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A BOOK OF
COUNTRY
HOUSES: BY
ERNEST NEWTON

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A BOOK OF
COUNTRY HOUSES

A BOOK OF COUNTRY HOUSES

COMPRISING NINETEEN EXAMPLES

Illustrated on Sixty-two Plates

By ERNEST NEWTON, Architect



L 233 50

~~EB 411~~



~~J. G. 2100~~

LONDON

B. T. BATSFORD, 94 HIGH HOLBORN

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INTRODUCTION.

THE small "Book of Houses" which I published in 1890 soon went out of print, from which it seems reasonable to suppose that it was in some degree useful to house builders, professional and amateur. Instead of publishing a new edition of that volume, I have for the present work made a selection of country houses planned during the last ten years.

The first book was illustrated entirely by photographs, and it was originally intended to follow the same plan in this; but the difficulties and vexations attendant upon getting adequate views of scattered buildings compelled me to fall back upon drawings for most of the subjects. These have, however, all been carefully made from the details, and the materials of which the houses are built have been purposely emphasized, in some cases perhaps a little to the detriment of the drawings.

There has been no desire to produce a book of "specimens," nor are the houses put forward as "examples" to be copied; they are merely given for what they are worth as the fruit of some experience, and in the hope that they may perhaps be suggestive.

Beyond a few commonly accepted laws as to the position of doors, windows and fireplaces, which are treated of at length in works devoted to the subject, there are of course no rules or formulæ for house building; but there are nevertheless a few general principles which are of universal application. Structural soundness, convenience of arrangement, air and sunlight in plenty are essentials, and when these have been fairly met the house is well on the way.

The planning is without doubt the most important thing in the designing of a house. "To be happy at home is the ultimate result of all ambition." No one can be quite happy in an ill-planned house any more than in ill-fitting clothes, and although the "cut" and "style" are much, they count for nothing in a garment which pinches and annoys the wearer in a hundred ways. The most commonplace little wants in a house must be considered, and the planner must not have such a soaring soul that he is unable to bring himself to consider them. But although house building is very much a practical art, the practical requirements may be met gracefully and pleasantly; there is scope for dignity, humour, and even romance.

The house planner must, however, recognize his limitations; building is only plastic to a certain point, and we are much compelled by the natural use of materials; our choice is not restricted now as it was when transport was difficult and costly, but this is not an unmixed advantage, for while it widens our range it destroys "local colour"; and the exigencies of the materials ready to hand, together with the ingenuity displayed in fitting them to their needs, developed many varieties in our housebuilding. It would be affectation

to insist nowadays on the use of local materials only, but it is, I think, legitimate to take the district into consideration. Materials foreign to the countryside are often imported for no better reason than that the architect has a habit of design, and an inelastic mind.

We must, too, get rid of the idea that we can compel materials to assume any shape we like, in defiance of their idiosyncrasies. Our housebuilding ought to develop naturally. In the animal world abnormal variations are considered as apart from the general scheme of progress, and are popularly called "freaks," and the conscious breaking away from normal lines of development so conspicuous in much of the building of the last few years, especially on the continent, may perhaps be not unkindly called "Freak architecture."

A natural architecture is a rational healthy builder's art expressing itself soberly through the medium of masonry and carpentry. This "New Art" was no doubt originally the outcome of a genuine if somewhat perfervid enthusiasm, and of a desire to shake off all unnecessary restrictions, but it has mistaken liberty for licence, has abandoned all reserve, and threatens to retard, if not to destroy, the growth of a sane and reasonable architecture.

4, RAYMOND BUILDINGS,
GRAY'S INN, LONDON.
May, 1903.

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ON THE PLATES.

HOUSE No. I., Plates 1, 2, 3, is built in a suburban district in West Kent. The road is sixty or seventy feet from the entrance front, and the view on that side has no special interest. The plot of land is about an acre and a half in extent, and the frontage being narrow the whole of the garden is at the back of the house. The plan has therefore been arranged with the two chief sitting-rooms looking this way. Externally the building is red and white, the walls from the first floor are hung with red handmade tiles and the roof is covered with the same material.

HOUSE No. II., Plates 4, 5, 6, with some slight difference in detail, was built some ten or twelve miles from Birmingham. The materials are red handmade bricks and tiles, stone, and rough cast for the bays. The house stands about 200 feet back from the road; the garden is on the west and south. The inner hall has been treated as a sitting-room.

HOUSE No. III., Plates 7, 8, 9, is in North Hampshire and is built with red bricks and tiles. Where external shutters are used sash windows are provided, so that they may be open when the shutters are closed. The little bands, etc., of "ornament" are made of red and gray bricks and tiles.

The garden is south and west, kitchen garden east. The hall is planned to be used in connection with the drawing-room and is cut off from the entrance passage by an oak screen.

HOUSE No. IV., Plates 10, 11, 12, was planned for a site in the New Forest. Externally the walls are "rough cast" and the roofs are covered with red handmade tiles. The shutters are green. The hall in this case is in the form of a wide corridor with a bay opposite the fireplace. The view is to the south, and the principal rooms are consequently placed on that side.

HOUSE No. V., Plates 13, 14, 15, is built in the same neighbourhood as No. I., and of similar materials. The aspect is north and south and the garden is on the south and west. The verandah in front of the dining-room bay is roofed with glass tiles of the same size and thickness as the ordinary roofing tiles.

HOUSE No. VI., Plates 16, 17, 18, is built in Yorkshire on the borders of a moor. The walls are local stone and the roofs are covered with stone slabs. The hall is arranged as a sitting-room and is cut off from the entrance hall by an oak screen. The staircase is of oak inlaid with ebony. The ground slopes to the south to a stream and the garden is on the south and west.

HOUSE No. VII., Plates 19, 20, 21, was built in Cambridgeshire. Red tiles and bricks are used outside, and the gables of entrance front are boarded with oak weather-boards. The garden is on the south and east.

HOUSE No. VIII., Plates 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, is in Berkshire. It is built of red brick with red tile roof, stone windows, a wooden cornice and cast lead gutters to the bays.

The staircase is of dull polished mahogany inlaid with ebony and boxwood. The garden is south and west. The principal rooms are grouped round a large hall, which is shut off from the entrance and staircase by a glazed screen.

HOUSE No. IX., Plates 28, 29, 30, 31, 32. This house is in West Kent, and as the plans show is partly old. It is built of red handmade bricks and tiles; the ground floor windows are mostly of stone and the upper floors of wood. There is a wooden cornice running all round. The forecourt and the terrace walls are of brick and stone. The painted decoration of the drawing-room was the work of William Morris. The undulating ground made the terrace and walls necessary.

HOUSE No. X., Plates 33, 34, 35, 36, is in Surrey and is built of red brick and tiles and Portland stone. The upper part of the staircase bay on garden front is covered with cast lead enriched; the enrichment painted and gilded. The hall and corridor have arched plaster ceilings.

HOUSE No. XI., Plates 37, 38, 39, is built in the Channel Islands on the site of an old house. The walls are all rough cast, with green shutters and trellis verandah; the cornice is of wood painted white, as are also the sashes and frames. The porch is of local gray granite with half-dome and enriched gutter of cast lead. The hall panelling and staircase are of oak. The library is panelled with oak and the drawing-room with deal, and both rooms have enriched plaster ceilings.

The view is to the south and the garden is south and east.

HOUSE No. XII., Plates 40, 41, 42, was planned for a site in Kent. The ground is lower on the entrance side. The steps have as far as possible been arranged inside the house. The garden is on the south-east and south-west. The hall is used also as a garden entrance, but the fireplace is arranged so as to be out of the draught. The materials are red brick and tiles. The cornice running round the building is of wood painted white. The bays on the entrance front are covered with cast lead.

HOUSE No. XIII., Plates 43, 44, 45, is built in Hampshire between Basingstoke and Newbury in a clearing in a young wood. The walls are rough cast and the roofs red tiles. The hall is planned to be used in connection with the dining-room and drawing-room. The garden entrance is placed opposite the front entrance to keep the fireplace free from draught. The staircase is of oak.

HOUSE No. XIV., Plates 46, 47, 48, was planned for a site in Surrey. The walls are of red brick, the roof of red tiles, and the cornice running round the whole building is of wood painted white. The solid part of the bay windows above the ground floor is cast lead with modelled centre panels.

HOUSE No. XV., Plates 49, 50, 51, is built in the same neighbourhood as Nos. I. and V. The materials are red brick and red tile hanging and roof. The garden is on the south. The morning-room and drawing-room can be used together. The folding-doors shut back into the morning-room and form a panelled side.

HOUSE No. XVI., Plates 52, 53, 54, is built in the same district as Houses I., V. and XV. The walls are of red brick to the first floor level and are hung with red handmade tiles above this point; the roof is also covered with similar tiles. The porch is of brick and Portland stone. The dining-room bay has sash windows to accommodate the sun shutters. The ground is lower on the entrance front than it is on the garden side.

HOUSE No. XVII., Plates 55, 56, 57, is also in Kent. The walls are rough cast and the roof red tiles. The garden is on the south-east side.

HOUSE No. XVIII., Plates 58, 59, is a doctor's house on the roadside in a Buckinghamshire village. The materials are red bricks and tiles.

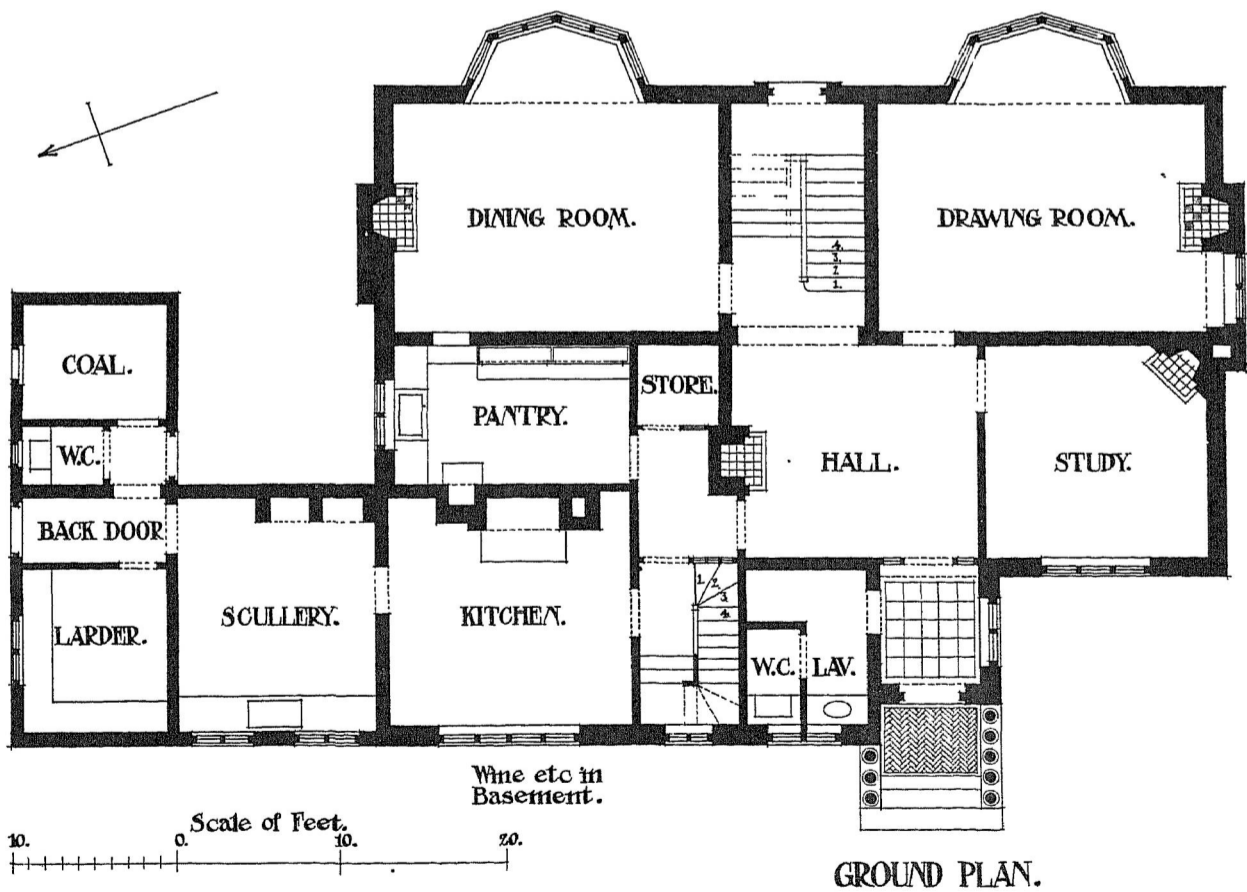
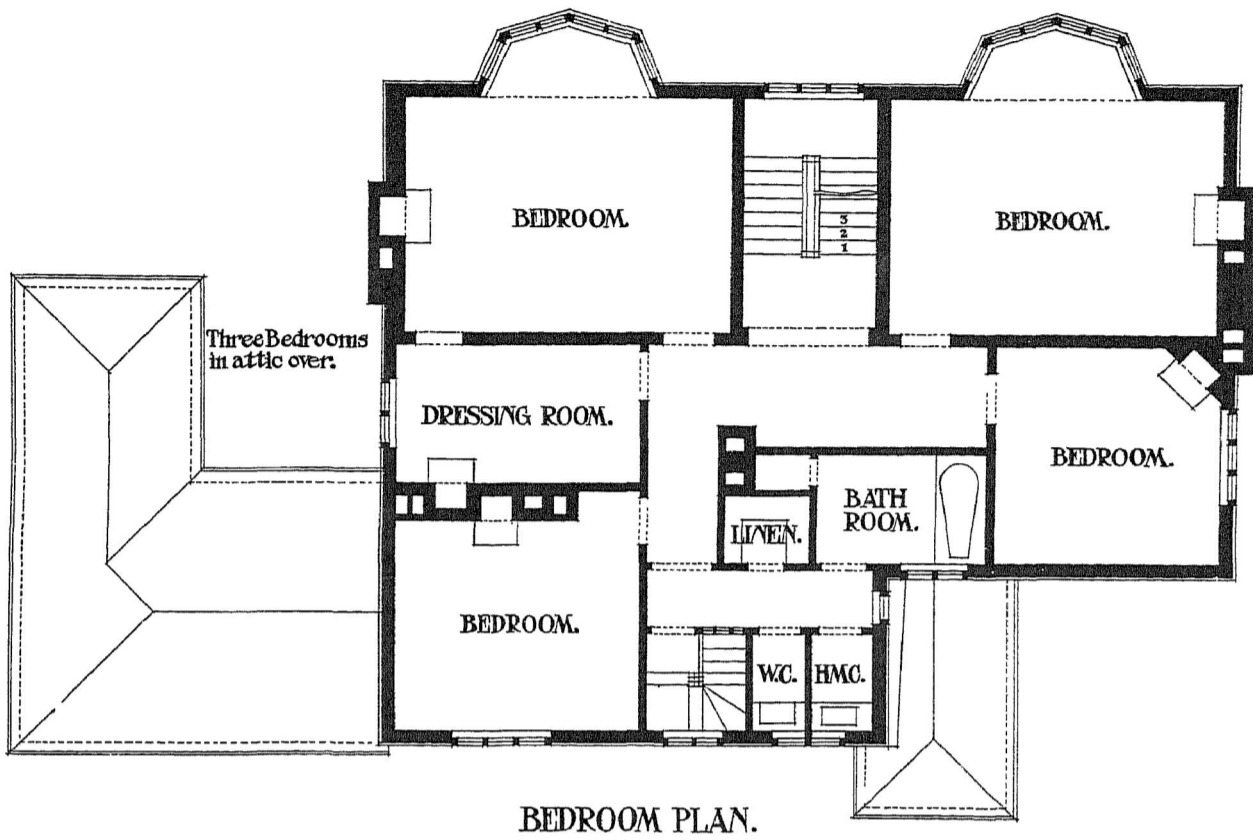
HOUSE No. XIX., Plates 60, 61, 62, is in West Kent. The walls are of red brick and the roof of red tiles. The cornice running round the principal block is of wood painted white. The ground on the entrance side is low, and the plan is arranged so that the steps should be inside the house. By adopting the L shape a great deal of excavation was avoided.



HOUSE No. I. ENTRANCE FRONT.



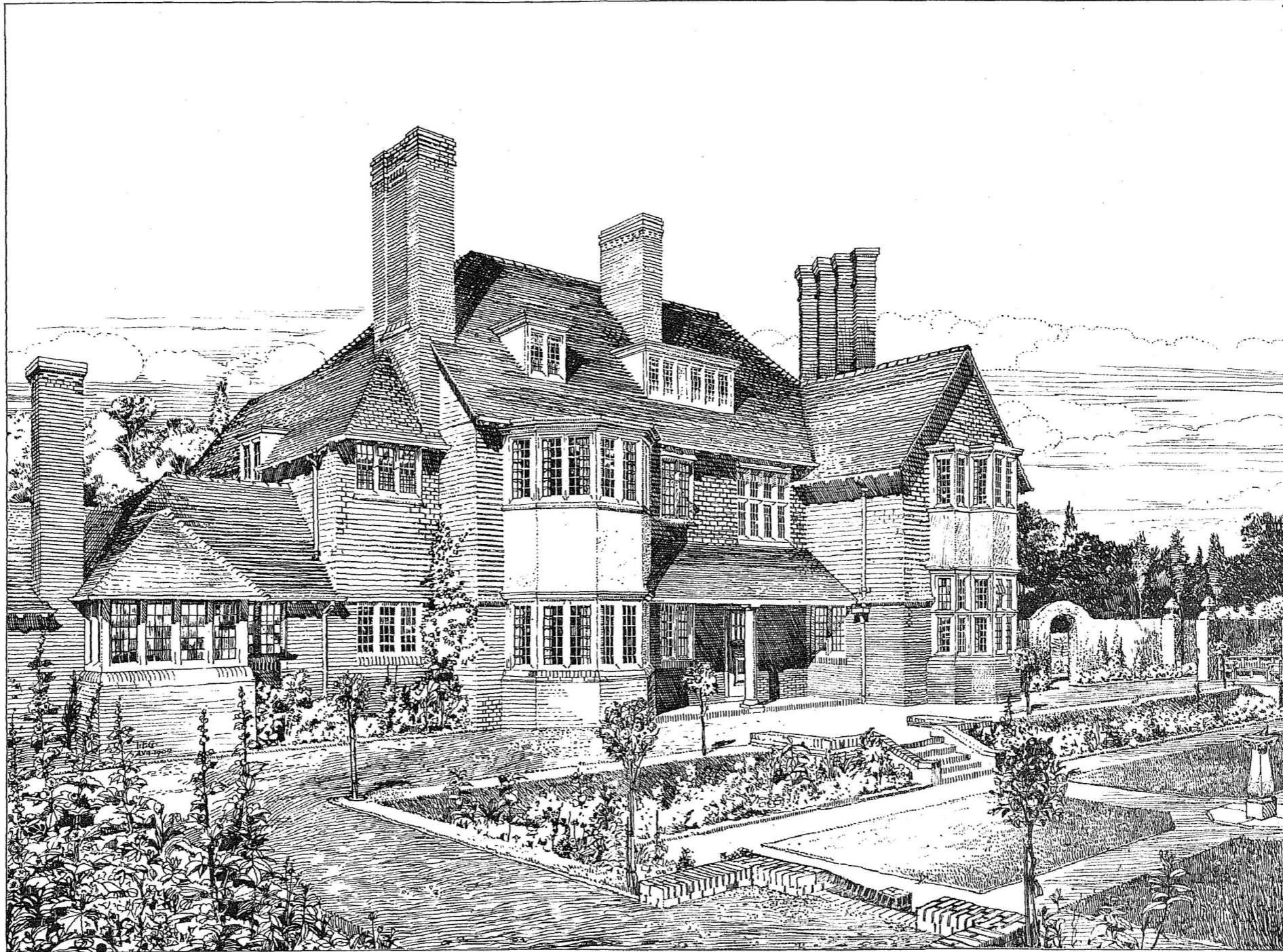
HOUSE No. I. GARDEN FRONT.



HOUSE No. 1. PLANS.

