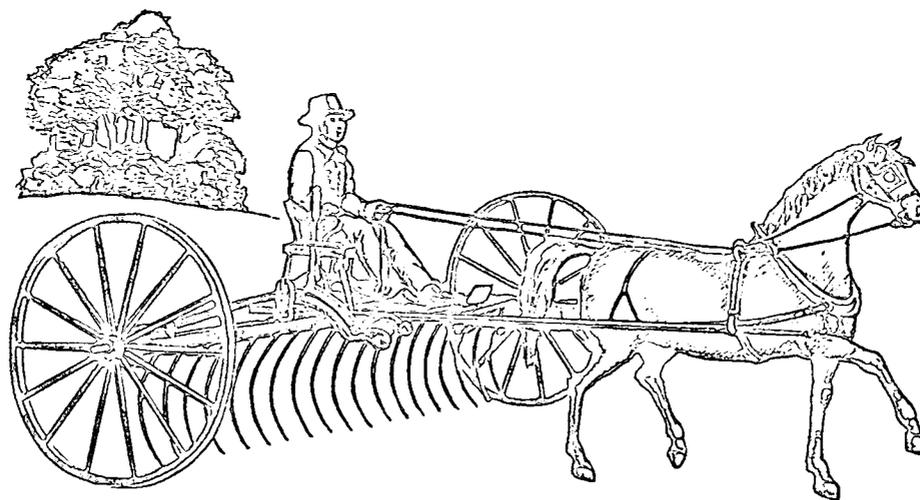


Our Town



BARBER. M.M.

North Branford AND Northford

The Second and North Society of Branford was established in 1724 by the sons and grandsons of Branford's first families who had begun to settle in the northern part of Totoket about 1698. The church was established in October 1727 with the Rev. Jonathan Merrick as its first minister. In 1750 the farmers in the northern part of town formed the Third Society of Branford, called Northford, and their first minister was the Rev. Warham Williams. Each society had a meeting house and there were seven school districts, each with its one-room school.

During the colonial period, the economy was based on forestry and agriculture. Mills along the river sawed the lumber, ground the grains, and fulled the wool, and orchards provided fruit to be pressed into cider or distilled into liquor. Linen and woolen cloth for sale or barter was woven on large looms in the homes. All the produce and products could be exported through the thriving port at the mouth of Branford River.

The town supported the rebellion against England and over 100 men from North Branford and Northford fought in the Revolutionary War, among them Col. William Douglas and Rev. Samuel Eells.

The nineteenth century saw a rise of industry along the Farm River in Northford where mills were built by the Fowler's, Todd's, Bartholomew's, Maltby's, Steven's, and Smith's to make tinware, nails, pins, buttons, rivets, cocoanut dippers, dessicated cocoanut, silver-plated flatware, self-operating horse hayrakes and more. Later greeting cards of all kinds were produced and for nearly a decade Northford was renowned as the Christmas card center of the world.

In May 1831, the second and third societies of Branford were incorporated as the town of North Branford and a board of three selectmen was elected at the first town meeting in the basement of the new North Branford Congregational Church.

The latter part of the 19th century saw the demise of industry as the factories, hampered by lack of water power and railroad transportation, closed or moved out of town, and the town's population dropped from over 1000 to about 800 people. However, the opening of the New Haven Trap Rock Quarry in 1914 started a population increase that continues today and the building of the Water Company dam in the late 1920's changed the geography of the town forever. Schools were consolidated with the building of Center School in 1920 and William Douglas in 1925, followed in 1929 by Jerome Harrison.

North Branford was a quiet country town until the end of World War II when it became one of the fastest growing suburbs of New Haven. For fifteen years beginning in 1956, there was a constant building of new schools and school additions. The old Center School became the town's first administration building and for the first time all town offices were housed in one building including the police department, formed in 1971. The new police station on Forest Road was occupied in 1975 and a new town hall was built in 1979. A new charter was approved in 1970, changing the government to a town council/town manager form and for that accomplishment, North Branford was honored as an All-American City. In 1976 the town joined the nation in celebrating its 200th anniversary and then celebrated its own Susquicentennial in 1981.

Today North Branford, with its rural atmosphere, stable government and excellent schools is still a most desirable place to live.

