North Elevation

Metric Scale
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 cm



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48 ELIZABETH STREET

ADDENDUM TO ROBINSON - AIKEN HOUSE
CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

SC 269

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 8 OF 9 SHEETS

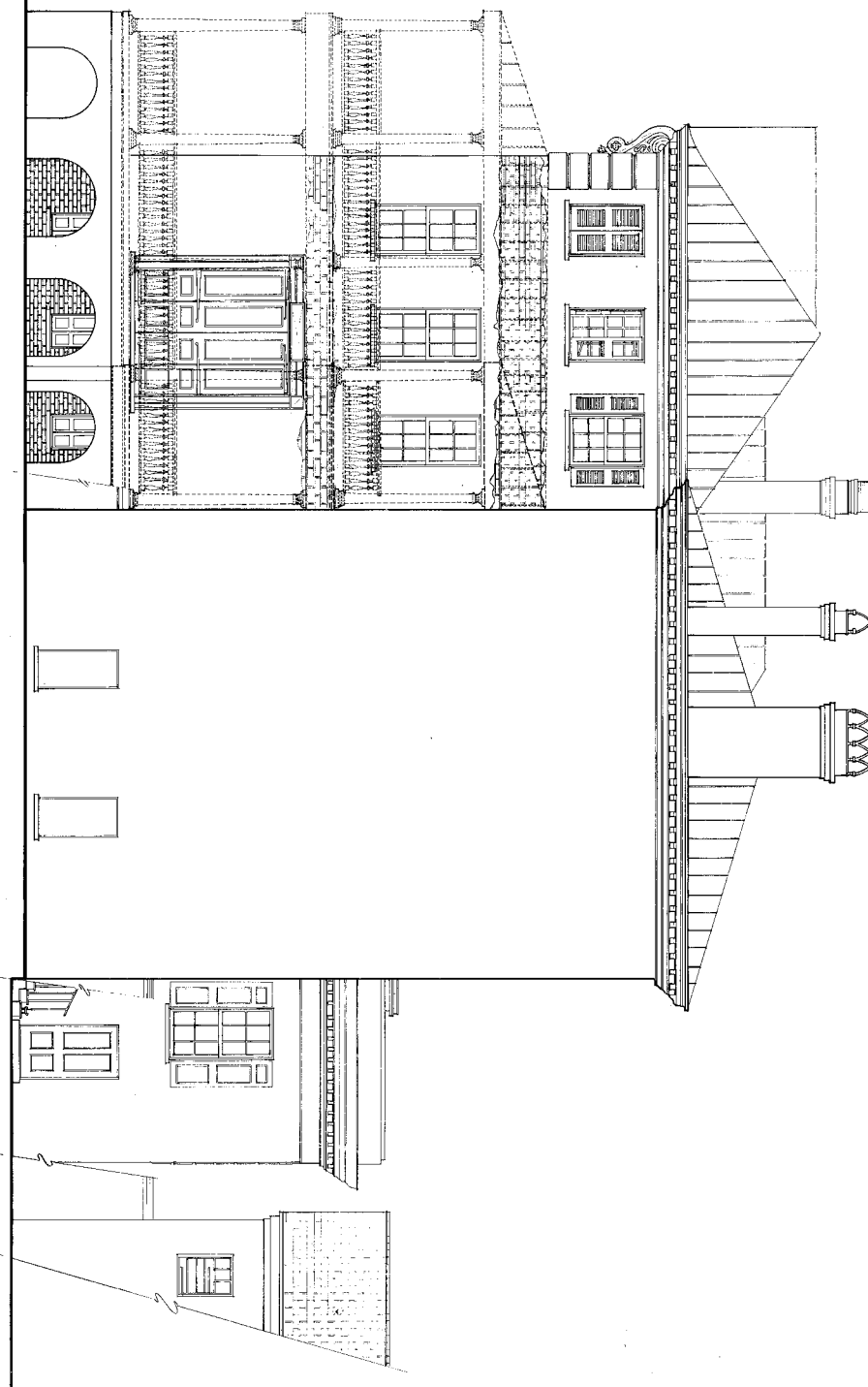
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Scale of Feet
0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16

East Elevation

Metric Scale
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 m.