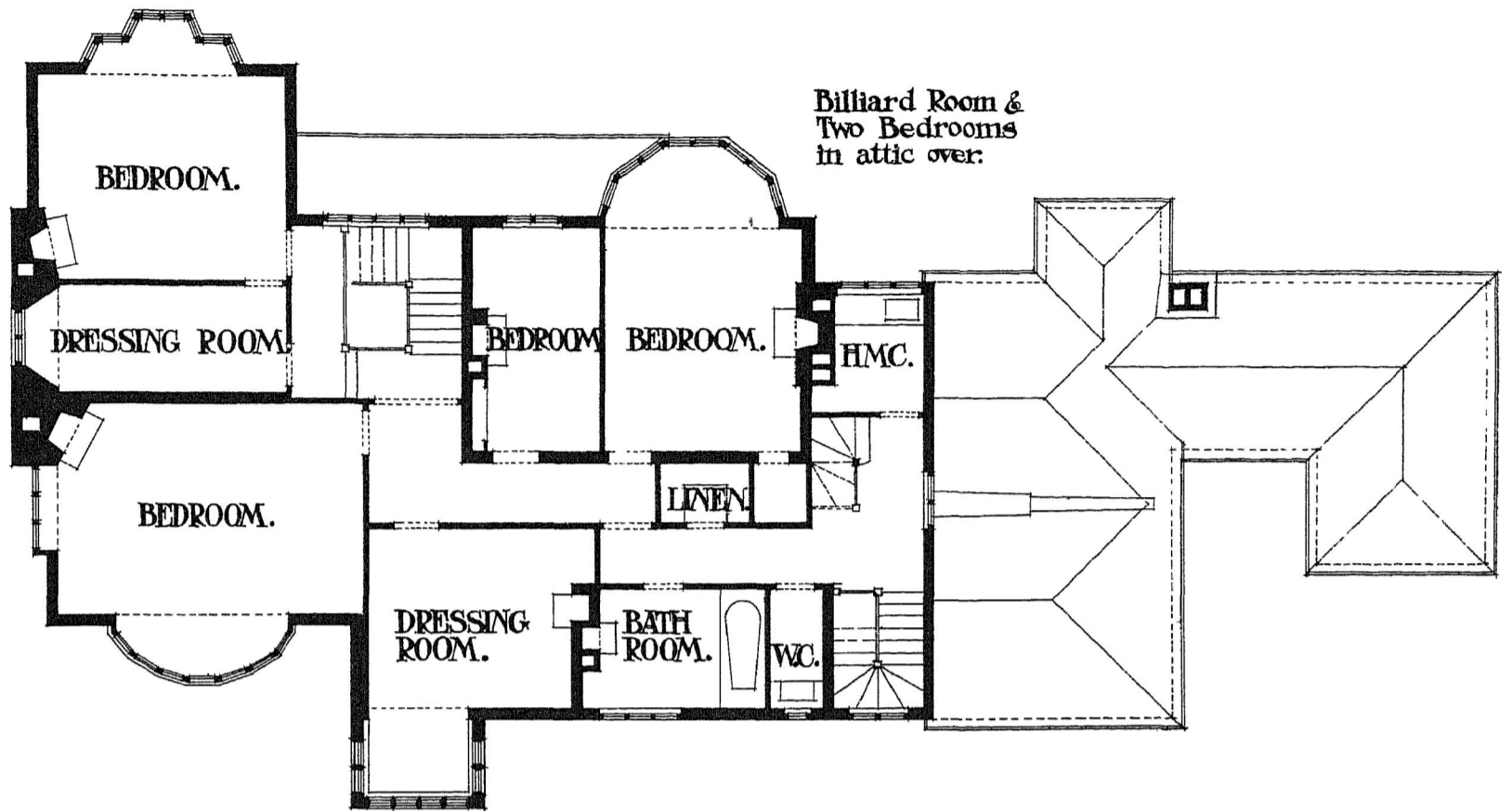


HOUSE NO II.—ENTRANCE FRONT.

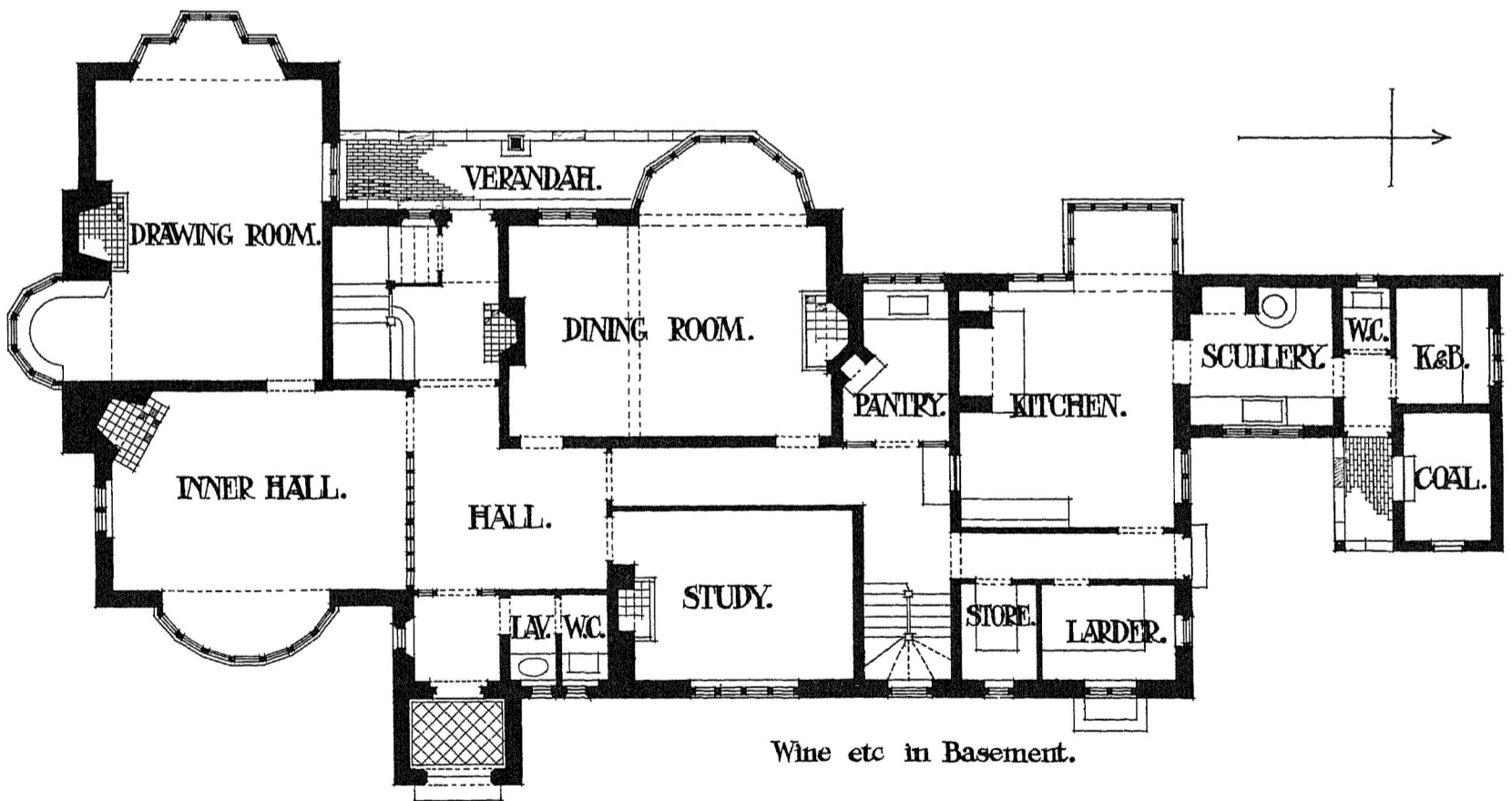


HOUSE NO. II.—GARDEN FRONT.

J. Akerman, Architect, London



BEDROOM PLAN.



GROUND PLAN.

Scale of Feet.
10. 0. 10. 20.

HOUSE N^o. II. PLANS.





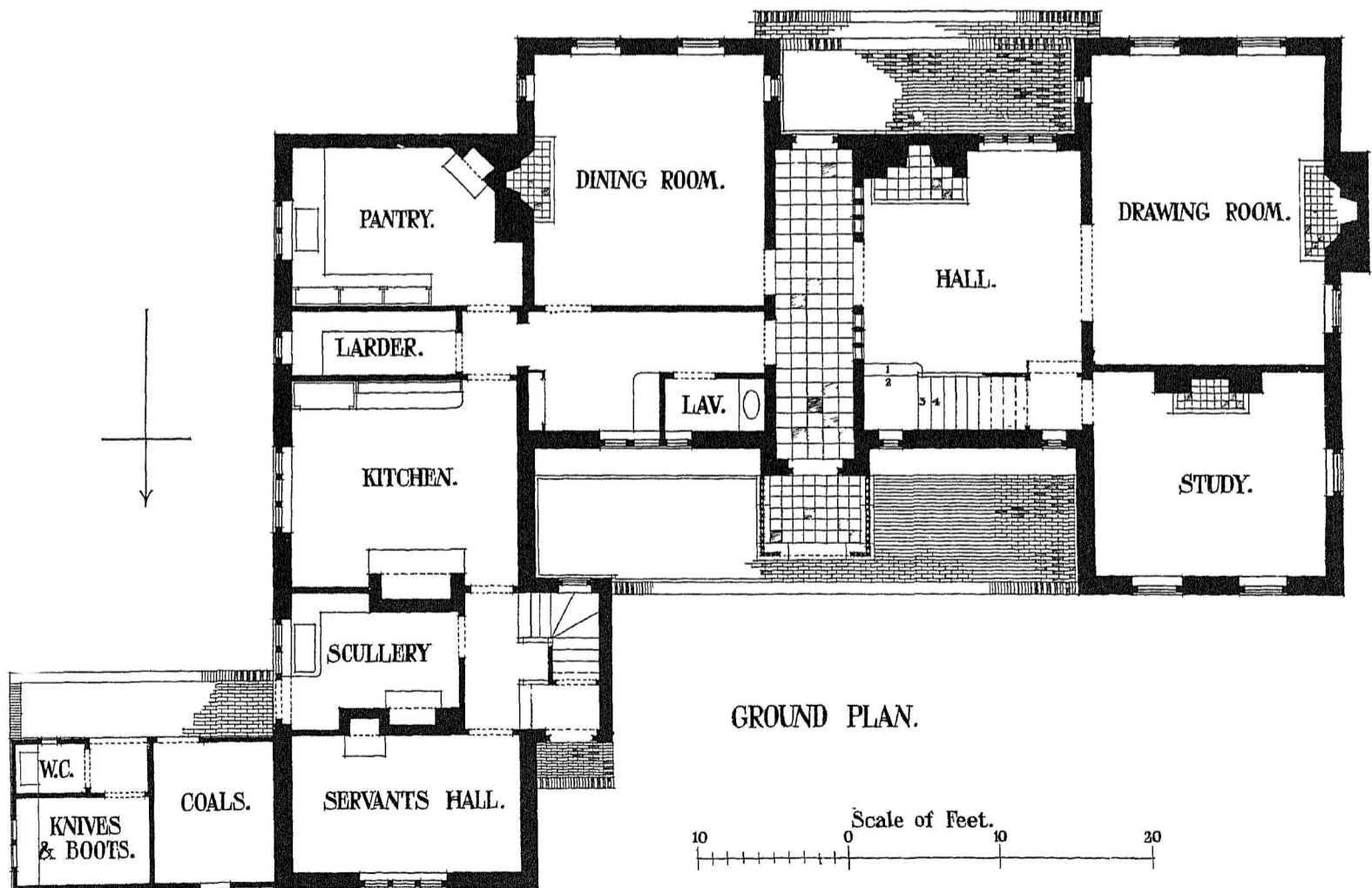
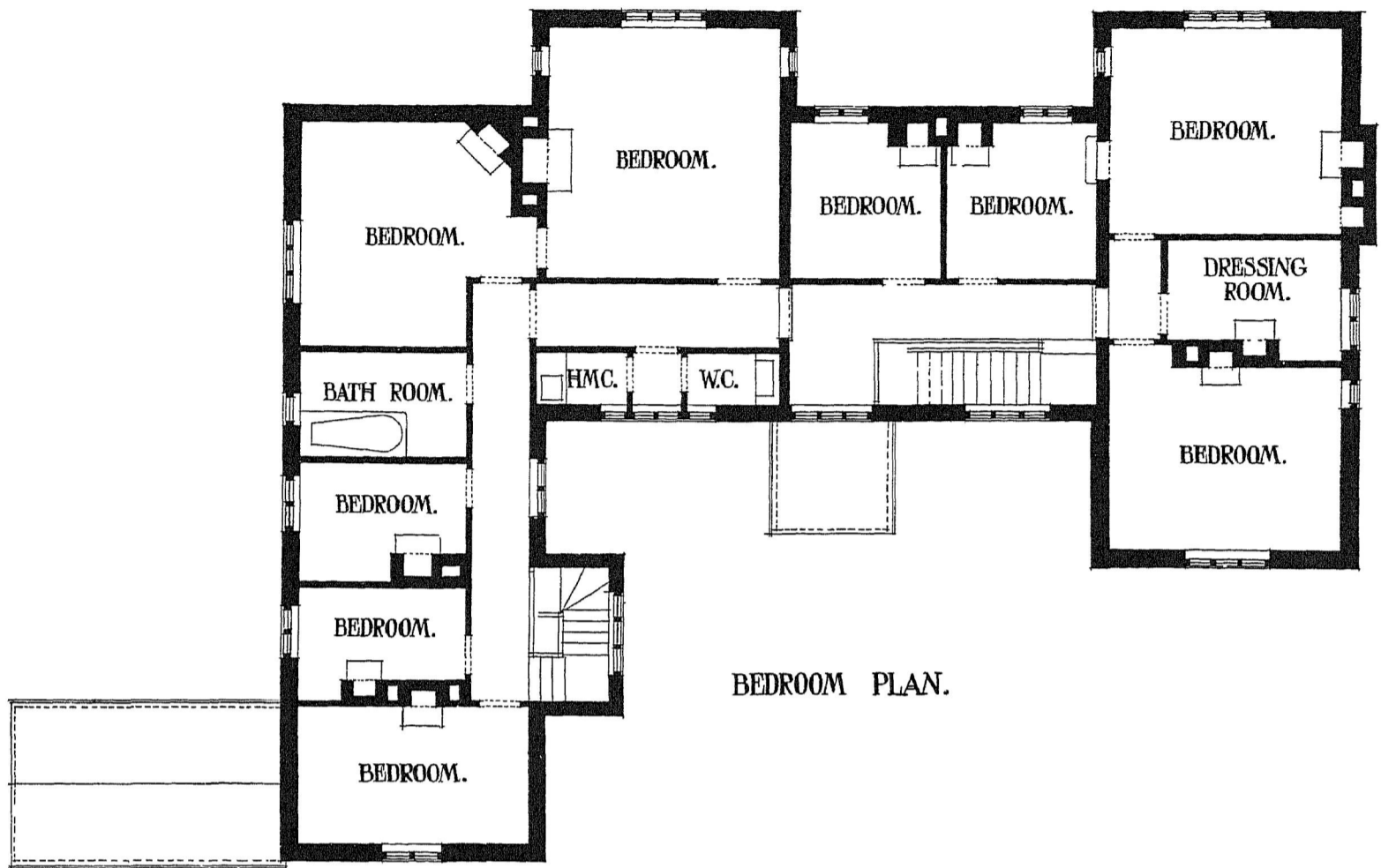
HOUSE NO. III.—ENTRANCE FRONT.

J. Akerman, Photo-lith. London.



HOUSE NO. III.—GARDEN FRONT.

J. Akerman Photo Lith London.



HOUSE No III. PLANS.

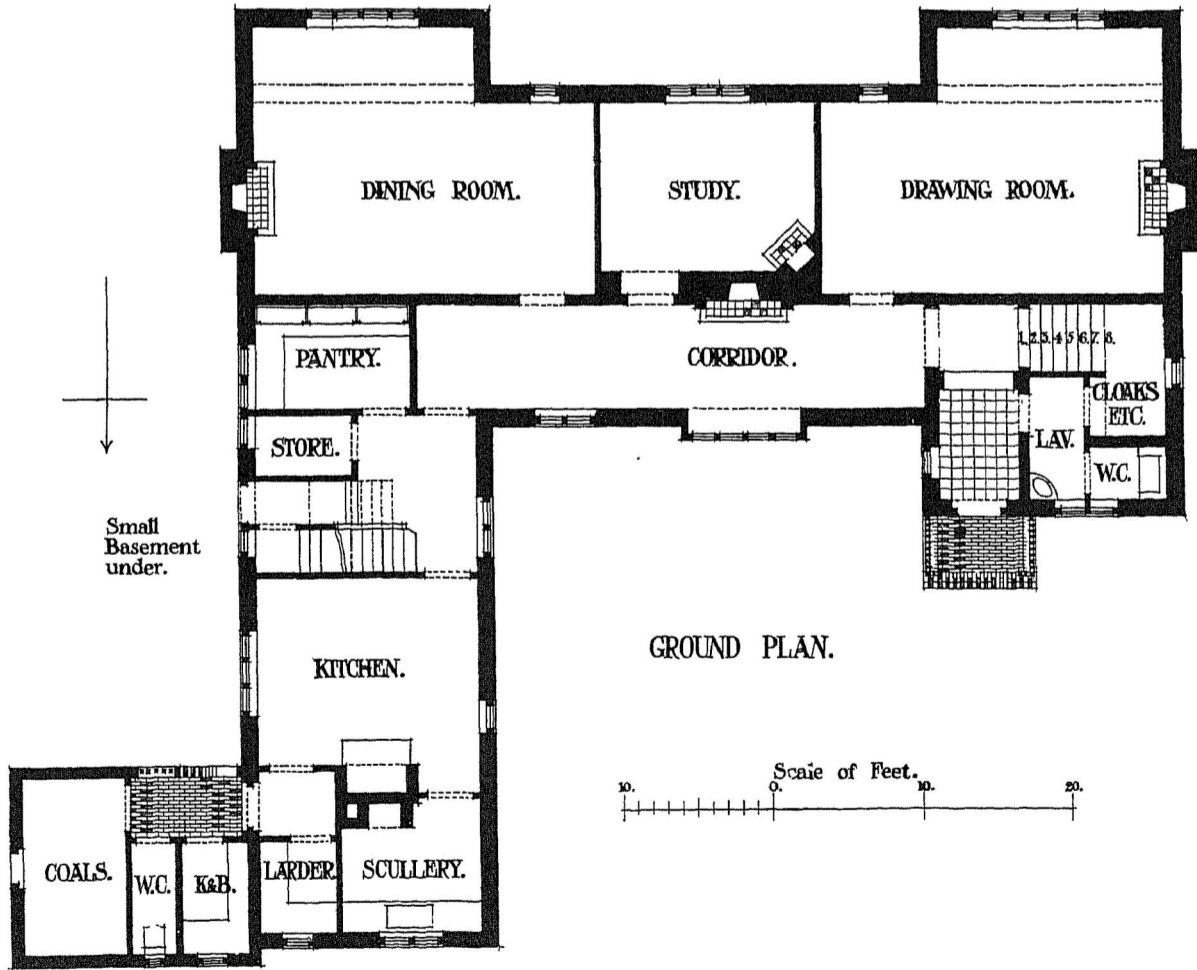
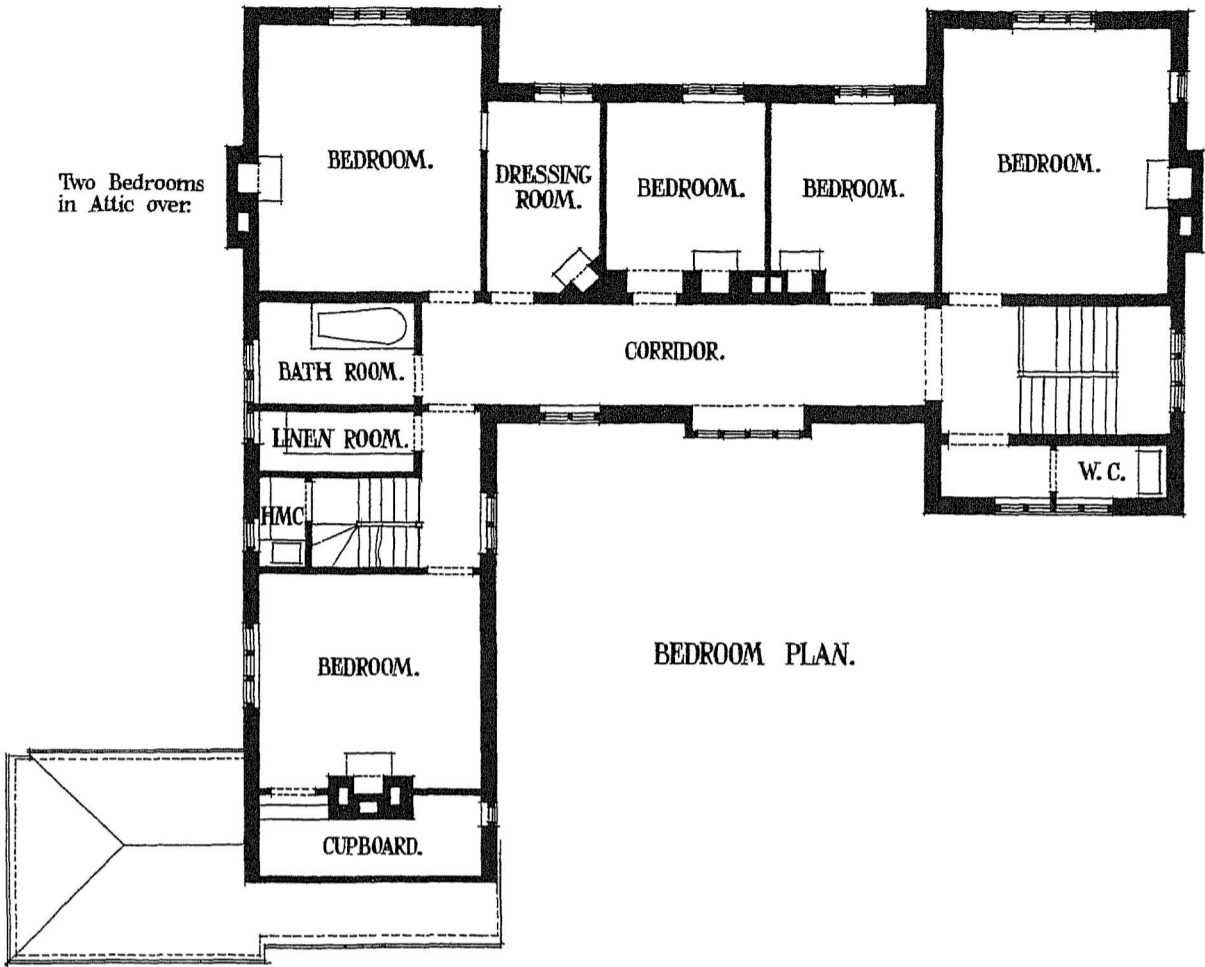


HOUSE NO. IV.—ENTRANCE FRONT.