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ADDENDUM TO ROBINSON - AIKEN HOUSE
48 ELIZABETH STREET
CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

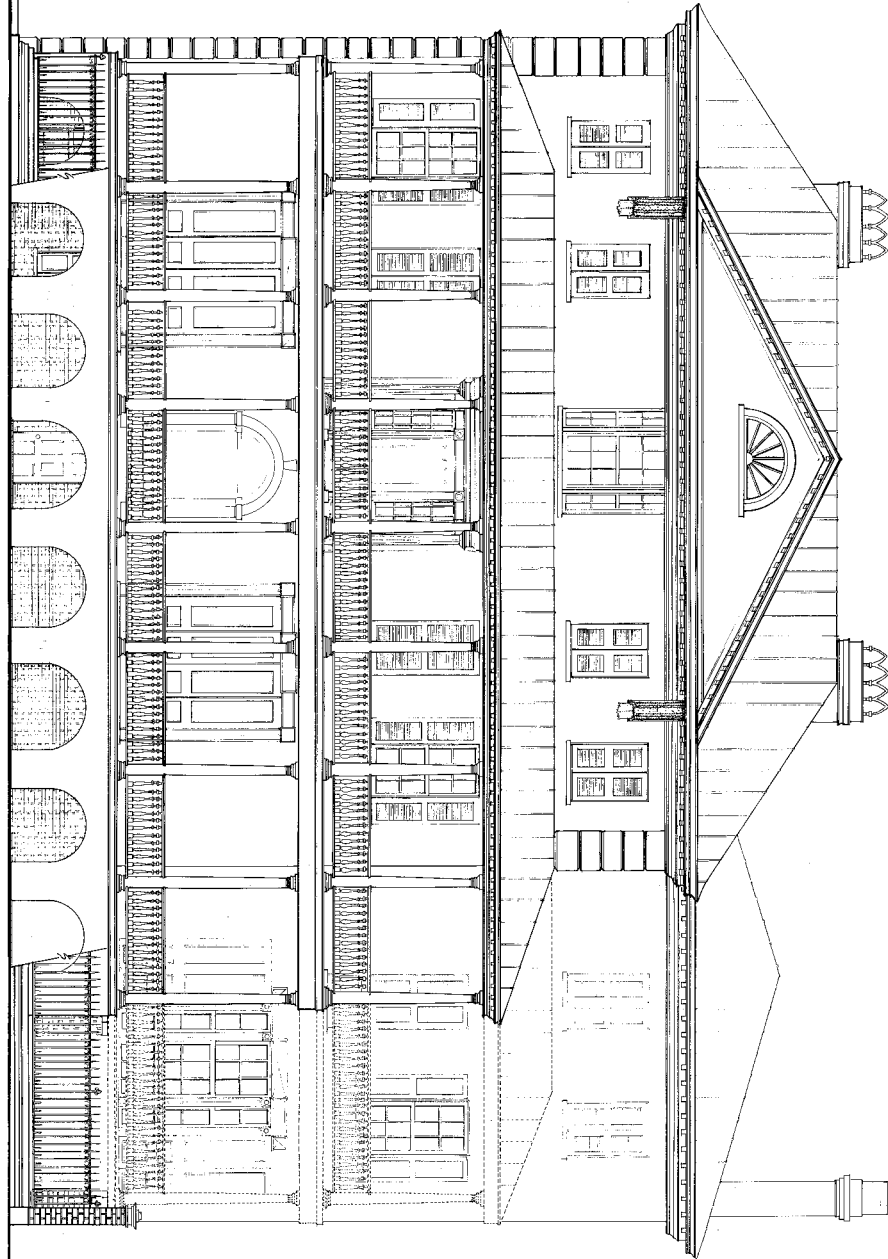
SHEET
56-269
27

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 7 OF 9 SHEETS

Scale of Feet
0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16

South Elevation

Metric Scale
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 cm



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48 ELIZABETH STREET

ADDENDUM TO ROBINSON-AIKEN HOUSE
CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

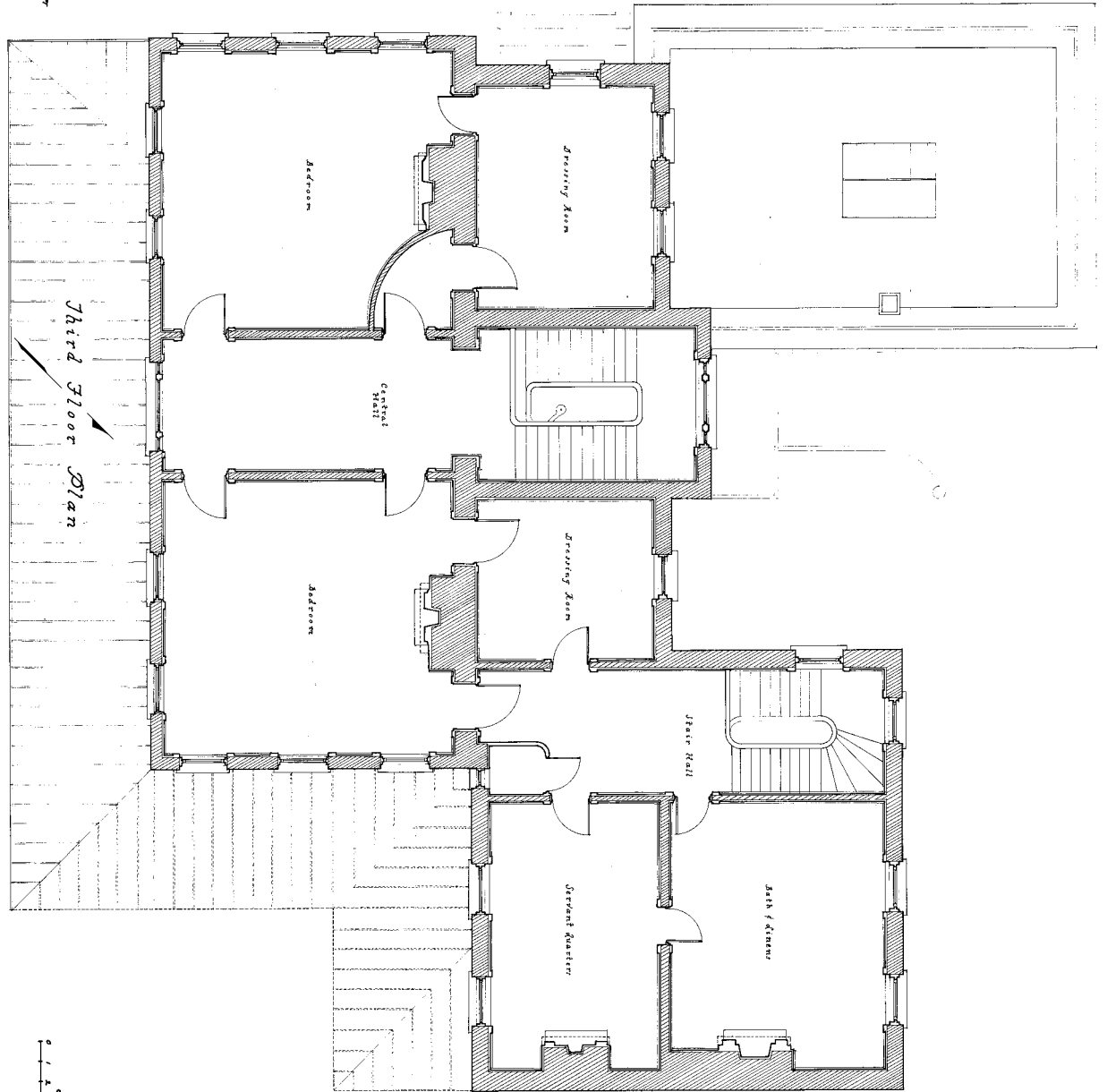
SC-269

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 6 OF 9 SHEETS

Scale of Feet
0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16

Third Floor Plan

Metric Scale