© Arman, Holt, and Co., N. Y.



HOUSE NO. IV.—GARDEN FRONT.



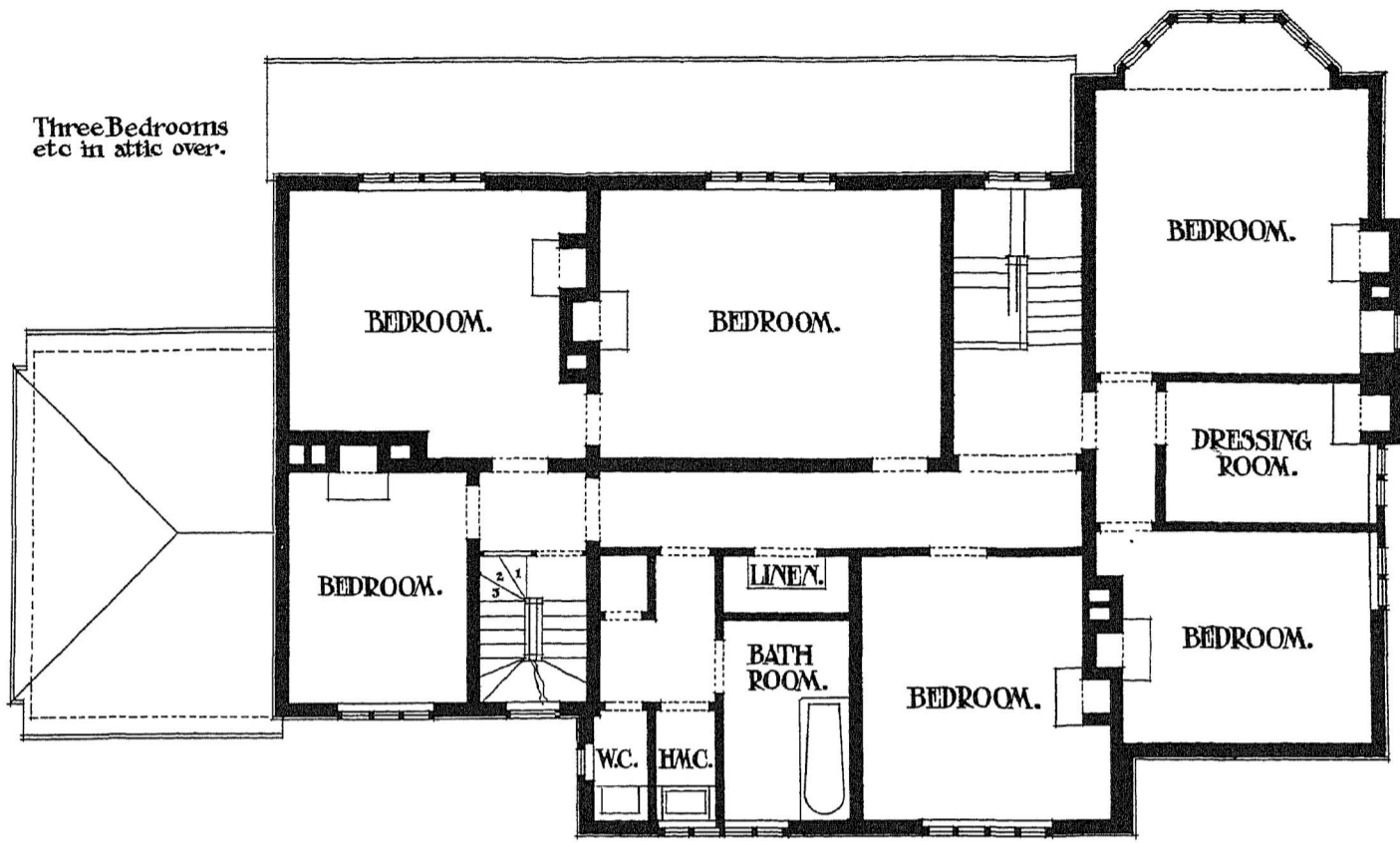
HOUSE No. IV. PLANS.



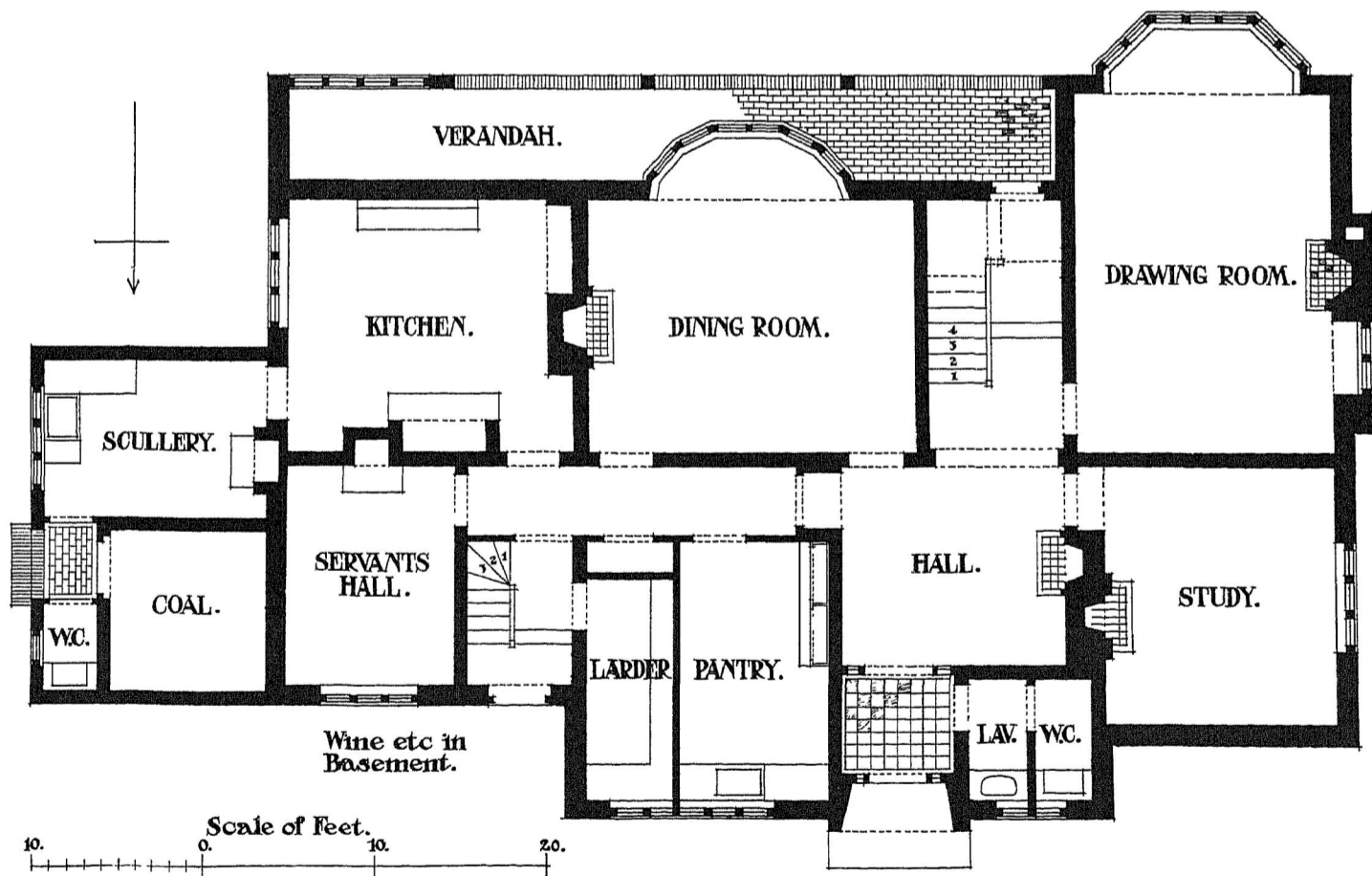
HOUSE No. V. ENTRANCE FRONT.



HOUSE No. V. GARDEN FRONT.



BEDROOM PLAN.

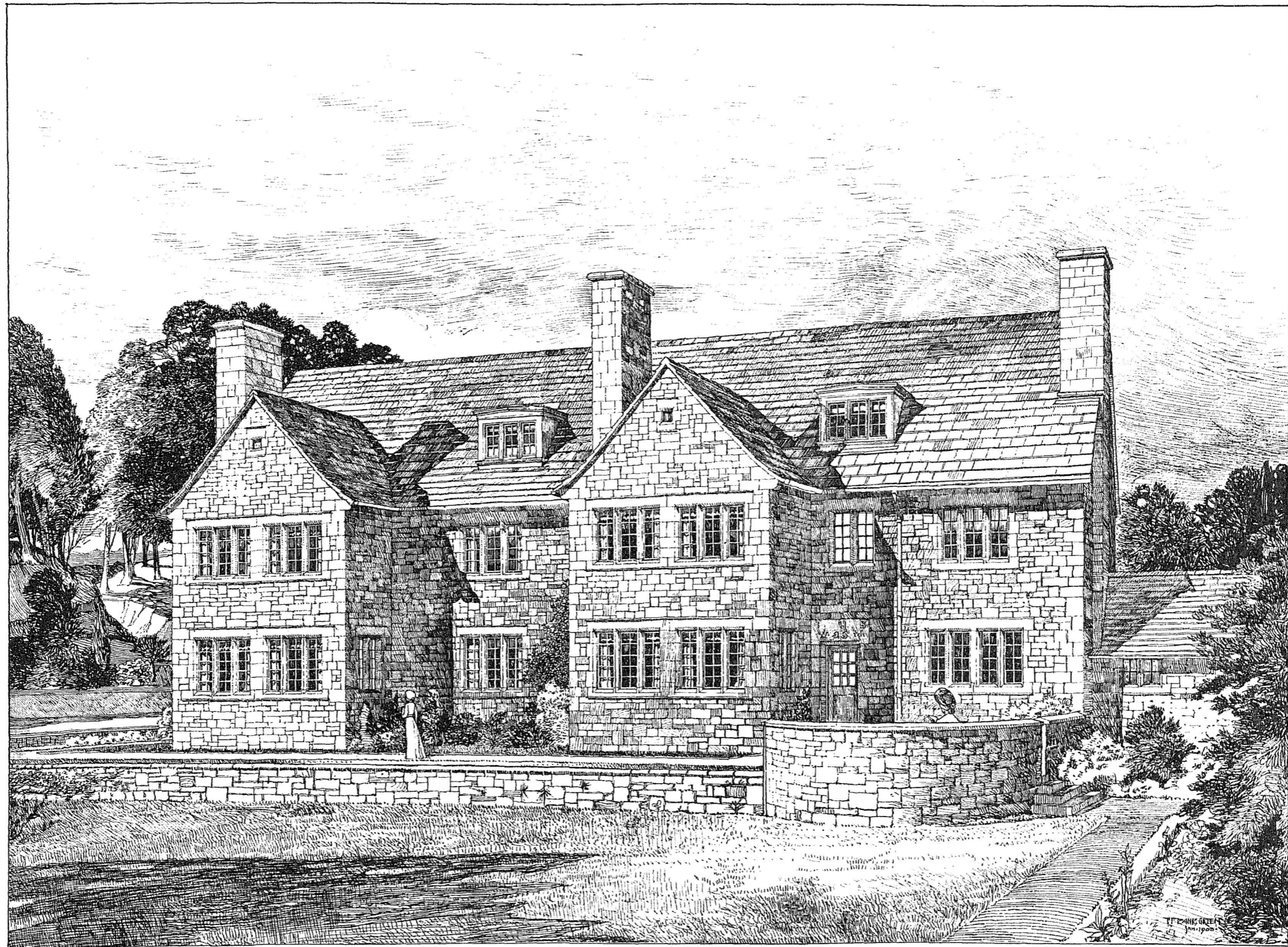


GROUND PLAN.

HOUSE N^o. V. PLANS.

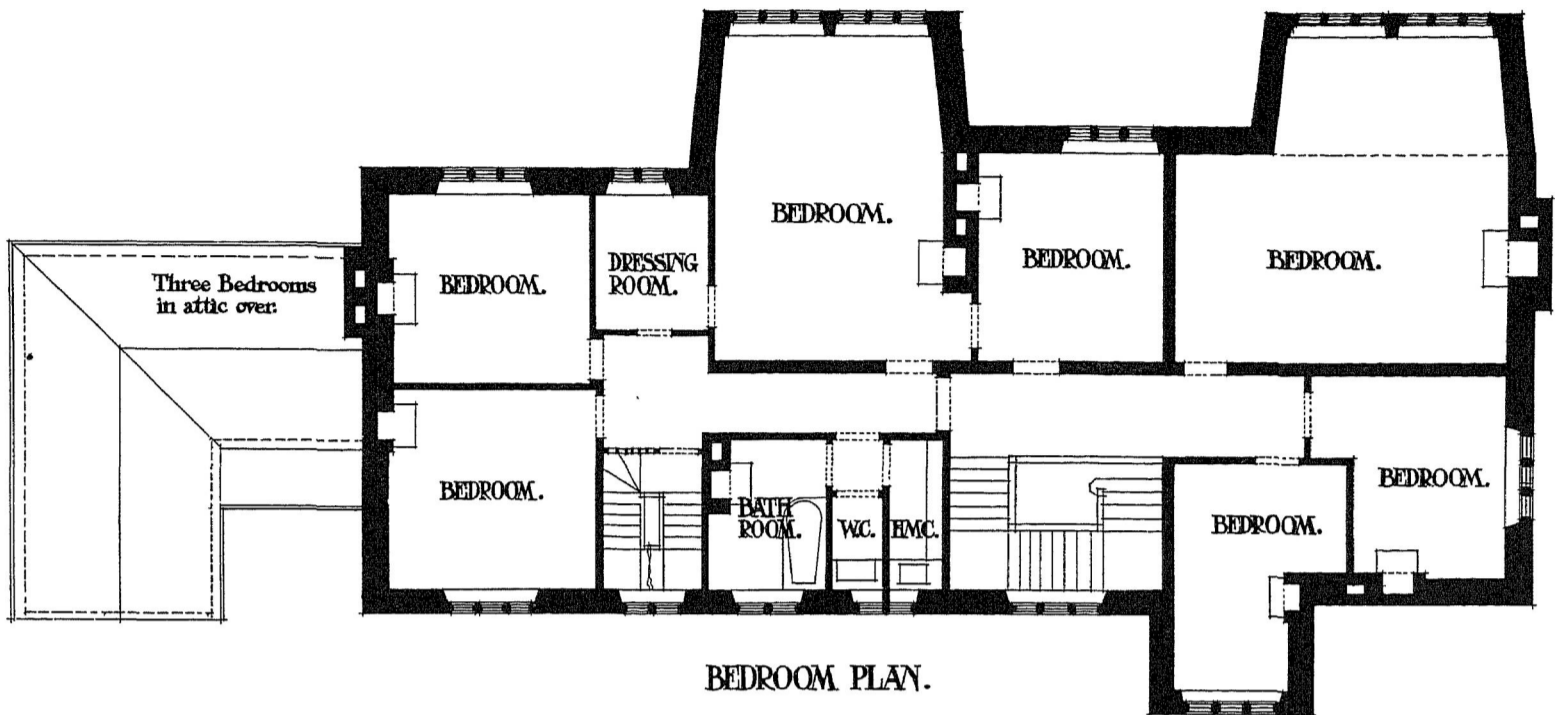


HOUSE NO. VI.—ENTRANCE FRONT.

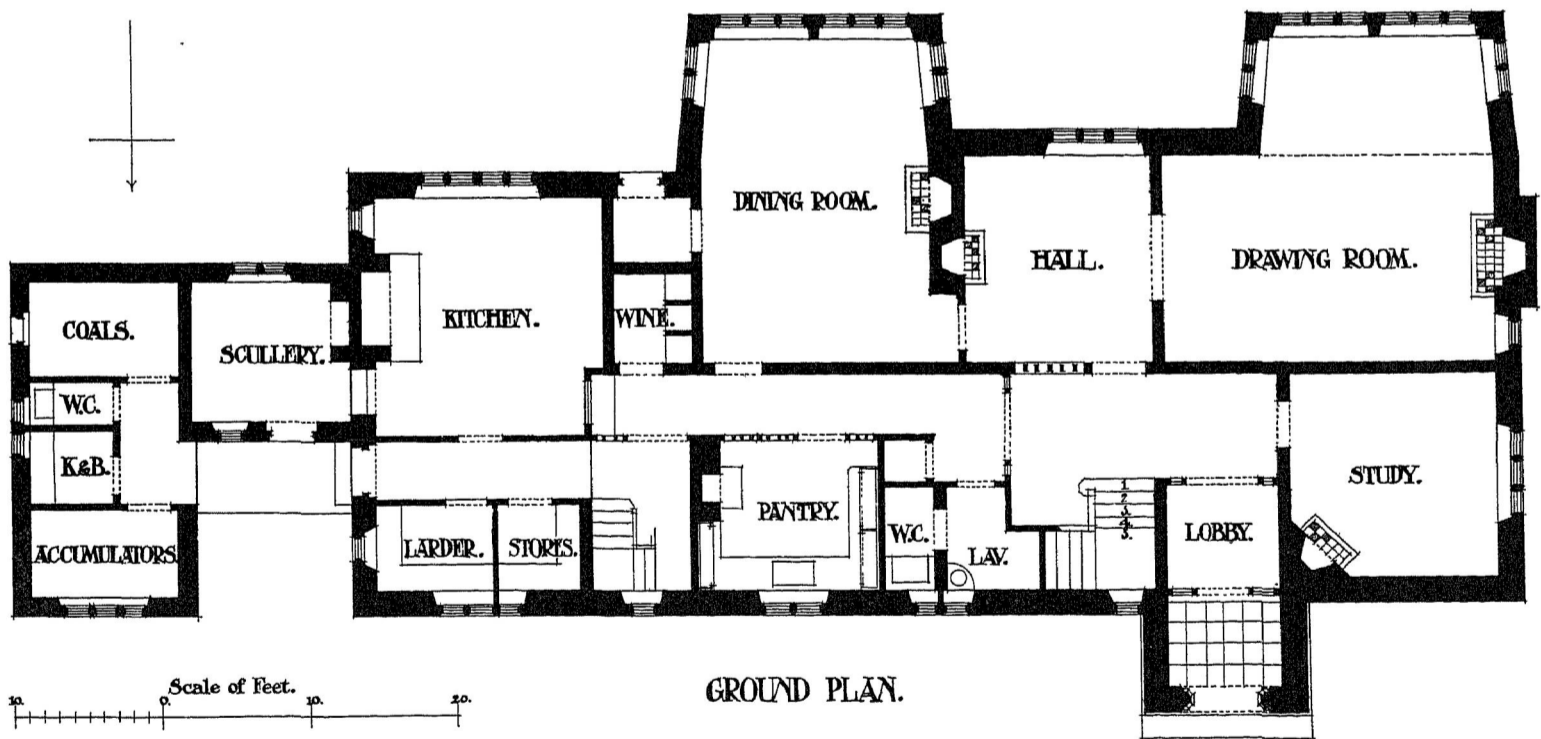


HOUSE NO. VI.—GARDEN FRONT.

J. Akerman, Photo lith London.



BEDROOM PLAN.



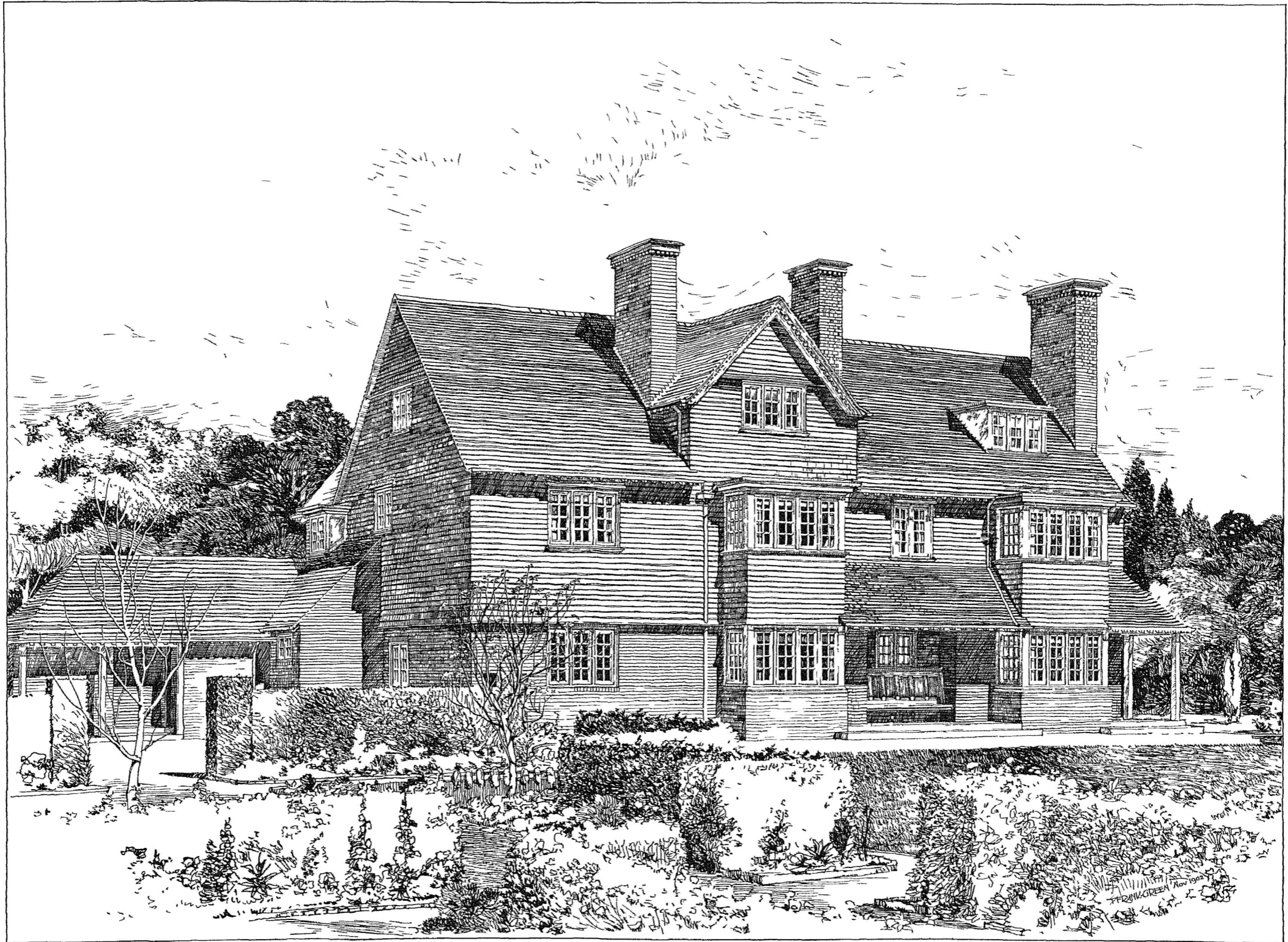
GROUND PLAN.