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 m



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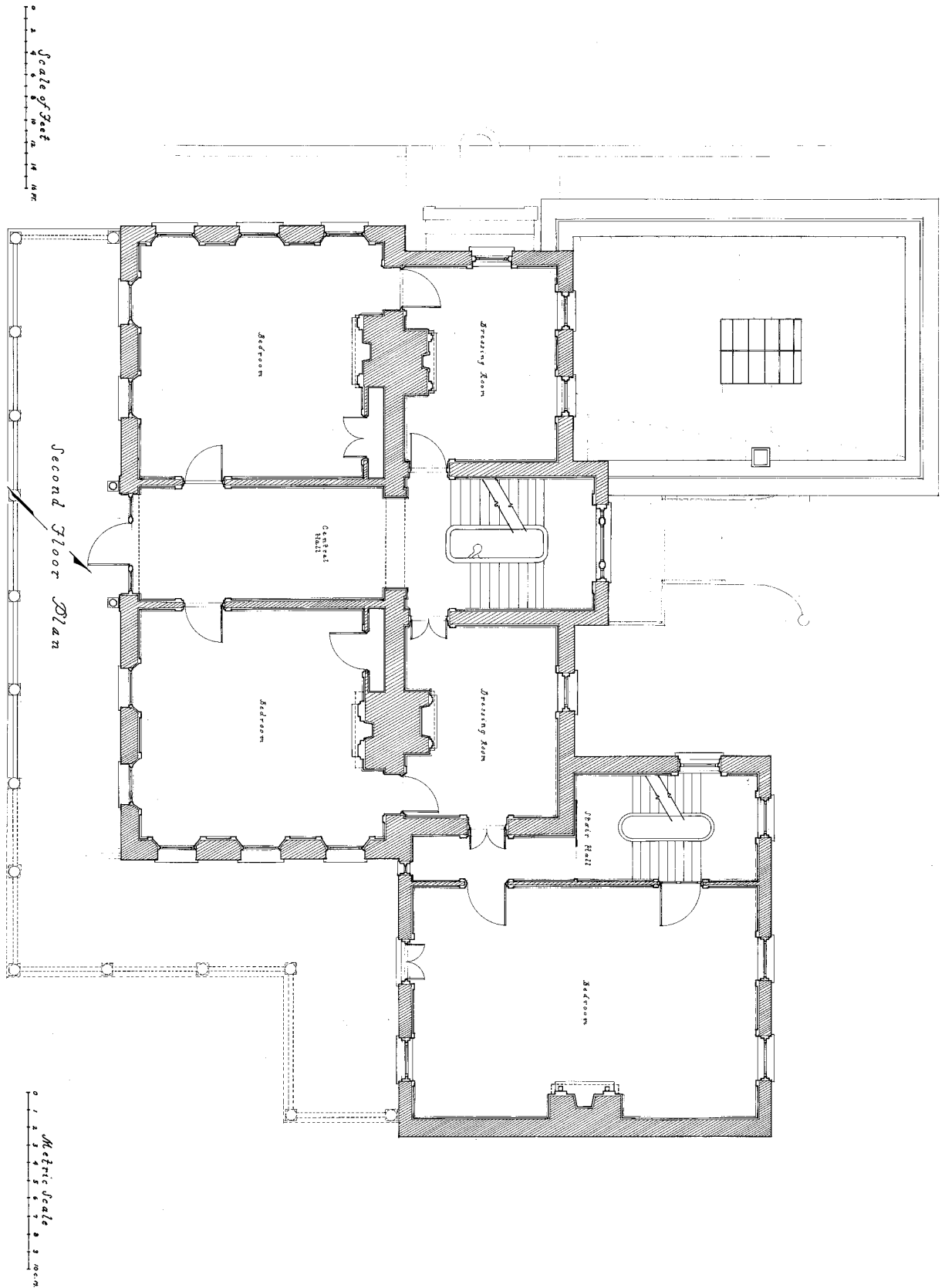
48 ELIZABETH STREET

ADDENDUM TO ROBINSON-AIKEN HOUSE
CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

SURVEY NO.
SC-069

HISTORIC AMERICAN
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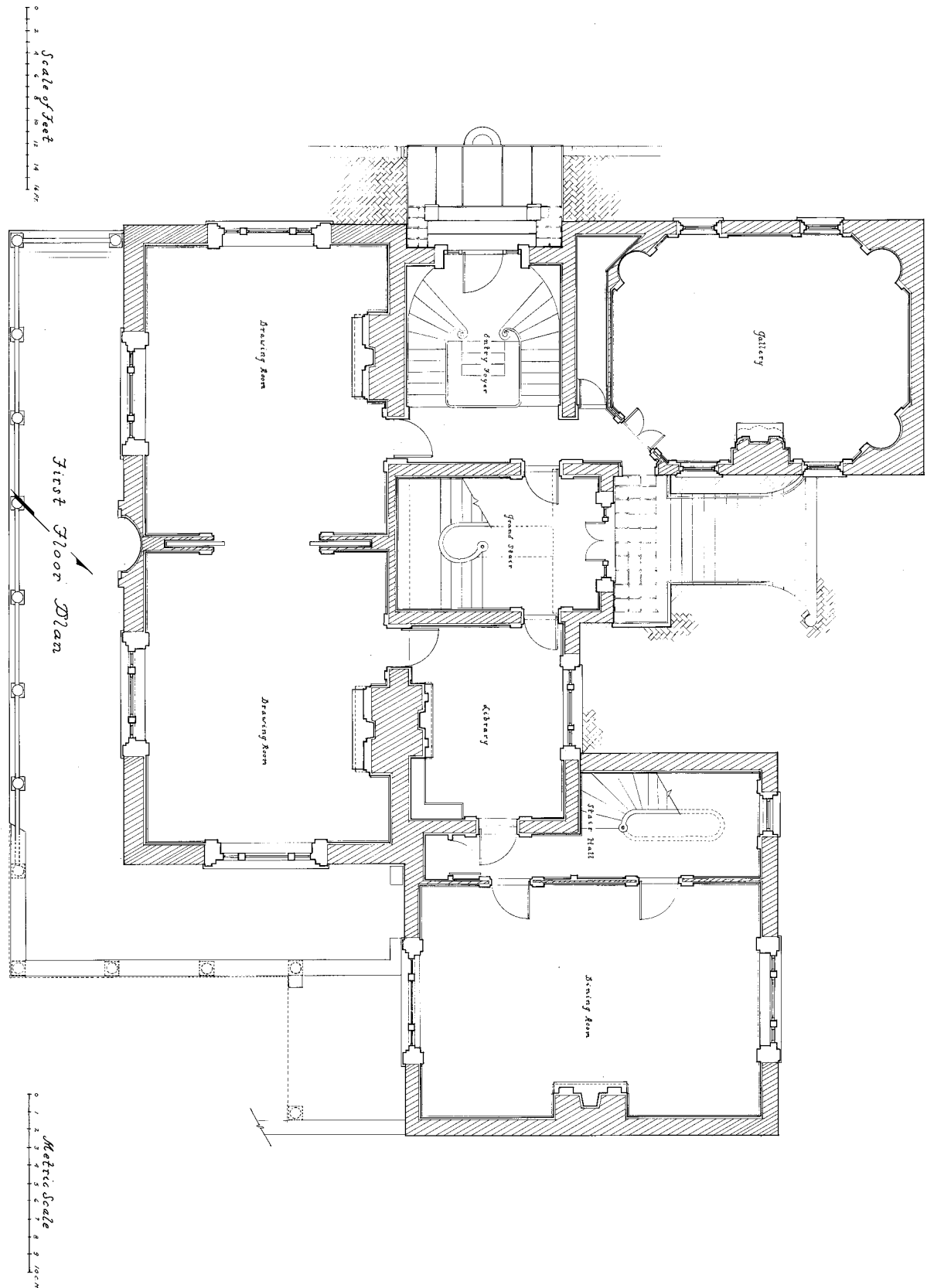
48 ELIZABETH STREET

ADDENDUM TO ROBINSON-AIKEN HOUSE
CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

SURVEY NO.
SC-269