HOUSE No. VI. PLANS.



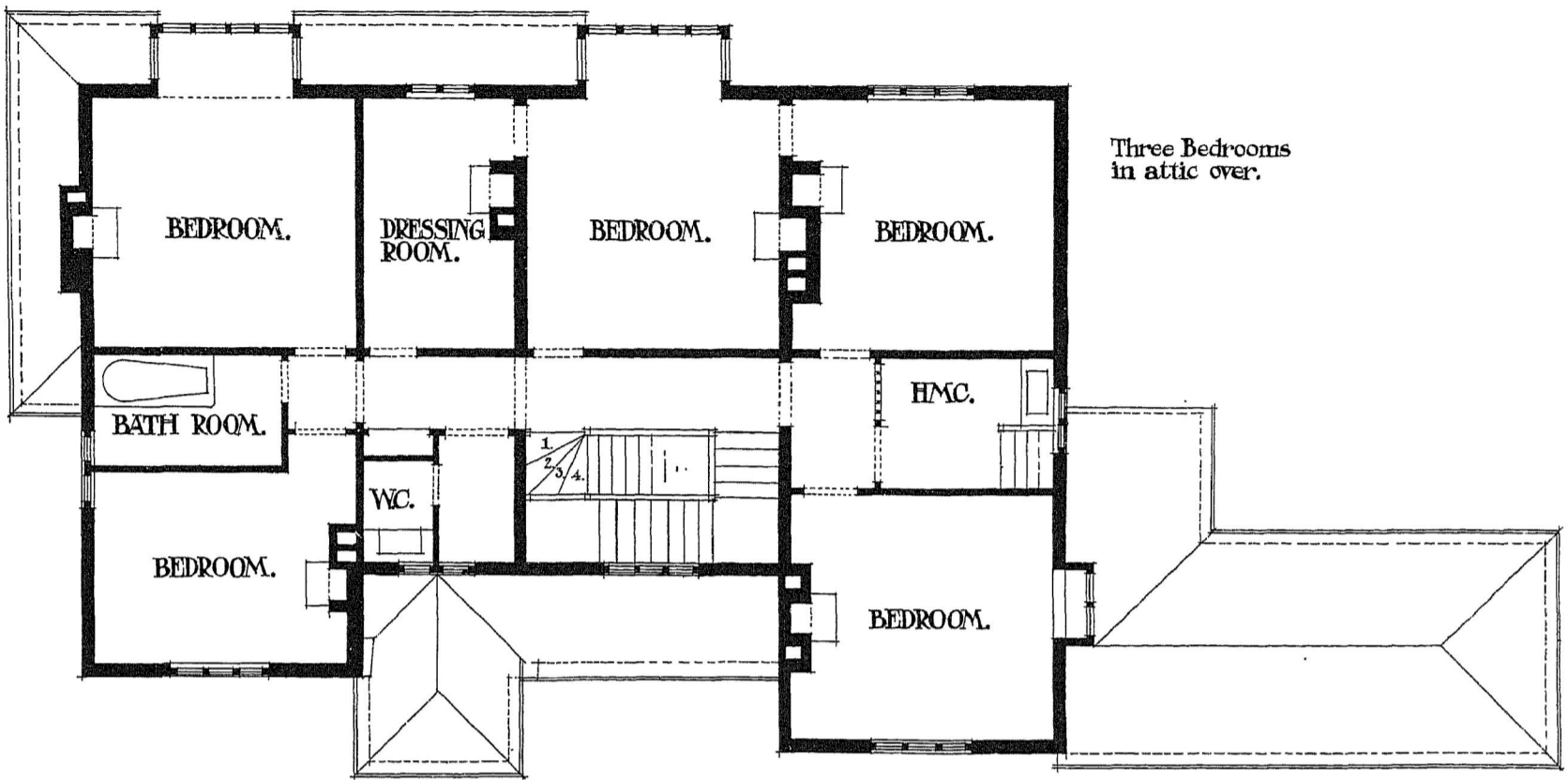
HOUSE NO. VII.—ENTRANCE FRONT.

J. Alcorn & Sons, 17th St. N. W., Wash. D. C.

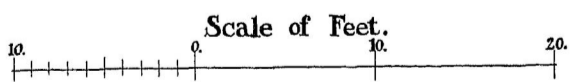
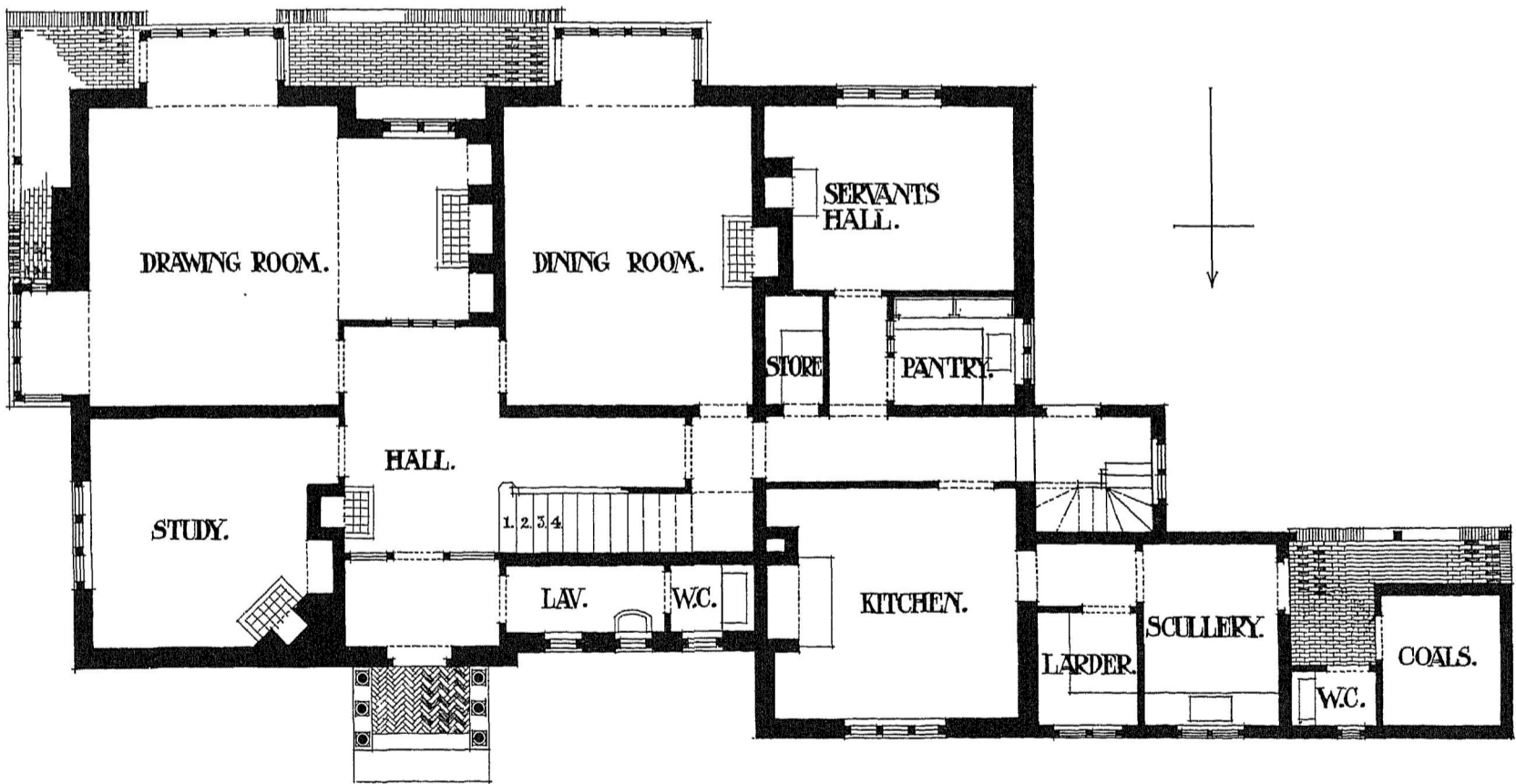


HOUSE NO. VII.—GARDEN FRONT.

F. B. GREEN



BEDROOM PLAN.



GROUND PLAN.

HOUSE No VII. PLANS.



HOUSE No. VIII. ENTRANCE FRONT.





HOUSE No VIII. GARDEN FRONT.



BAY.

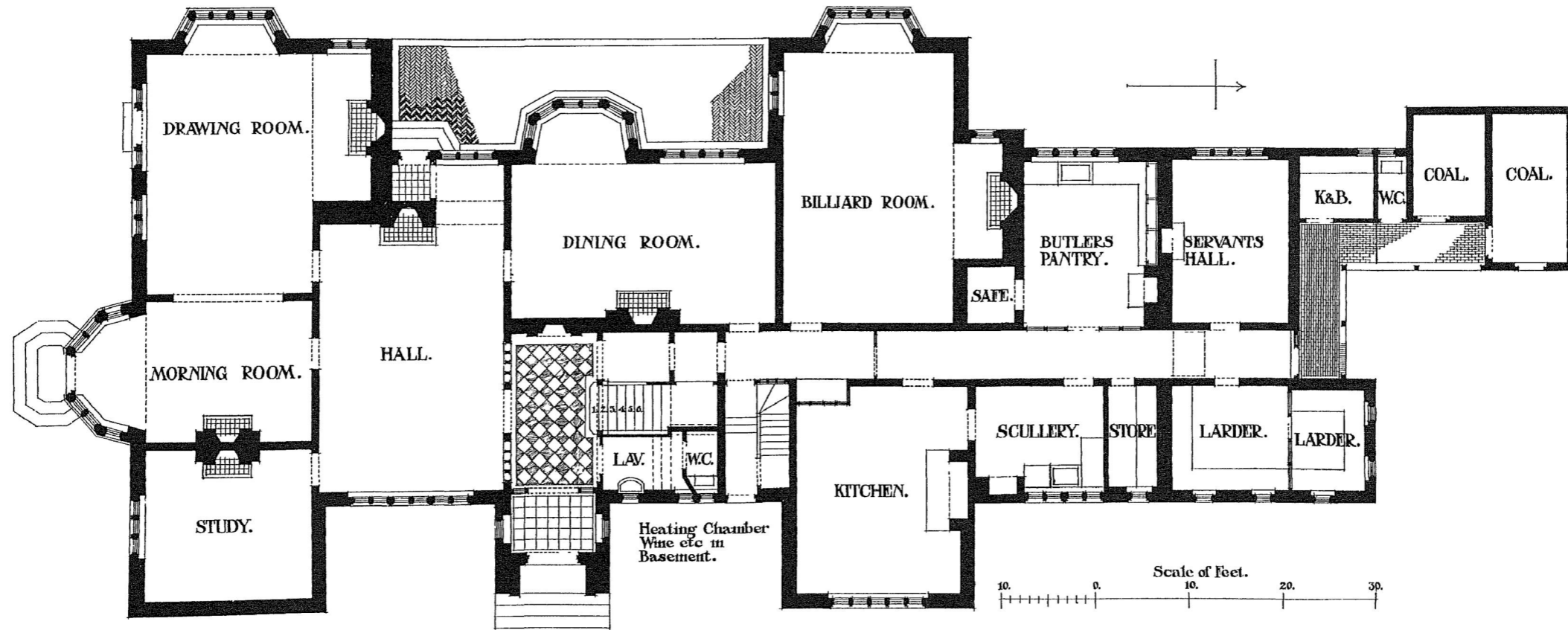
HOUSE No. VIII.



ENTRANCE BAY.

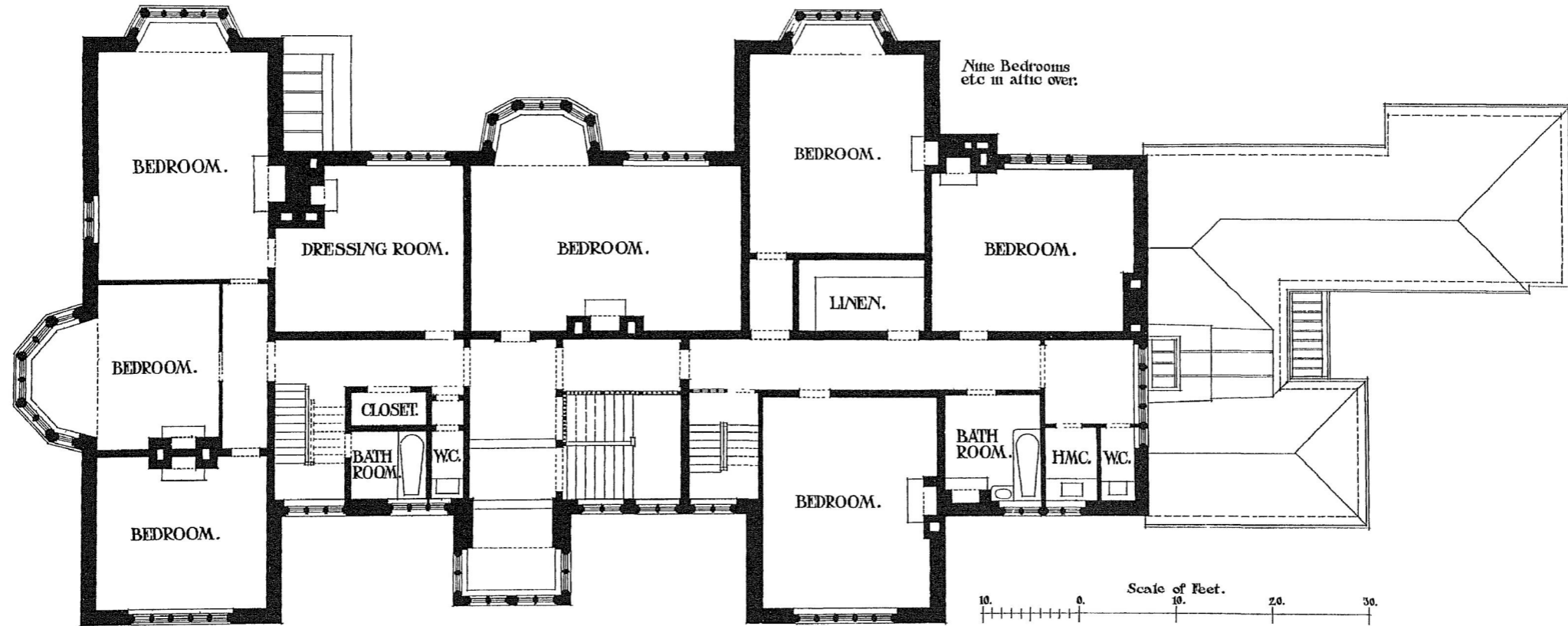


HOUSE No. VIII. STAIRCASE.



GROUND PLAN.

HOUSE No VIII.

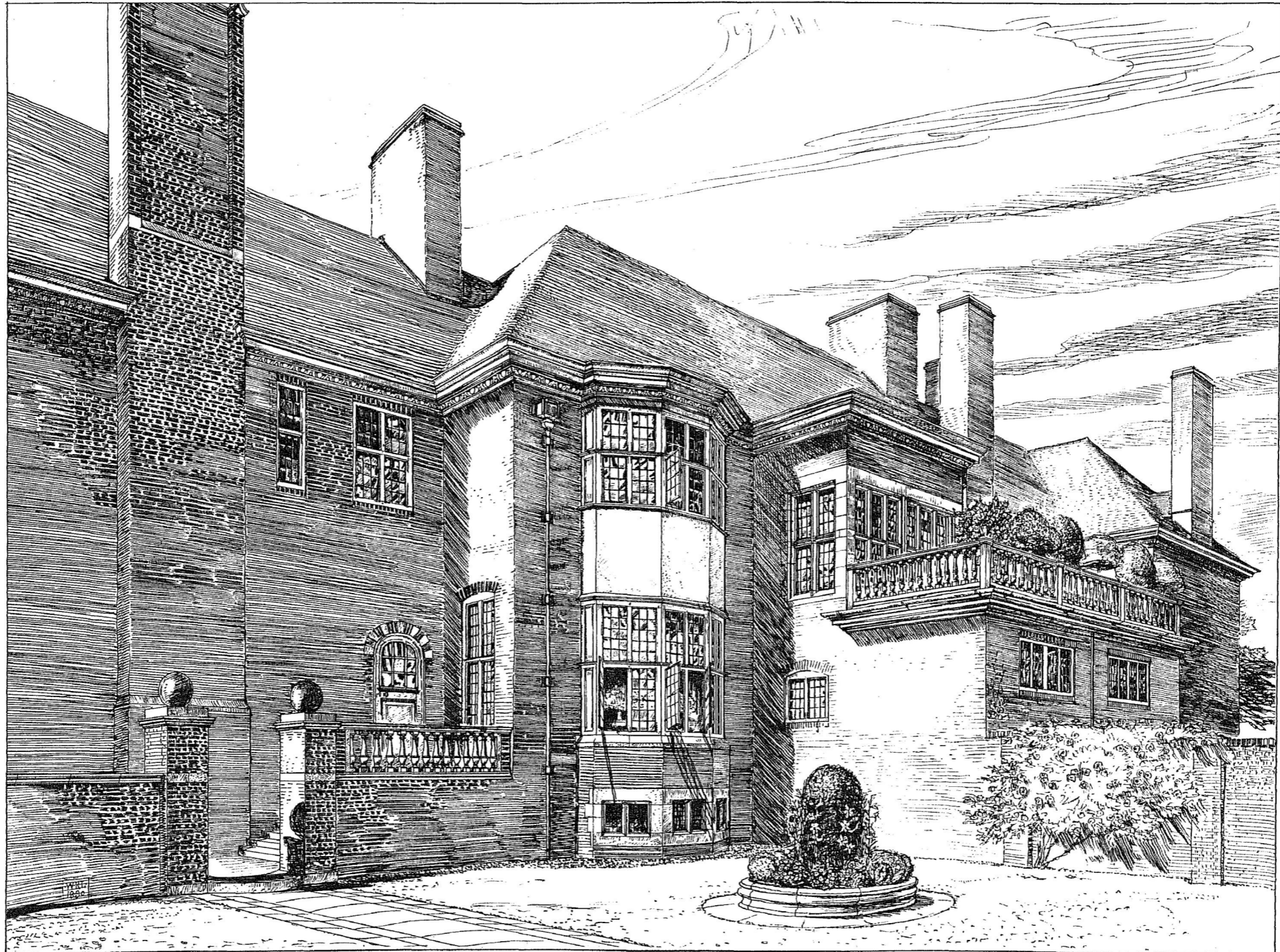


BEDROOM PLAN.

HOUSE No VIII.



HOUSE No. IX. ENTRANCE FRONT.



HOUSE NO. IX.—GARDEN FRONT.