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 4 OF 9 SHEETS



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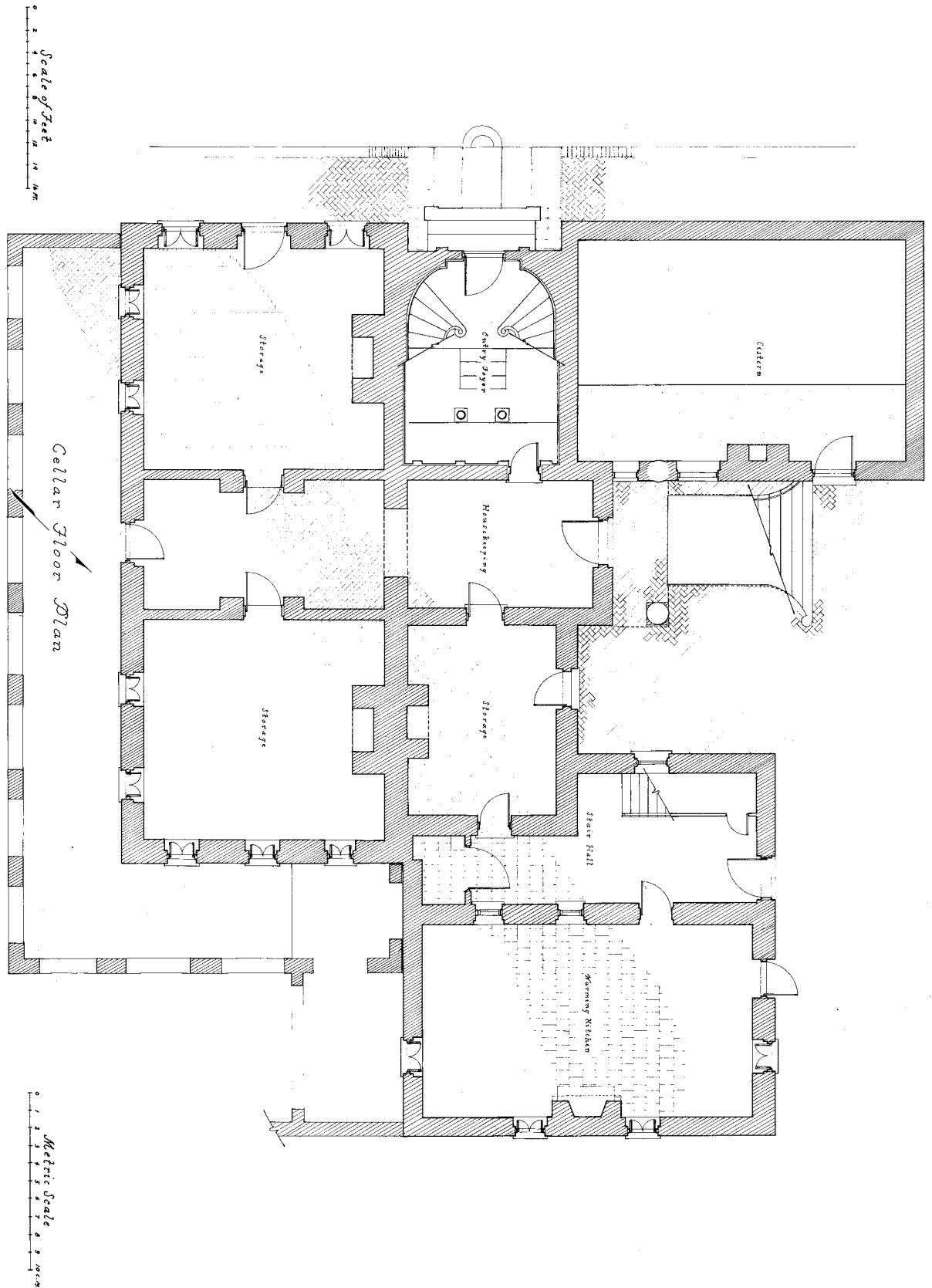
ADDENDUM TO ROBINSON-AIKEN HOUSE
 48 ELIZABETH STREET
 CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