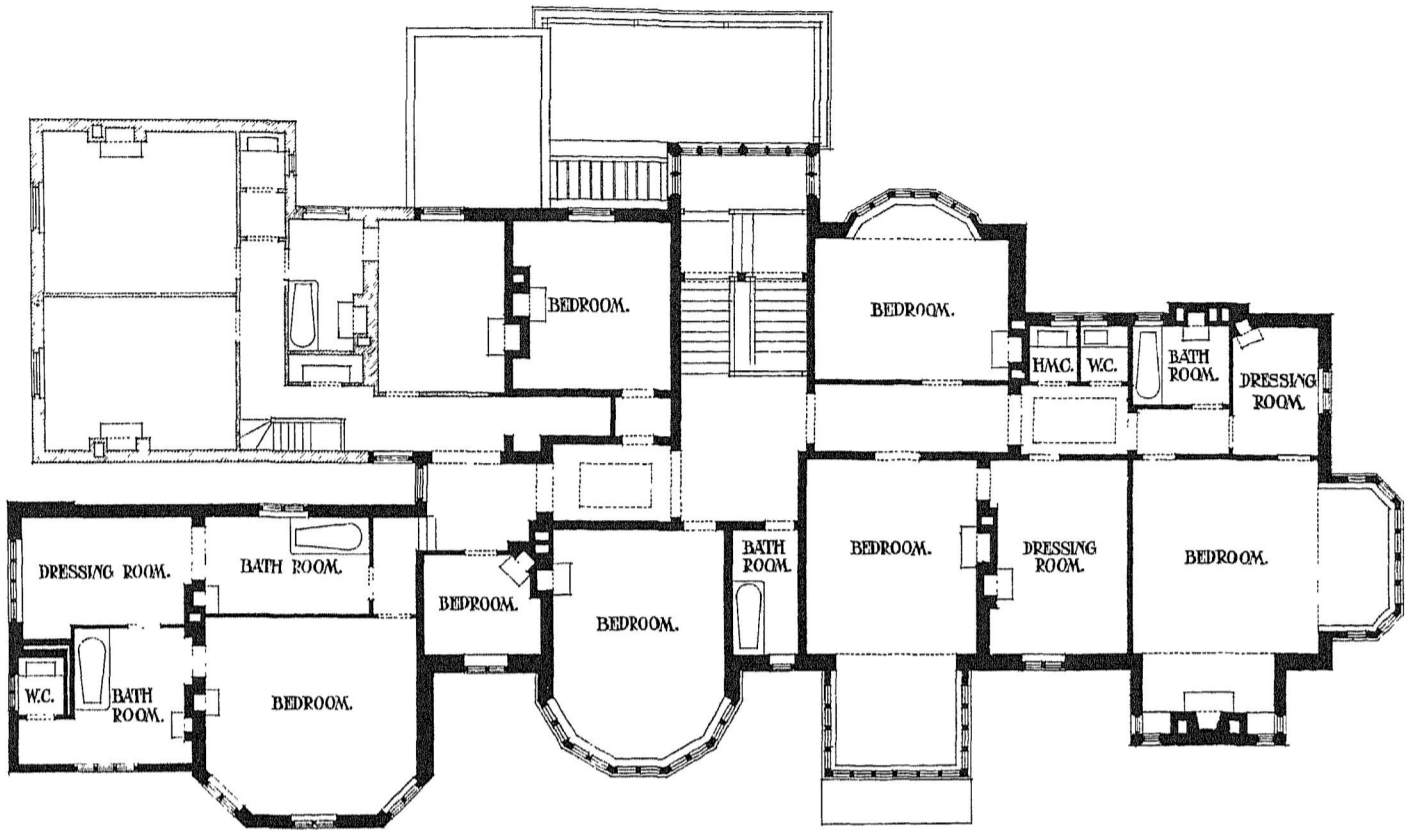
J. Akerman, Photolith London



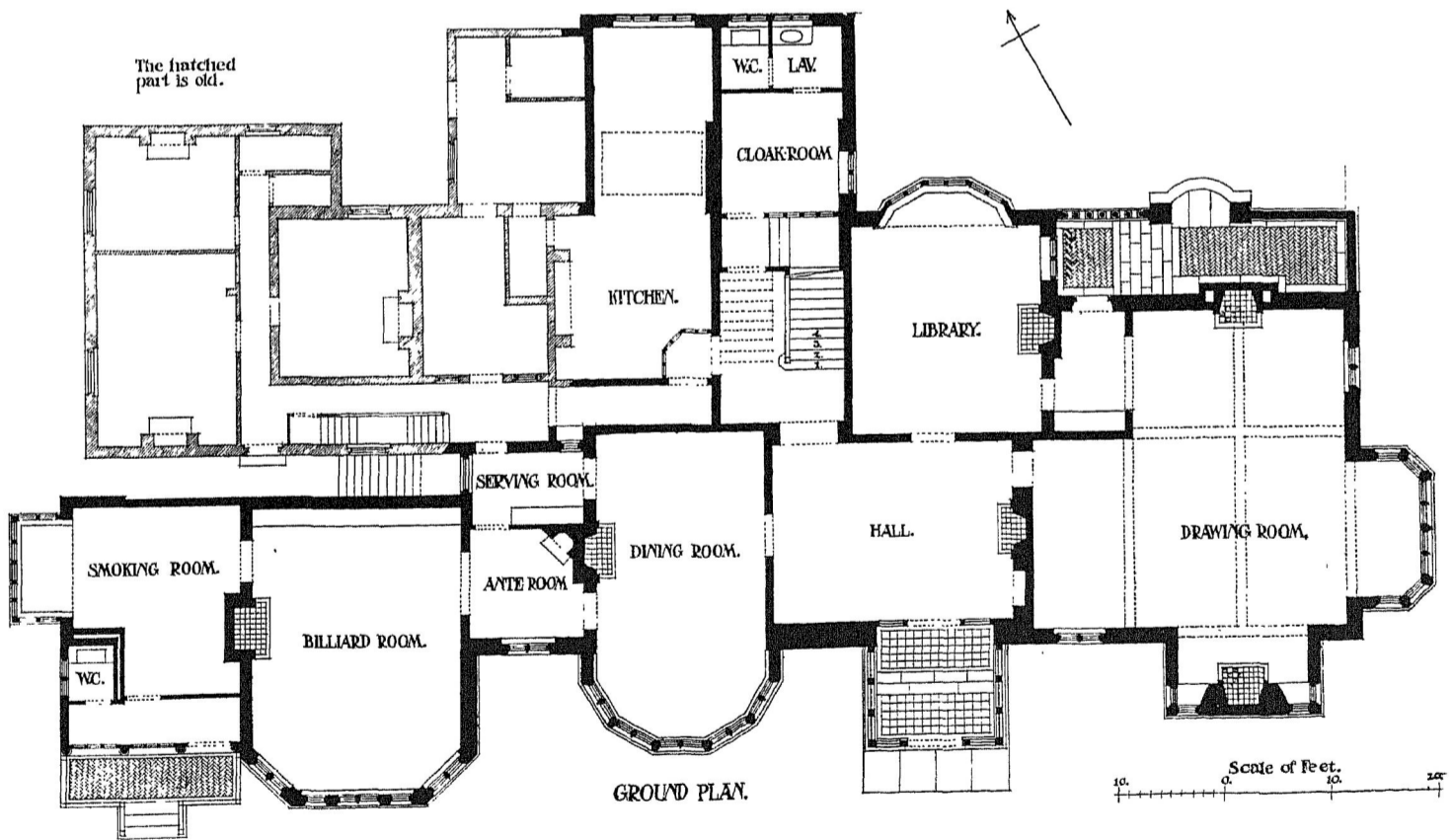
HOUSE No. IX. THE DRAWING ROOM.



HOUSE NO. IX.—THE STAIRCASE.



BEDROOM PLAN.



GROUND PLAN.

HOUSE NO. IX. PLANS.

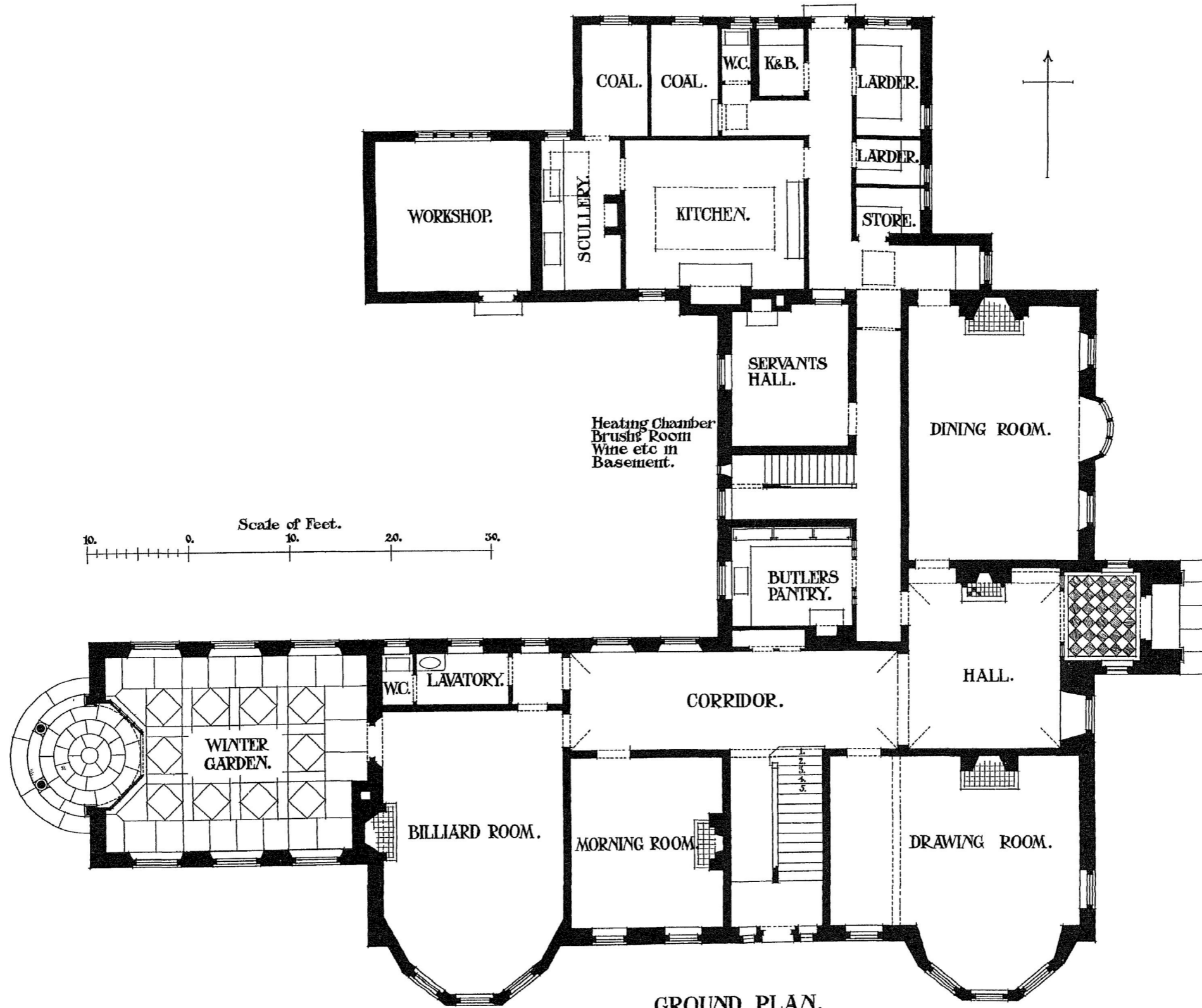


HOUSE No. X. ENTRANCE FRONT.

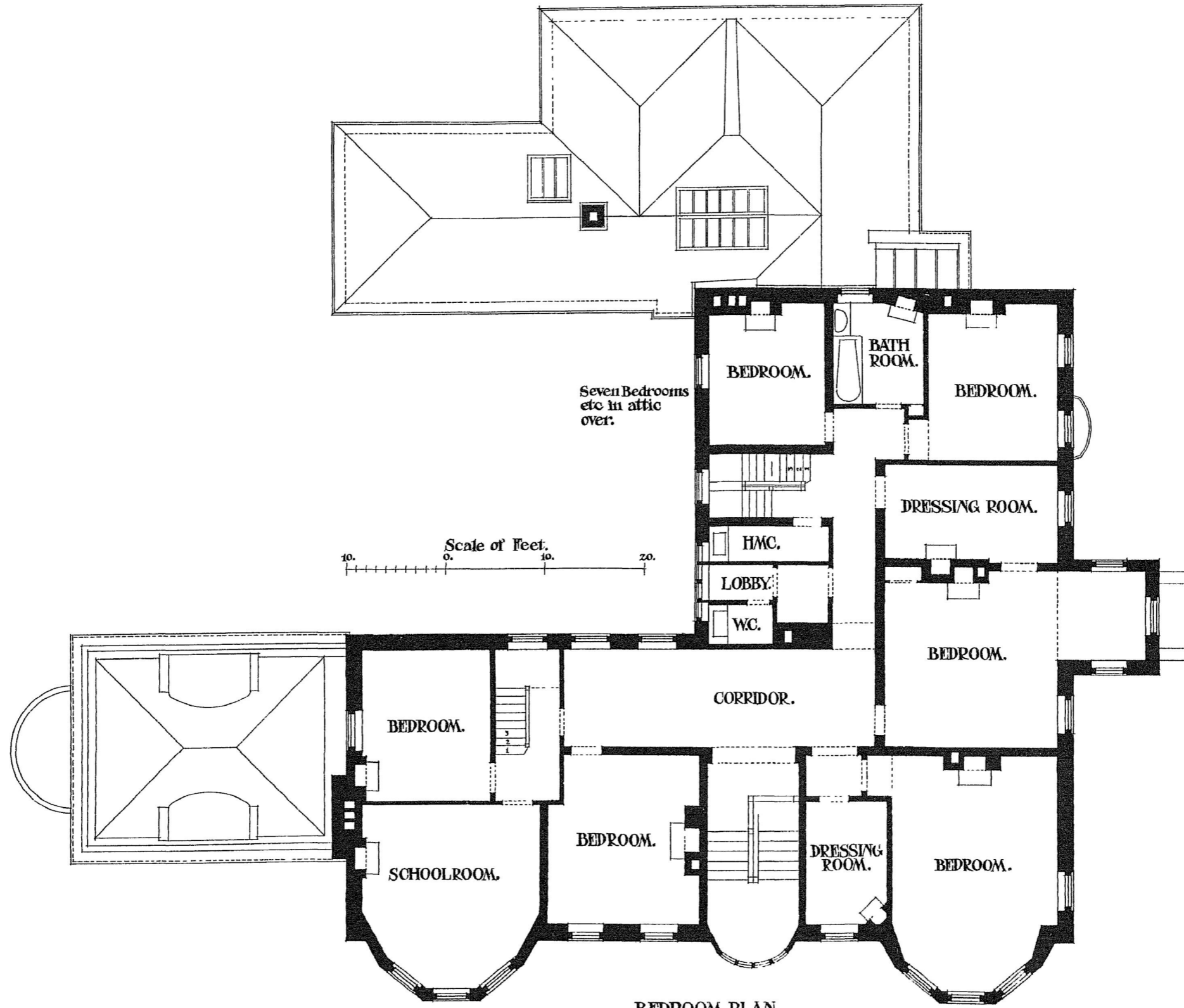




HOUSE No. X. GARDEN FRONT.



GROUND PLAN.
HOUSE No. X.



BEDROOM PLAN.
HOUSE No. X.

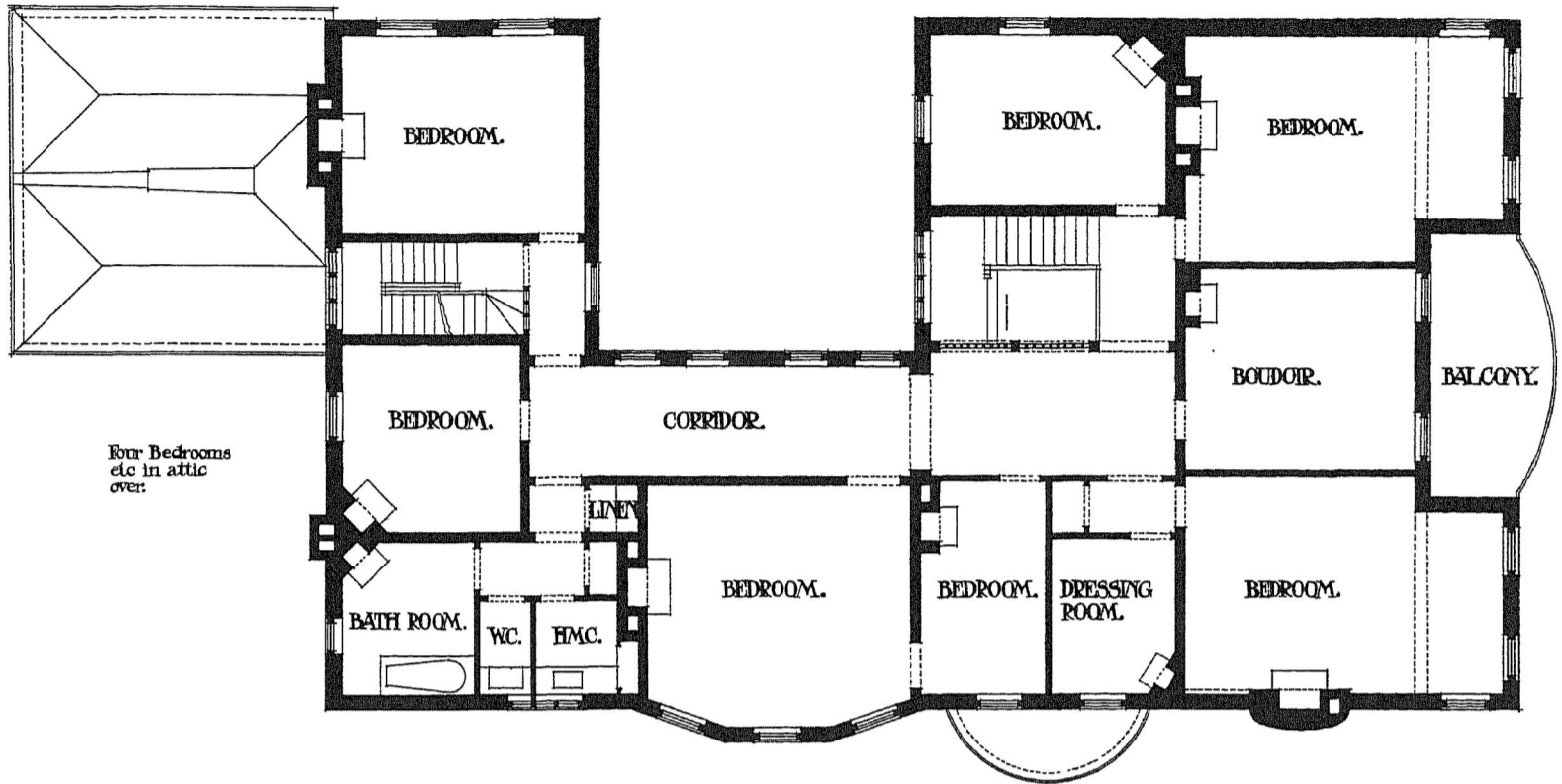


J. Akerman, Photo lith London.

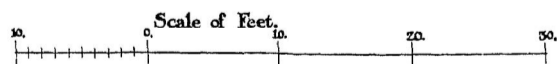
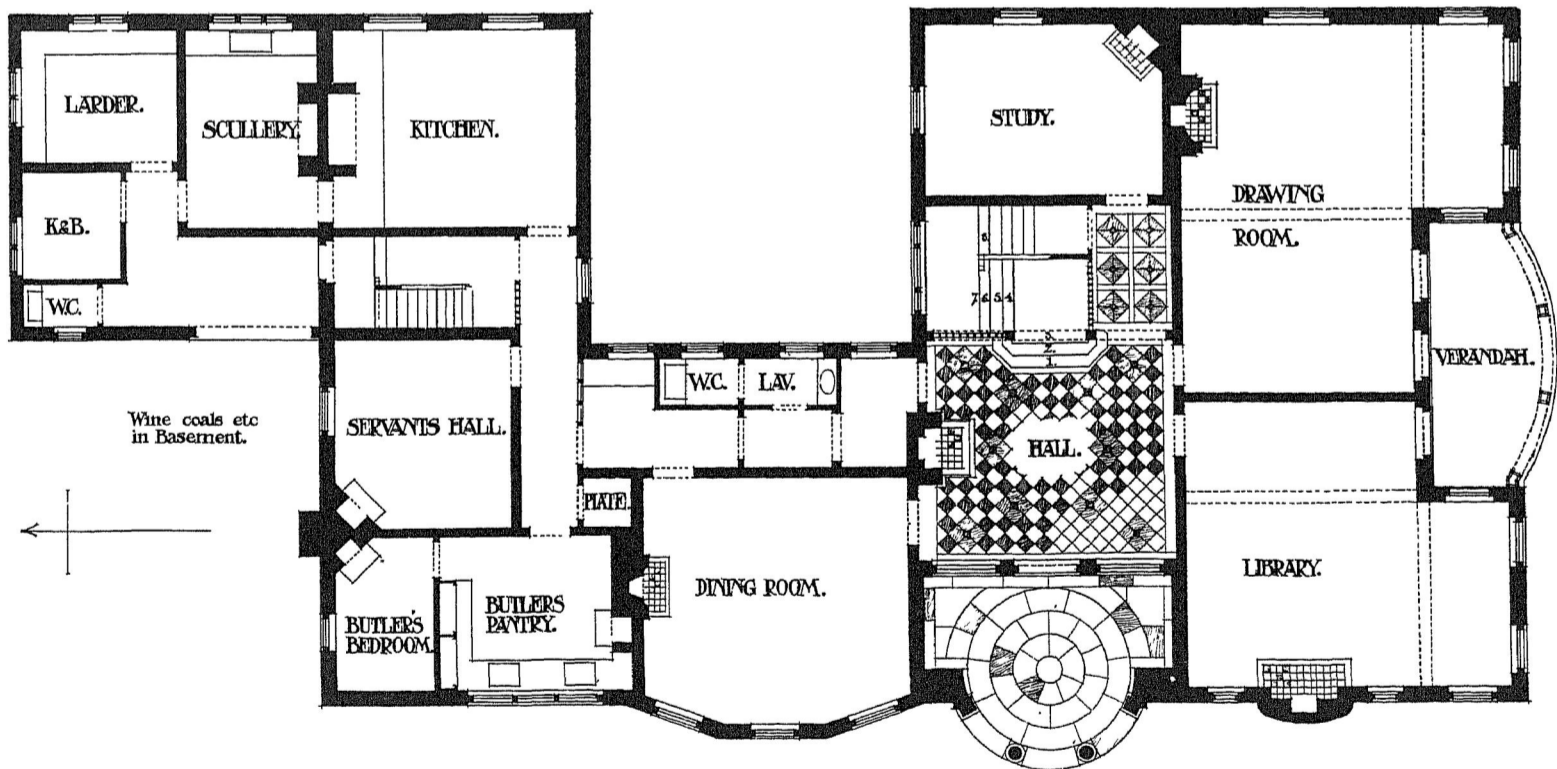
HOUSE NO. XI.—GENERAL VIEW.