SURVEY NO.
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HISTORIC AMERICAN
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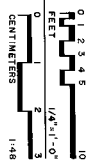
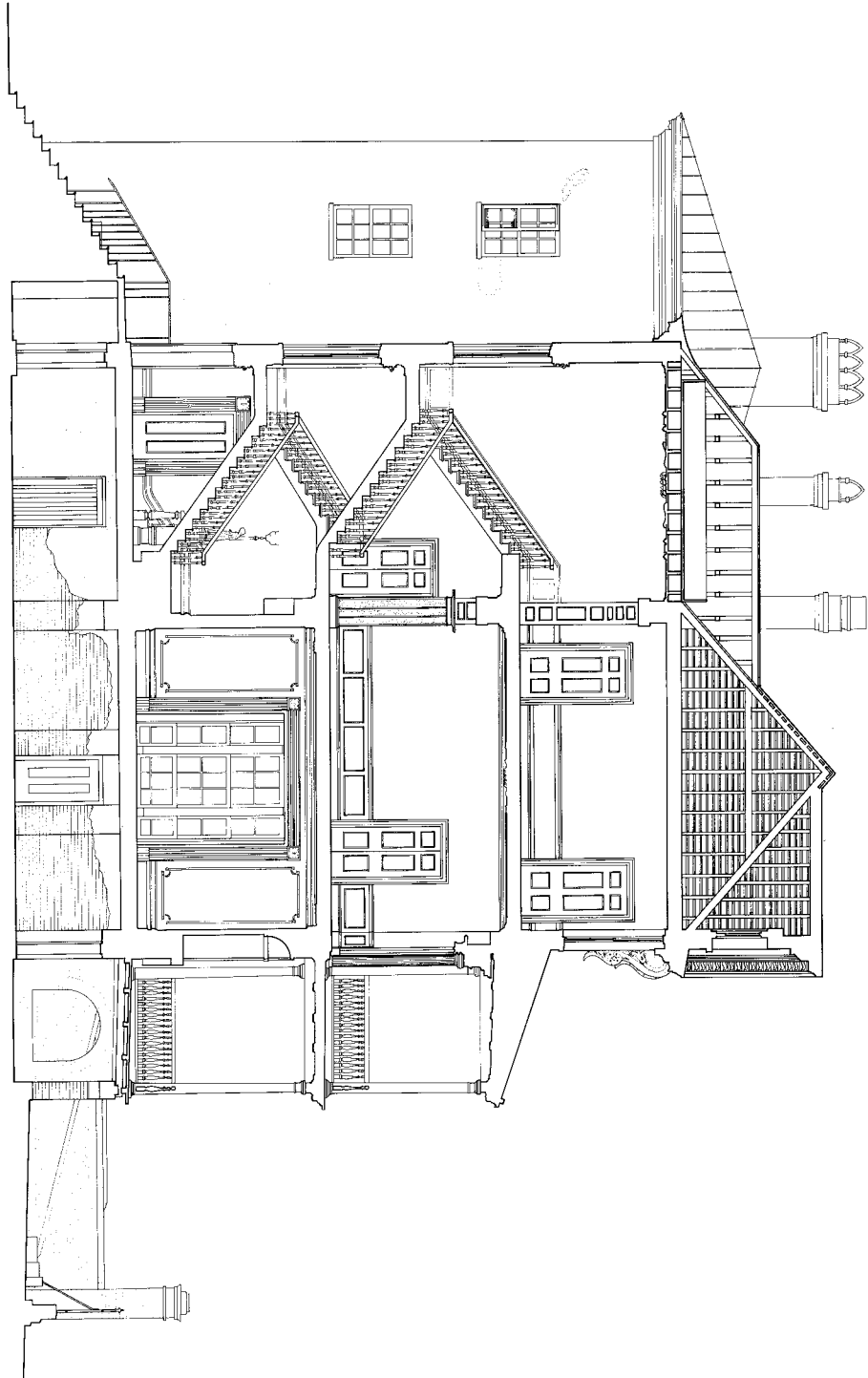
ADDENDUM TO ROBINSON-AIKEN HOUSE
48 ELIZABETH STREET
CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