HOUSE No. XI. THE HALL.



BEDROOM PLAN.



GROUND PLAN.

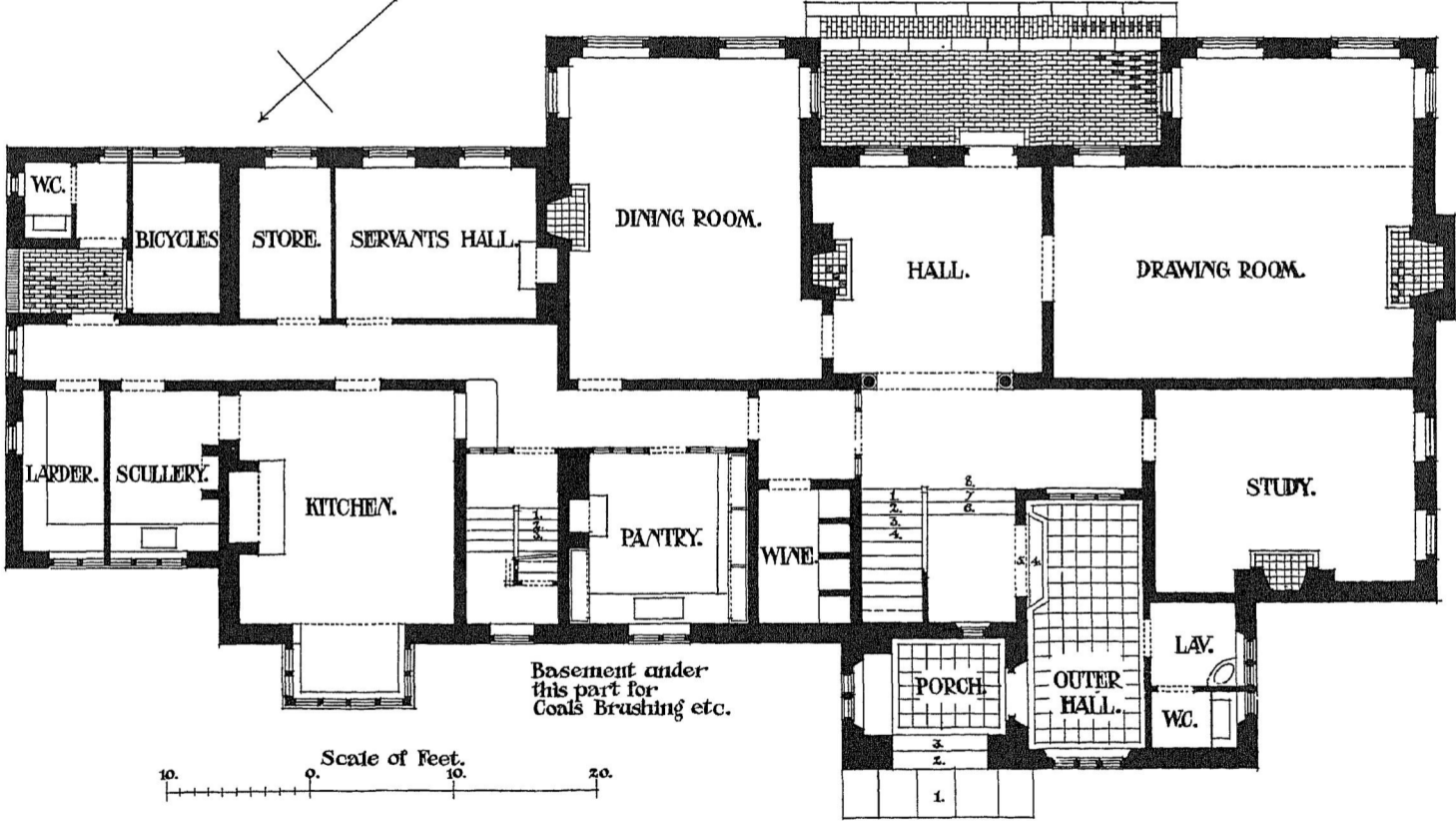
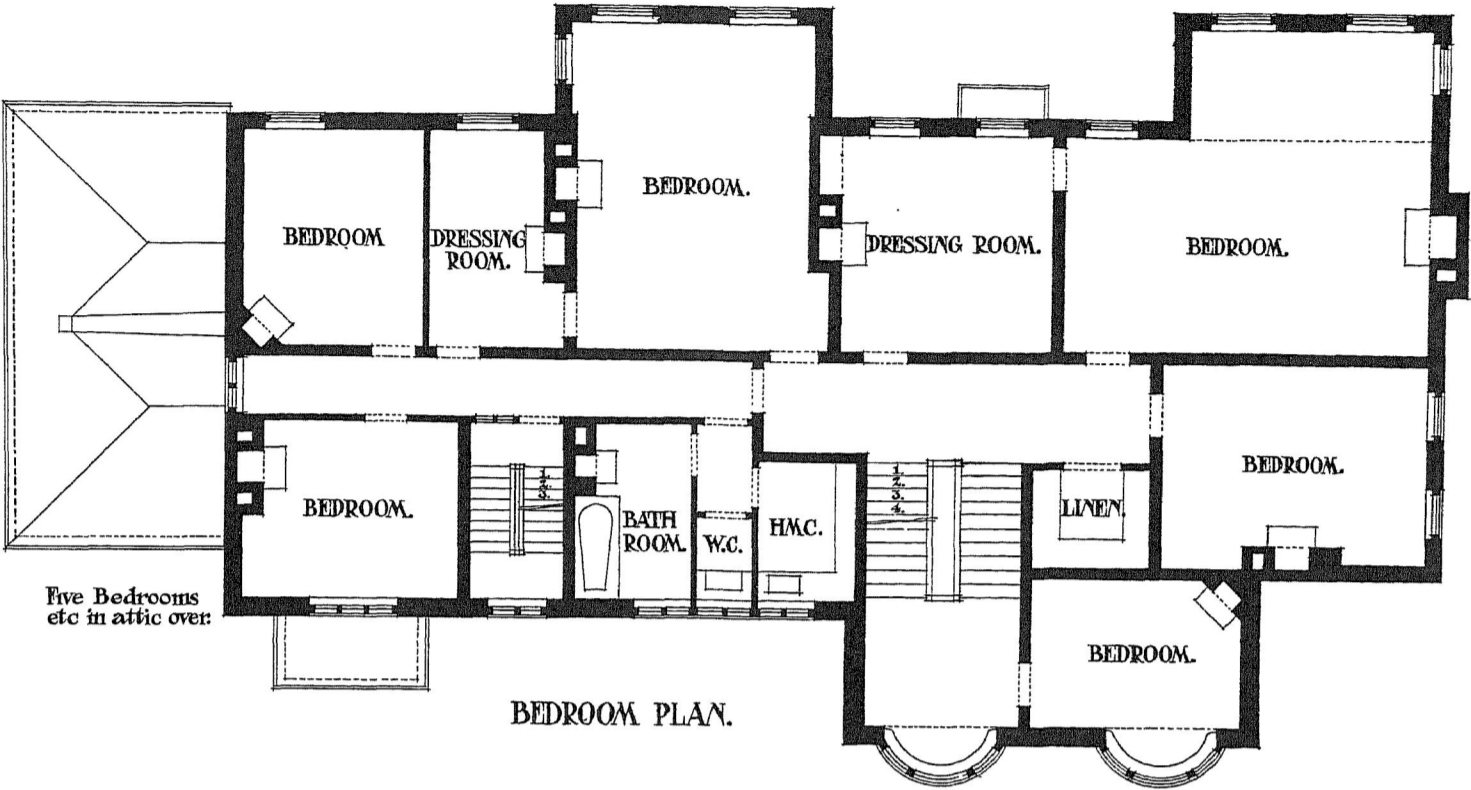
HOUSE No XI. PLANS.



HOUSE No XII. ENTRANCE FRONT.



HOUSE No. XII. GARDEN FRONT.



HOUSE No XII. PLANS.



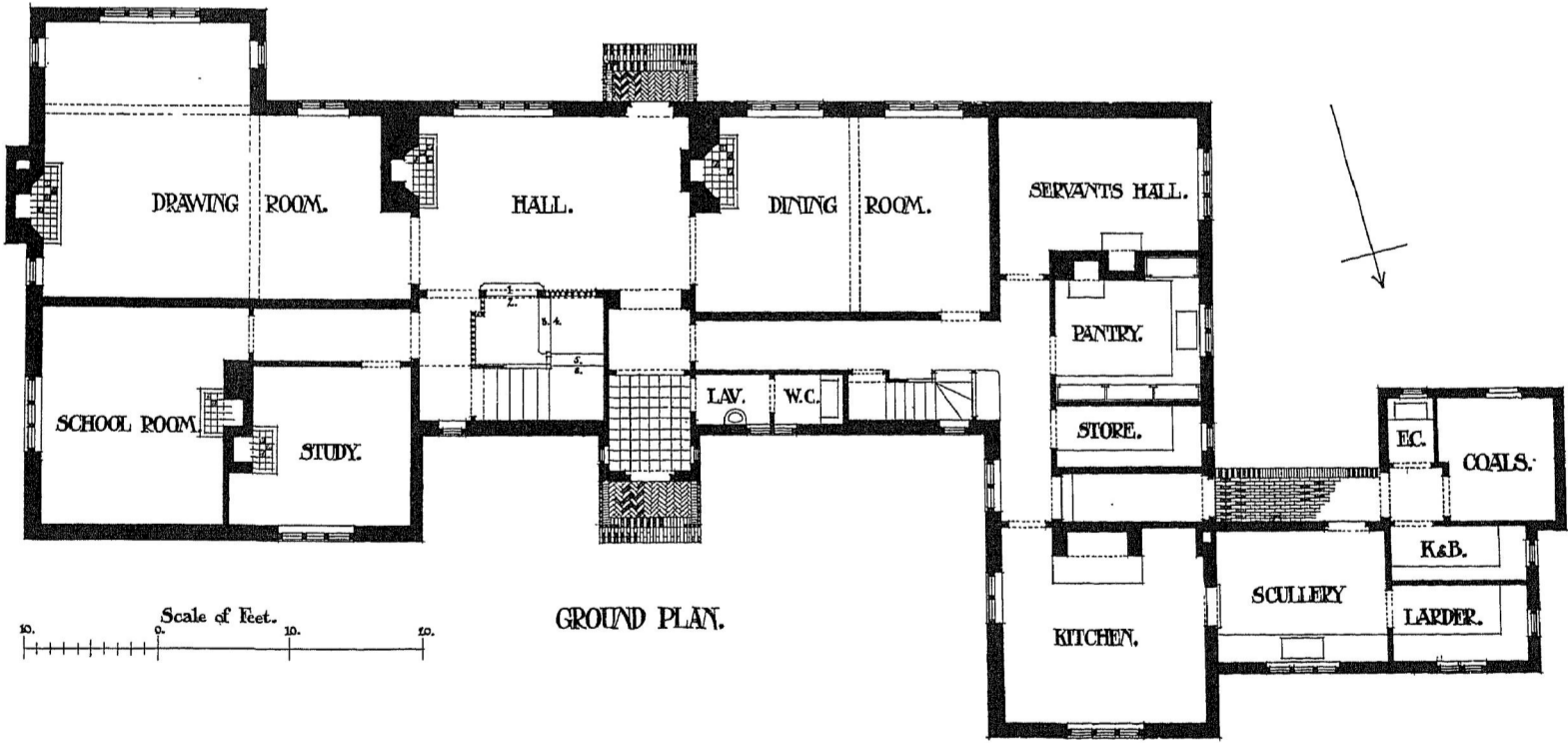
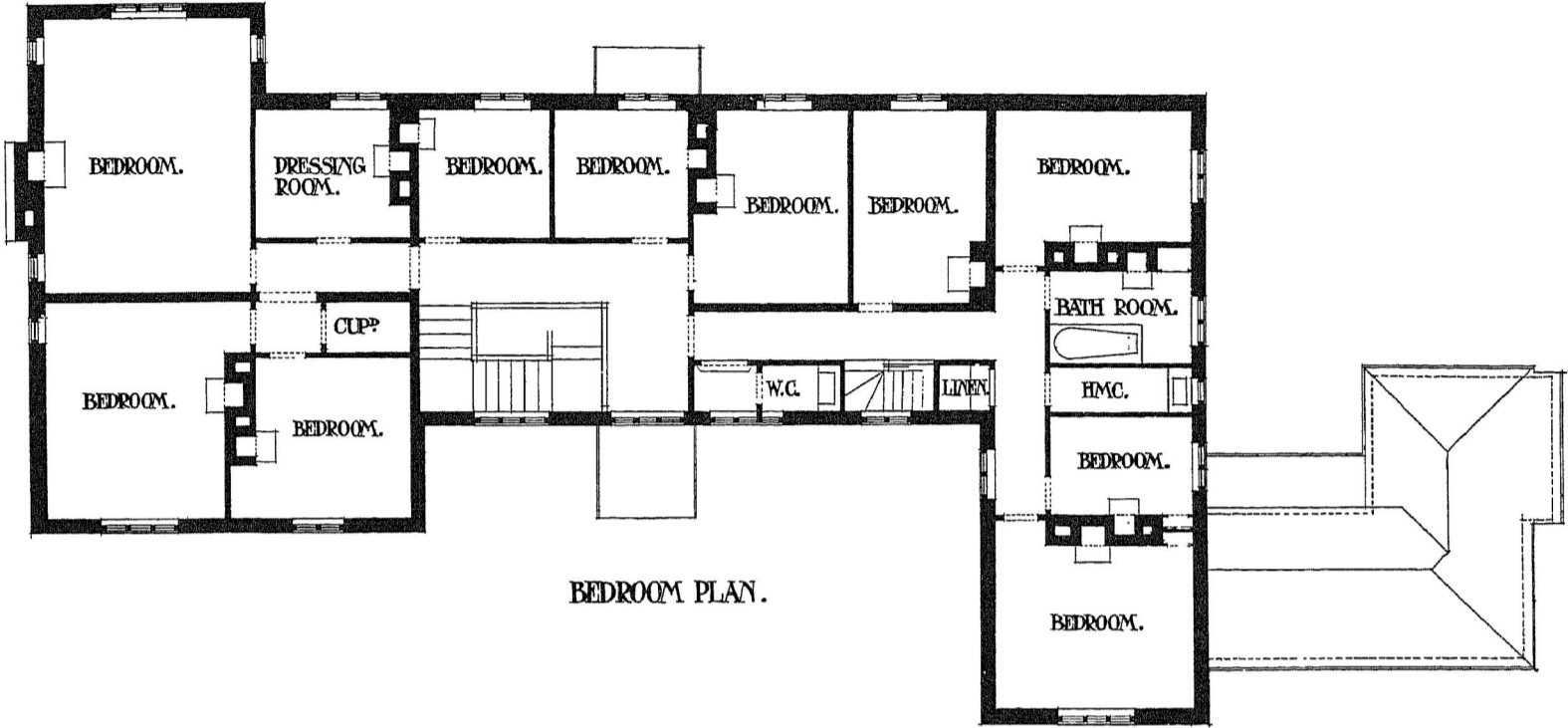


HOUSE NO. XIII.—ENTRANCE FRONT.

J. Akorn del. J. S. Smith sculp. N. Y.



HOUSE NO. XIII.—GARDEN FRONT.

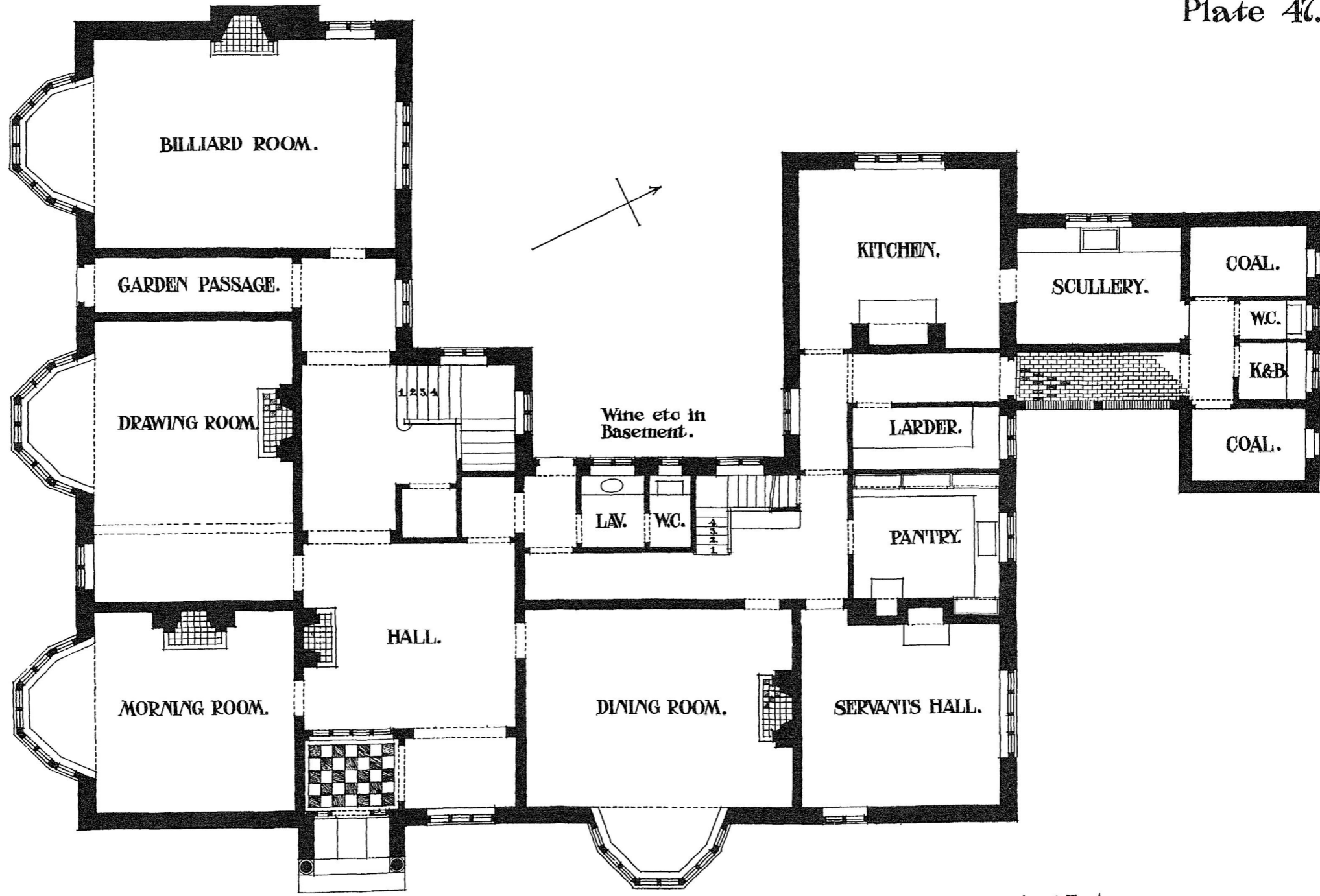


HOUSE N^o XIII. PLANS.



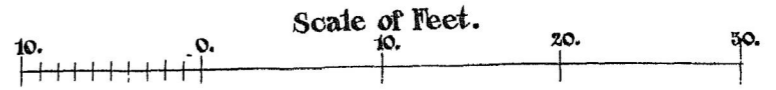
J. Alcockson Photo Lith. London

HOUSE NO. XIV.—GENERAL VIEW.



GROUND PLAN.

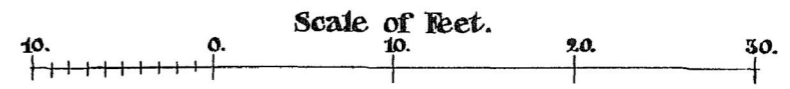
HOUSE No. XIV.





BEDROOM PLAN.

HOUSE No. XIV.

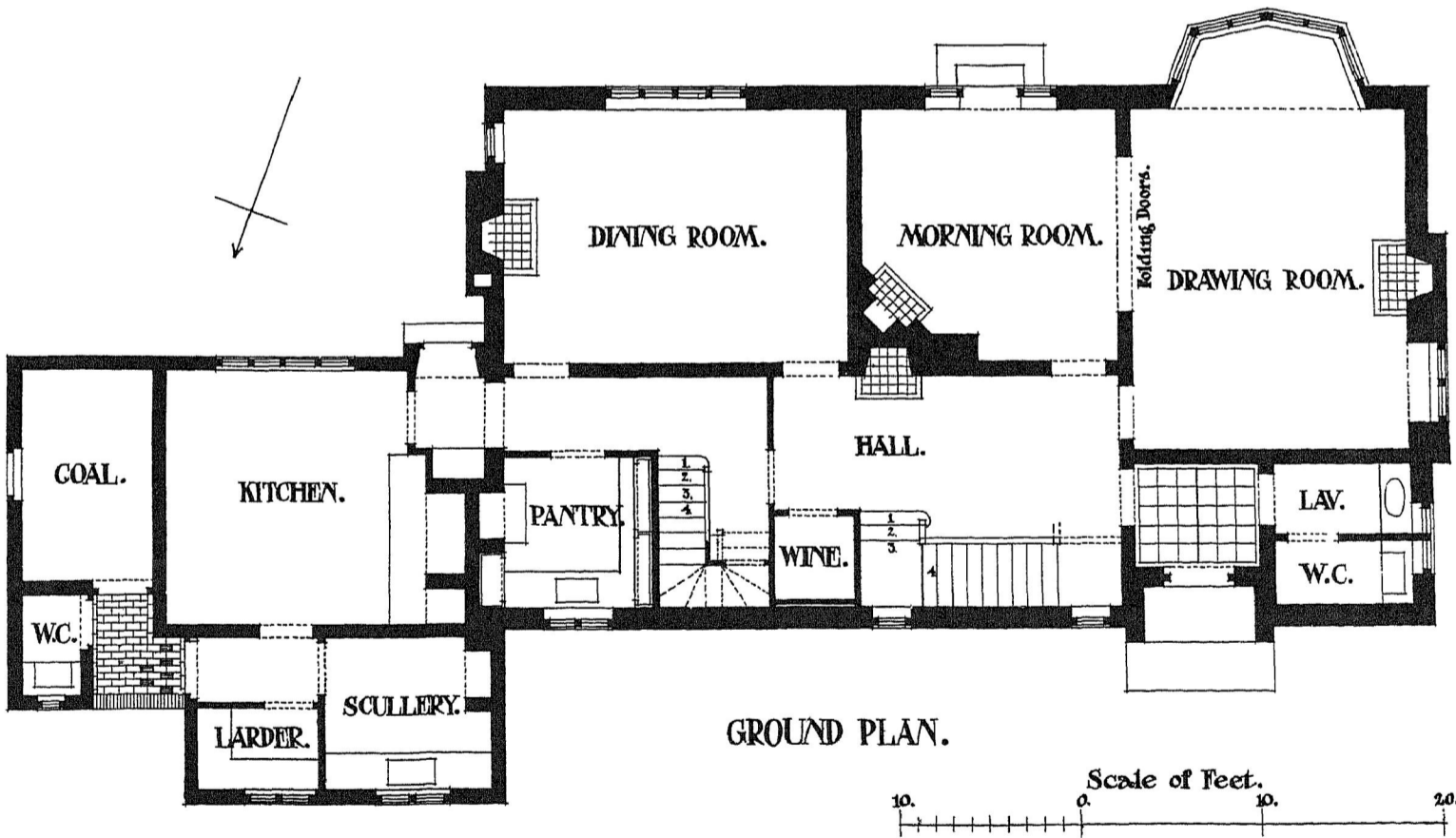
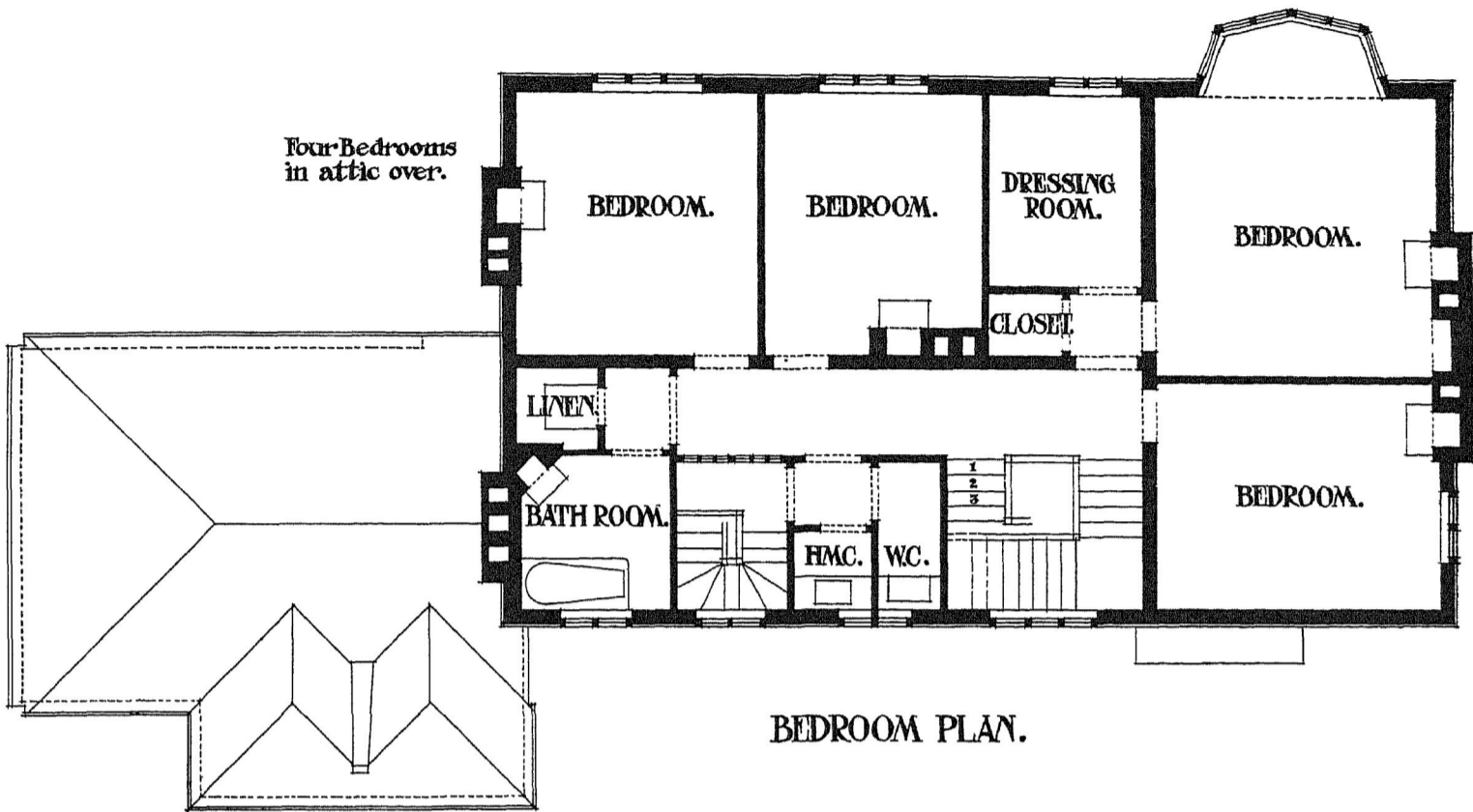




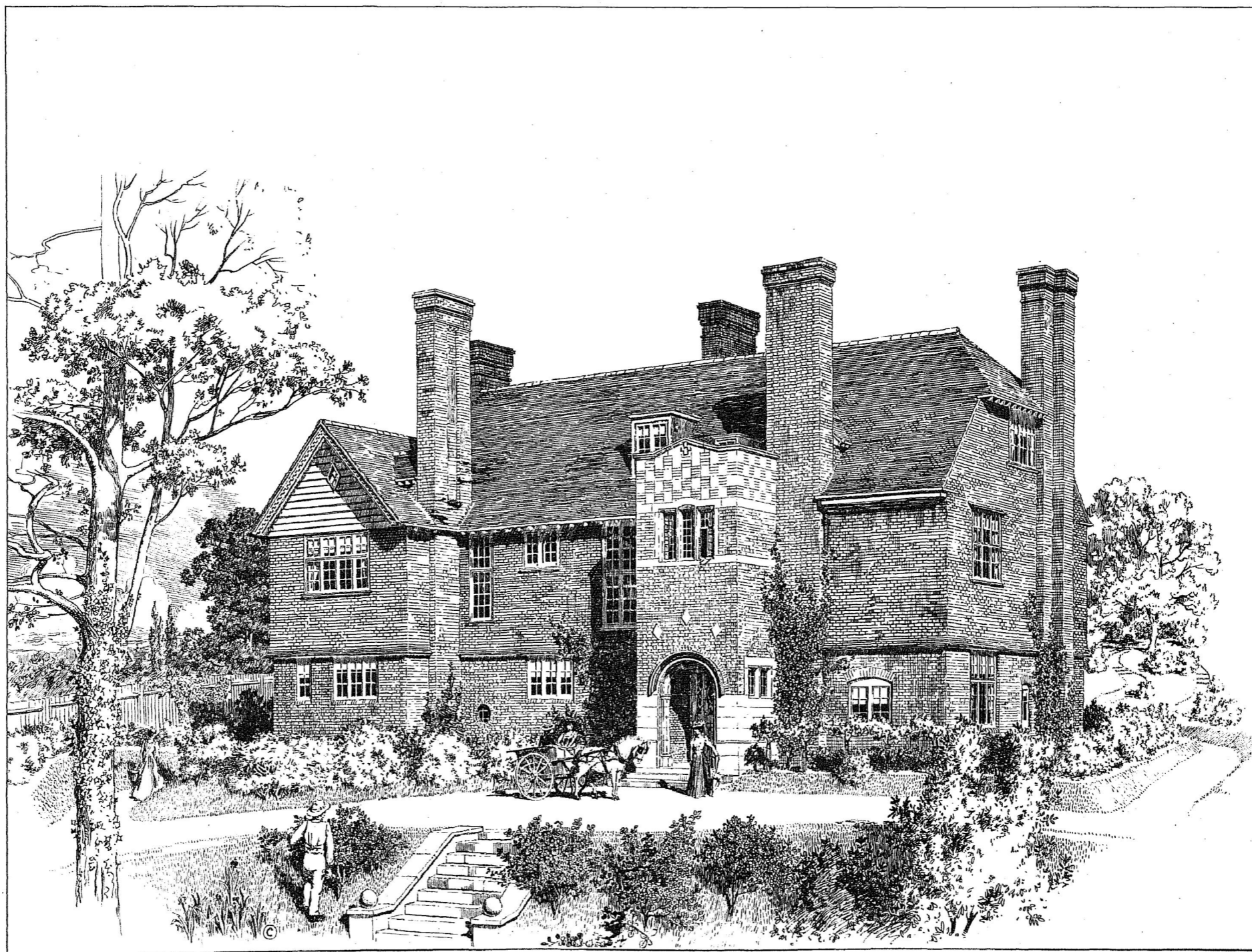
HOUSE No. XV. ENTRANCE FRONT.



HOUSE No. XV. GARDEN FRONT.



HOUSE No XV. PLANS.



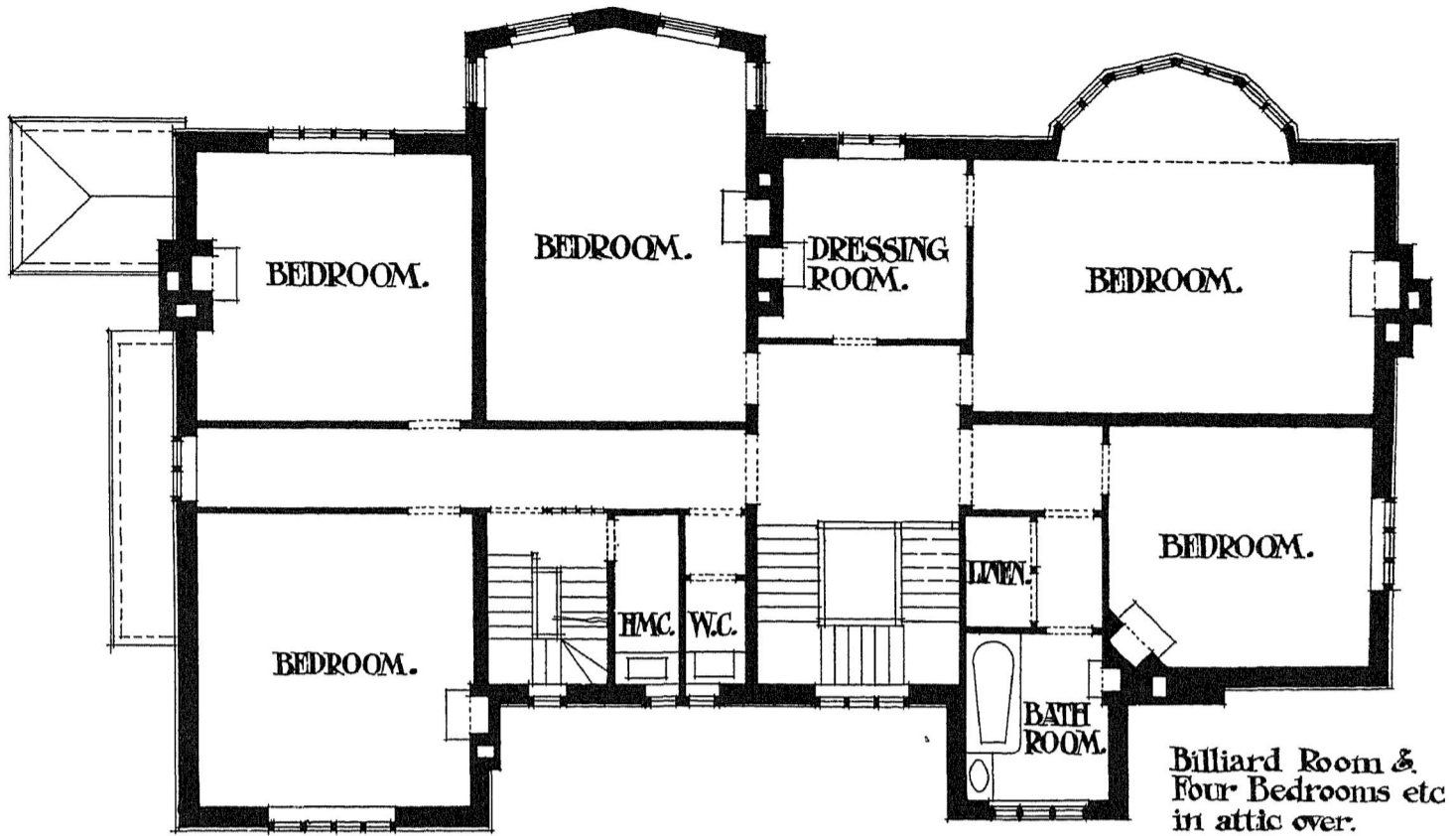
HOUSE NO. XVI.—ENTRANCE FRONT.



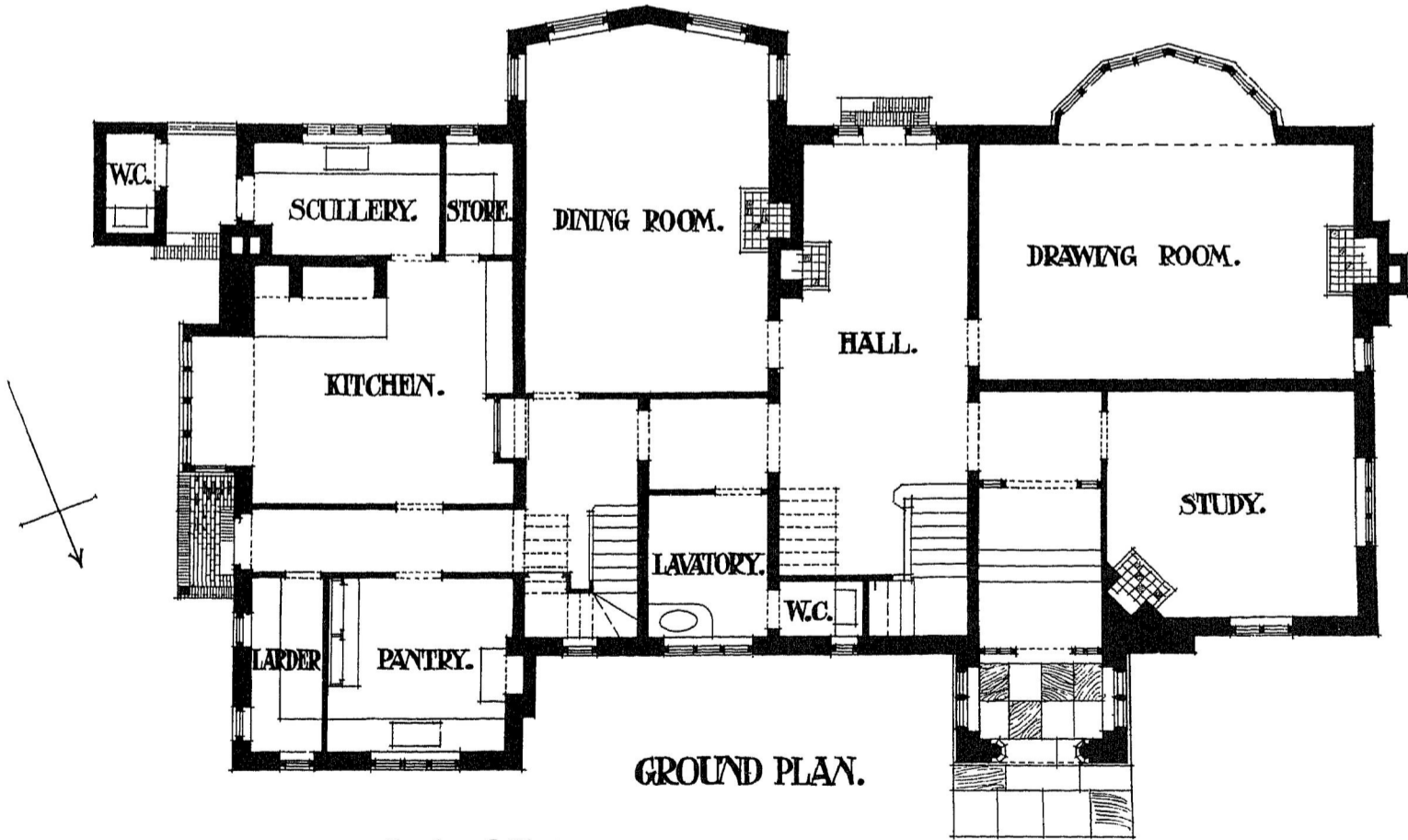


J Akerman, Photo lith London

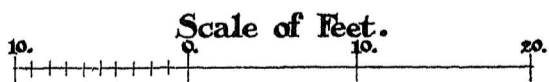
HOUSE NO. XVI.—GARDEN FRONT.



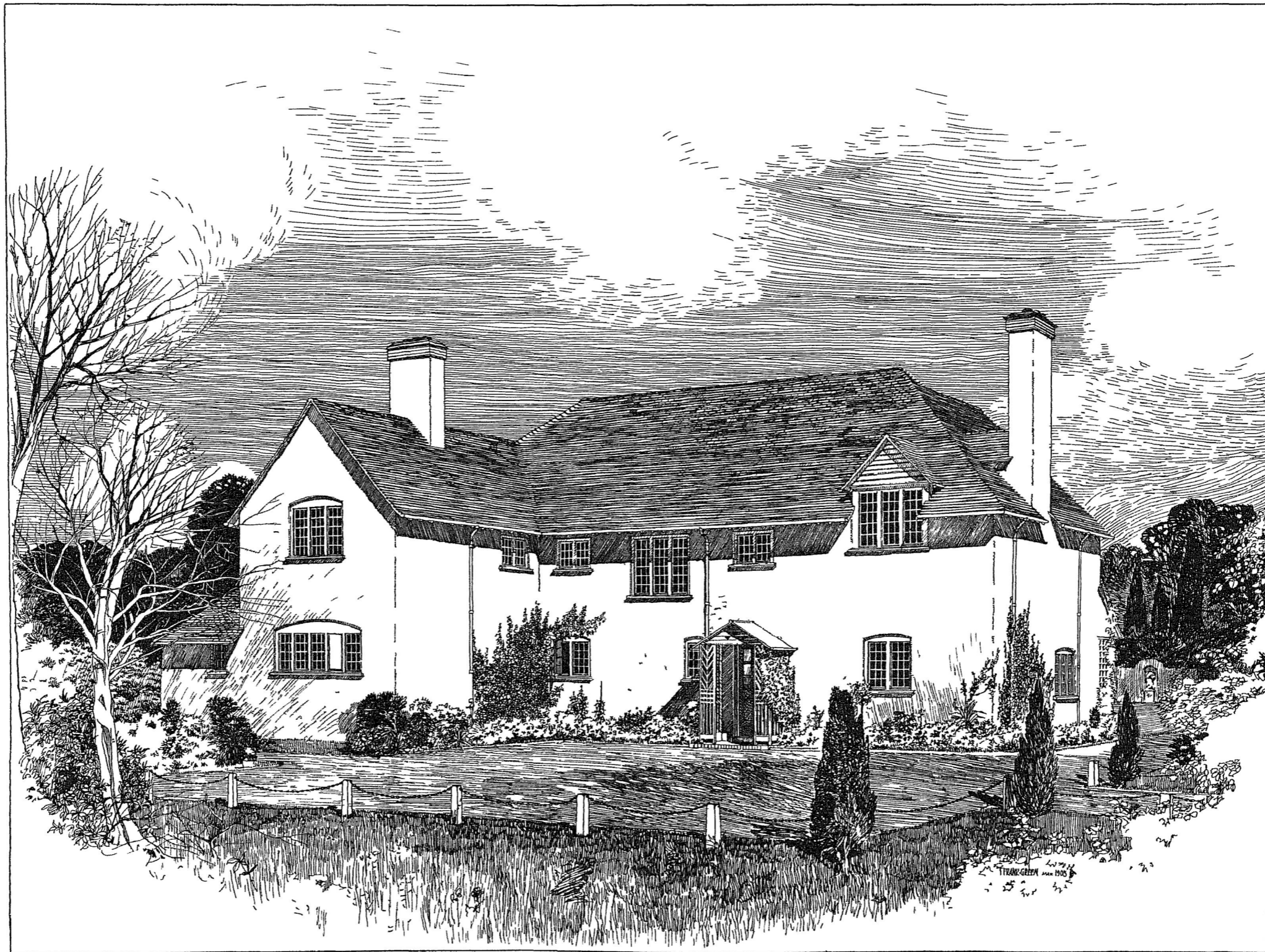
BEDROOM PLAN.



GROUND PLAN.



HOUSE No. XVI. PLANS.



HOUSE NO XVII.—ENTRANCE FRONT.