SURVEY NO.
SC-269

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 2 OF 9 SHEETS

SECTION A-A



DRAWN BY: R. MATTHEW WIENCEK JR.

CHARLESTON SUMMER PROJECT - 1990
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ADDENDUM TO:

48 ELIZABETH STREET

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
ROBINSON AIKEN HOUSE
CHARLESTON CHARLESTON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

SURVEY NO.
SC-269

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS

APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY
PROJECT NUMBER

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

THE GOVERNOR WILLIAM AIKEN HOUSE IS SIGNIFICANT BOTH IN TERMS OF ITS ARCHITECTURE AND ITS HISTORY. ARCHITECTURALLY, IT CHRONICLES VARIOUS CHANGES IN DESIGN WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY. HISTORICALLY, IT DESERVES RECOGNITION AS HAVING BEEN OWNED BY BOTH WILLIAM AIKEN, SENIOR AND JUNIOR -- TWO LEADING SOUTH CAROLINIANS.

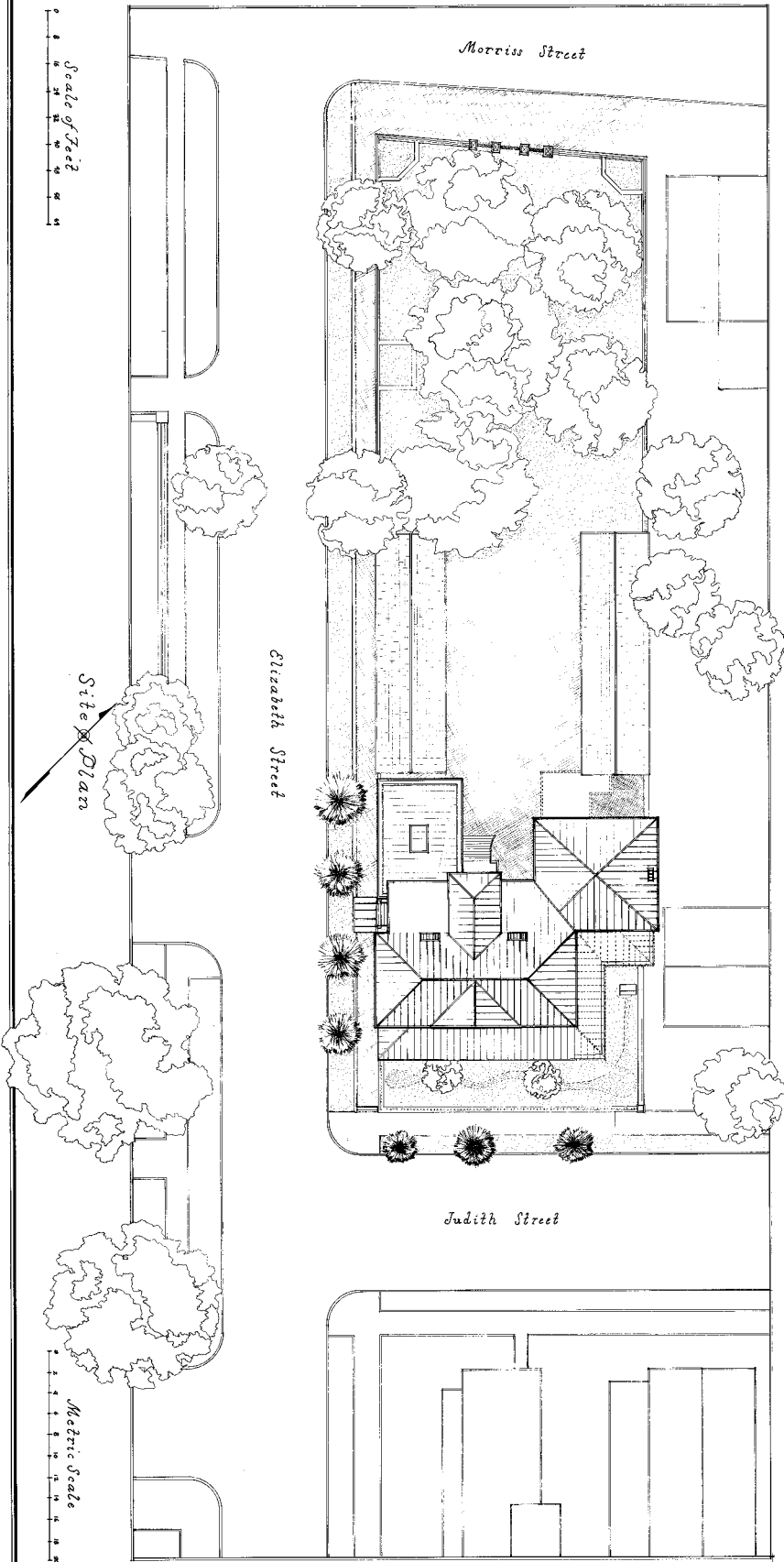
THE STRUCTURE WAS BUILT CA. 1820 BY JOHN ROBINSON, A MERCHANT. IN 1825, ROBINSON ADVERTISED THAT THE MANSION WAS FOR SALE, AND IN 1827 WILLIAM AIKEN, SR., ACQUIRED IT. AIKEN WAS PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CANAL AND RAILROAD COMPANY AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM 1824 UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1831.

AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH, WILLIAM AIKEN, JUNIOR, (1806-1887) ACQUIRED THE PROPERTY. A RICE PLANTER, AIKEN SERVED IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (1838-1841) AS WELL AS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE (1842-1844). FROM 1844 TO 1846 HE SERVED AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND HE LATER SERVED THREE TERMS IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (1851-1857).

AIKEN WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL TRUSTEES OF PEABODY EDUCATIONAL FUND AND WAS ALSO AN ART COLLECTOR. (IN 1858 HE ADDED A WING TO HIS HOUSE TO DISPLAY HIS COLLECTION MUCH OF WHICH IS STILL INTACT AND WILL BE RETURNED TO THE HOUSE ONCE IT IS RESTORED). AIKEN DIED IN 1887. THE HOUSE REMAINED IN THE POSSESSION OF HIS DESCENDANTS UNTIL THE 1970s. IT IS NOW OWNED BY THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM WHICH PLANS TO RESTORE IT AS PART OF THE MUSEUM COMPLEX.

ARCHITECTURE:

THE AIKEN HOUSE EXEMPLIFIES THE CHANGES WHICH OCCURRED IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY. THE UPPER FLOORS REFLECT THE REFINED QUALITIES (IN BOTH WOODWORK AND PROPORTION) OF THE LATE FEDERAL PERIOD. THE MAIN FLOOR (RENOVATED FROM 1833-1836) EXEMPLIFIES THE HEIGHT OF GREEK REVIVAL DESIGN, WHILE THE ART GALLERY (ADDED IN 1858) INDICATES THE MOVEMENT INTO THE VICTORIAN PERIOD. ACCORDING TO AN ARCHITECTURAL GUIDE TO CHARLESTON BY ALBERT SIMONS AND W. H. JOHNSON THOMAS, THE AIKEN HOUSE WAS "THE MOST IMPRESSIVE RESIDENCE OF ITS PERIOD."



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

48 ELIZABETH STREET

ADDENDUM TO ROBINSON - AIKEN HOUSE
CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

SC-289

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 9 SHEETS

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