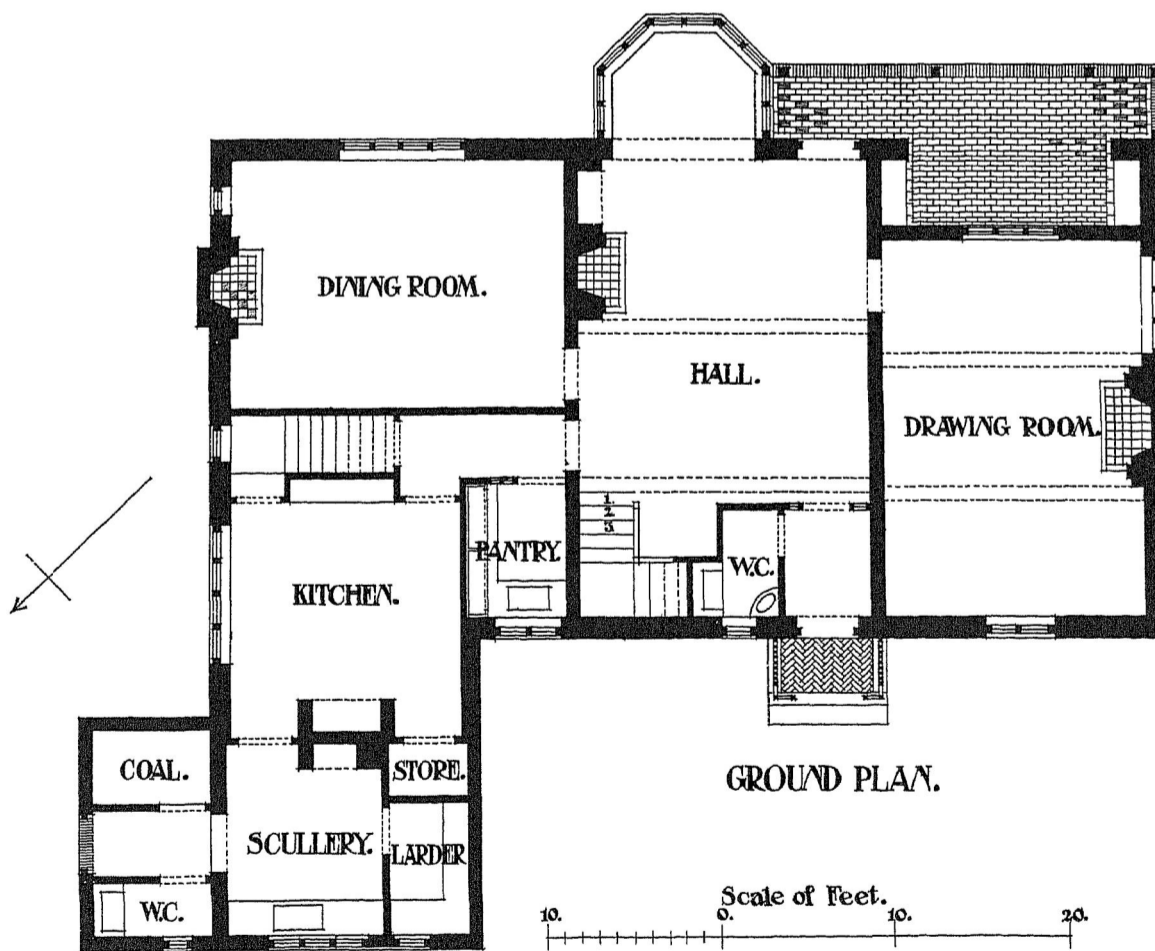
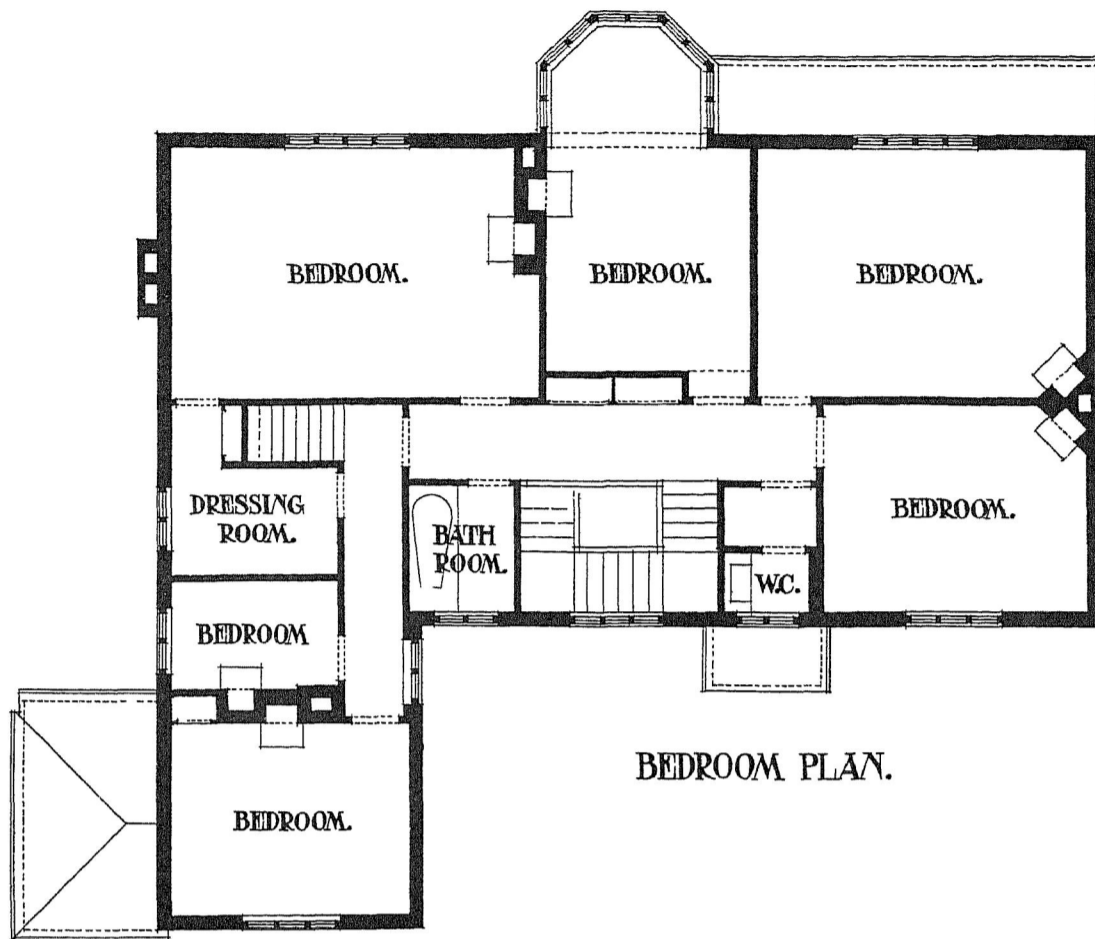
J. ASPERGER Lith Lond n



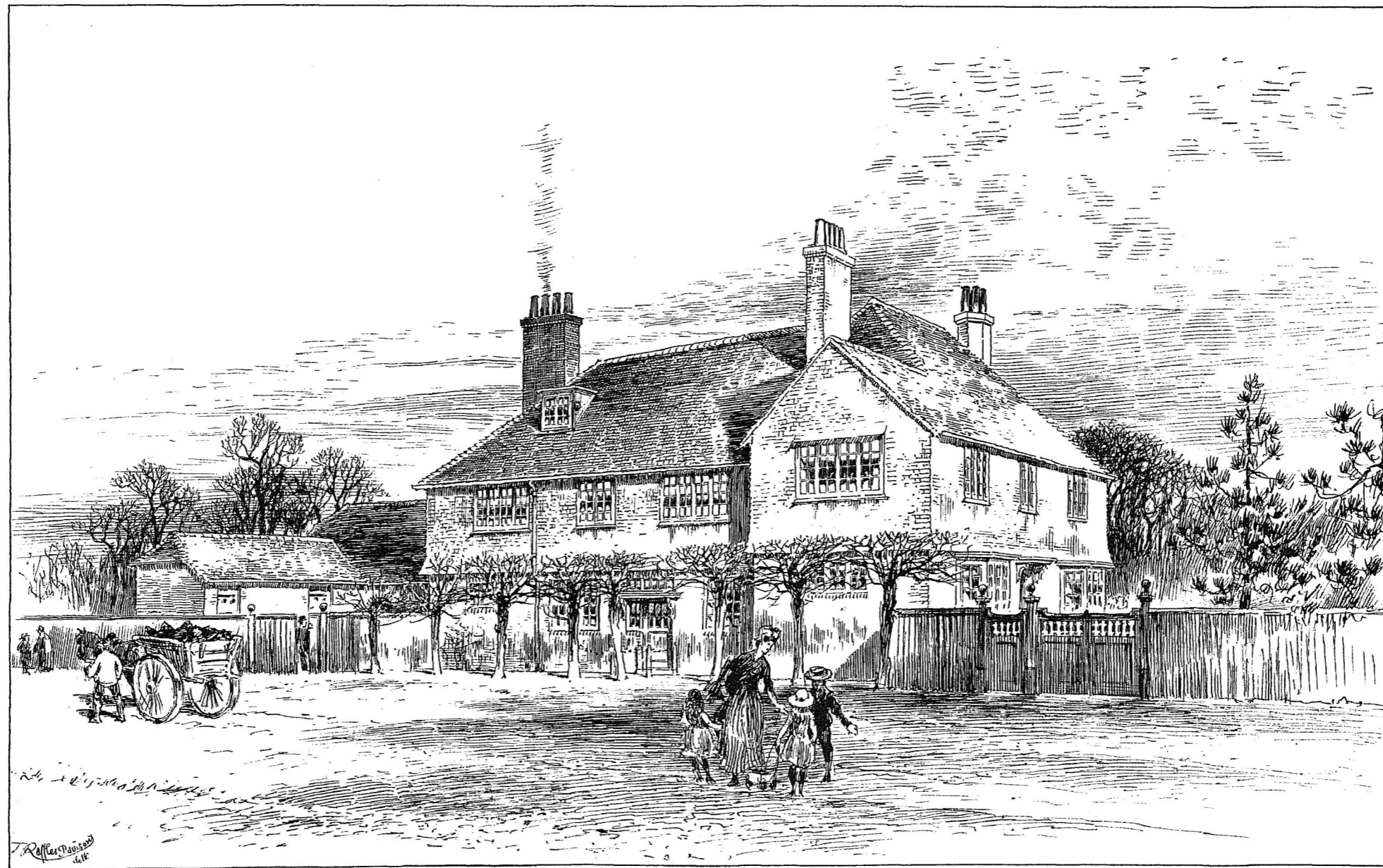


HOUSE NO. XVII.—GARDEN FRONT.

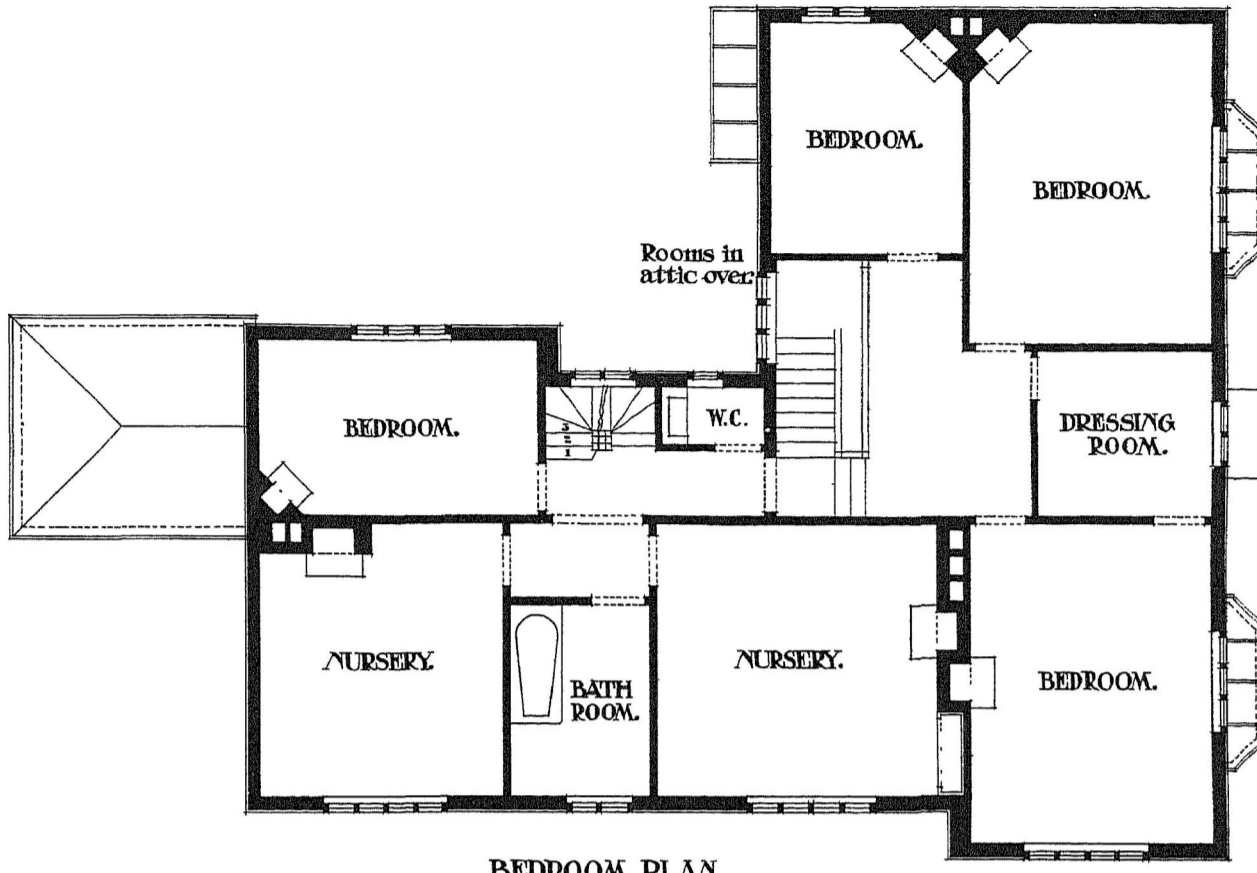
J. Akerman. Photo lith. London.



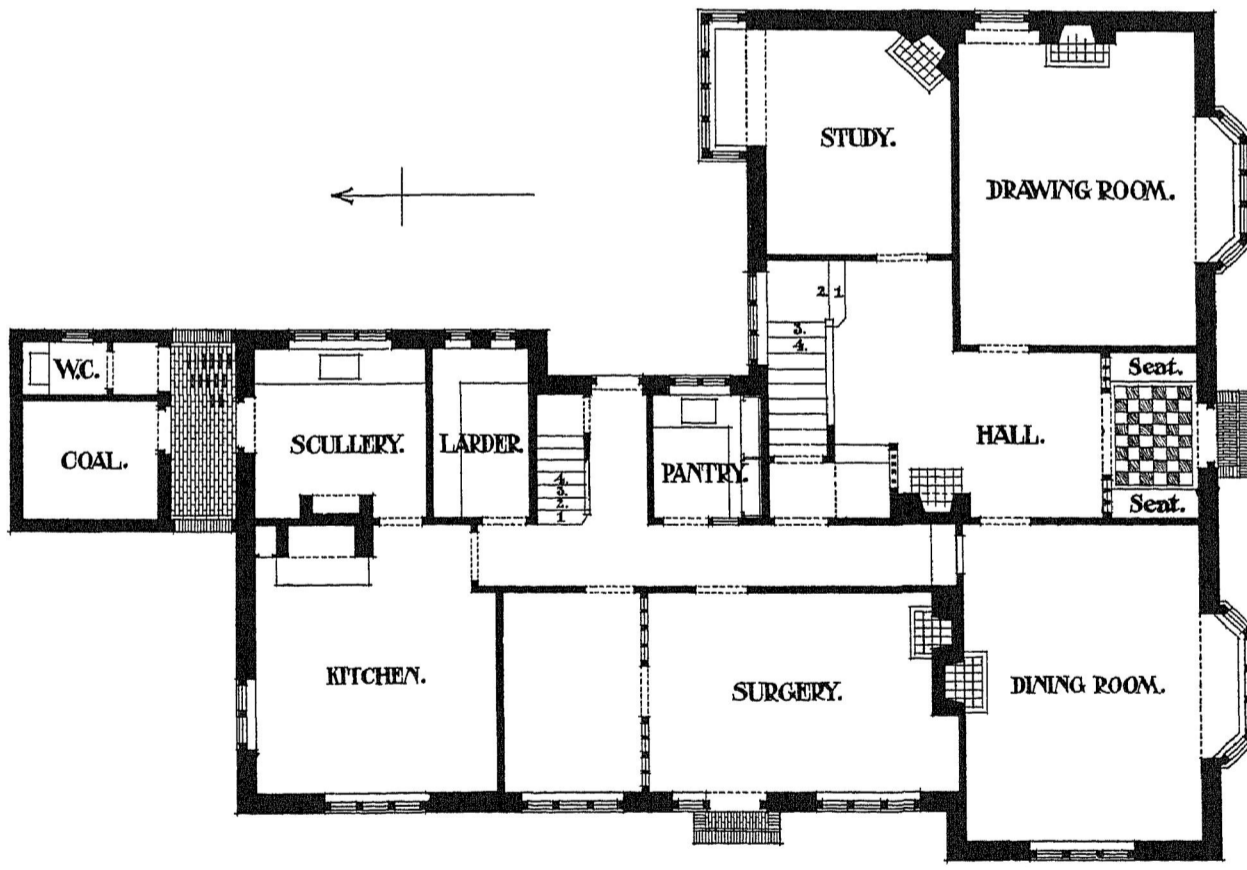
HOUSE No XVII. PLANS.



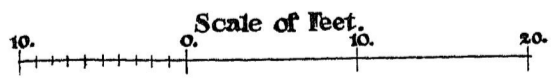
HOUSE NO. XVIII.—GENERAL VIEW.



BEDROOM PLAN.



GROUND PLAN.



HOUSE No XVIII. PLANS.

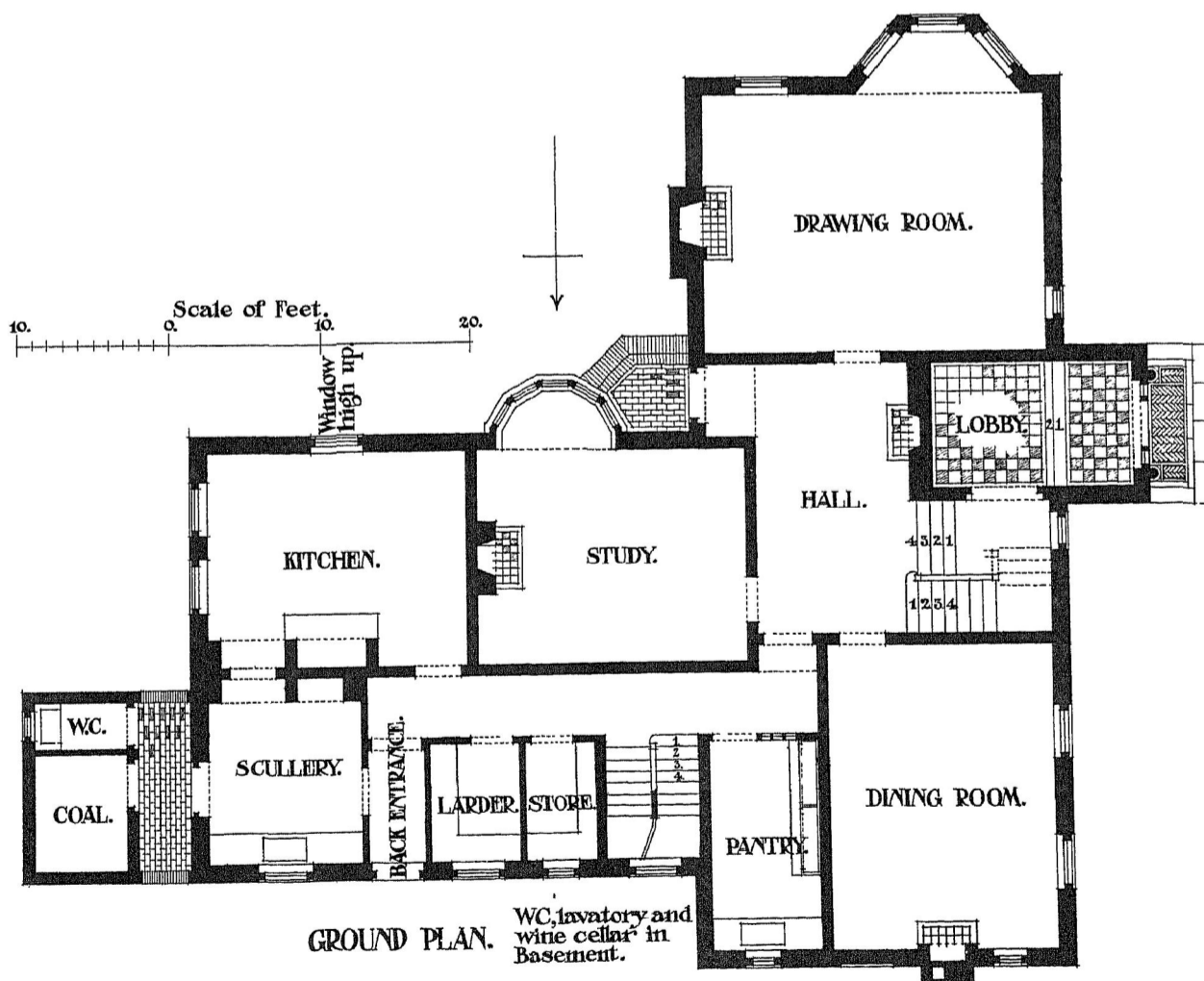




HOUSE No. XIX. ENTRANCE FRONT.



HOUSE No XIX. GARDEN FRONT.



HOUSE No. XIX. PLANS.

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