Janet S. Gregan - May 1992



**TOTOKET HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CENTER SCHOOL
1920-1960**

Lorane Black, A.F.A. ©

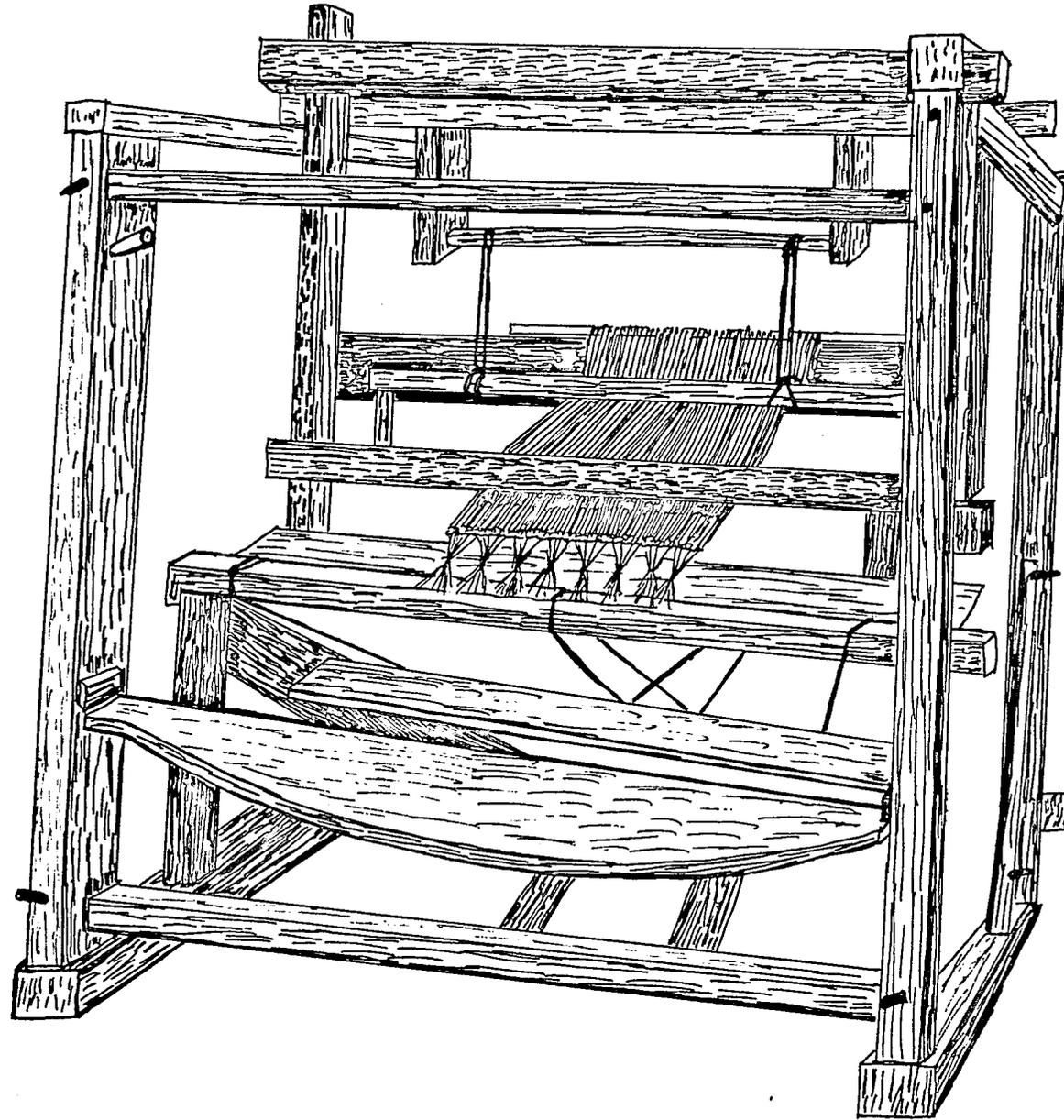
LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE
1805
Northford



Loranc Black, A.F.A.
©



SCHOOL DESK
Circa - 1880's



CLOTH WEAVING LOOM
Circa 1750

Lorane Black, A.F.A. ©



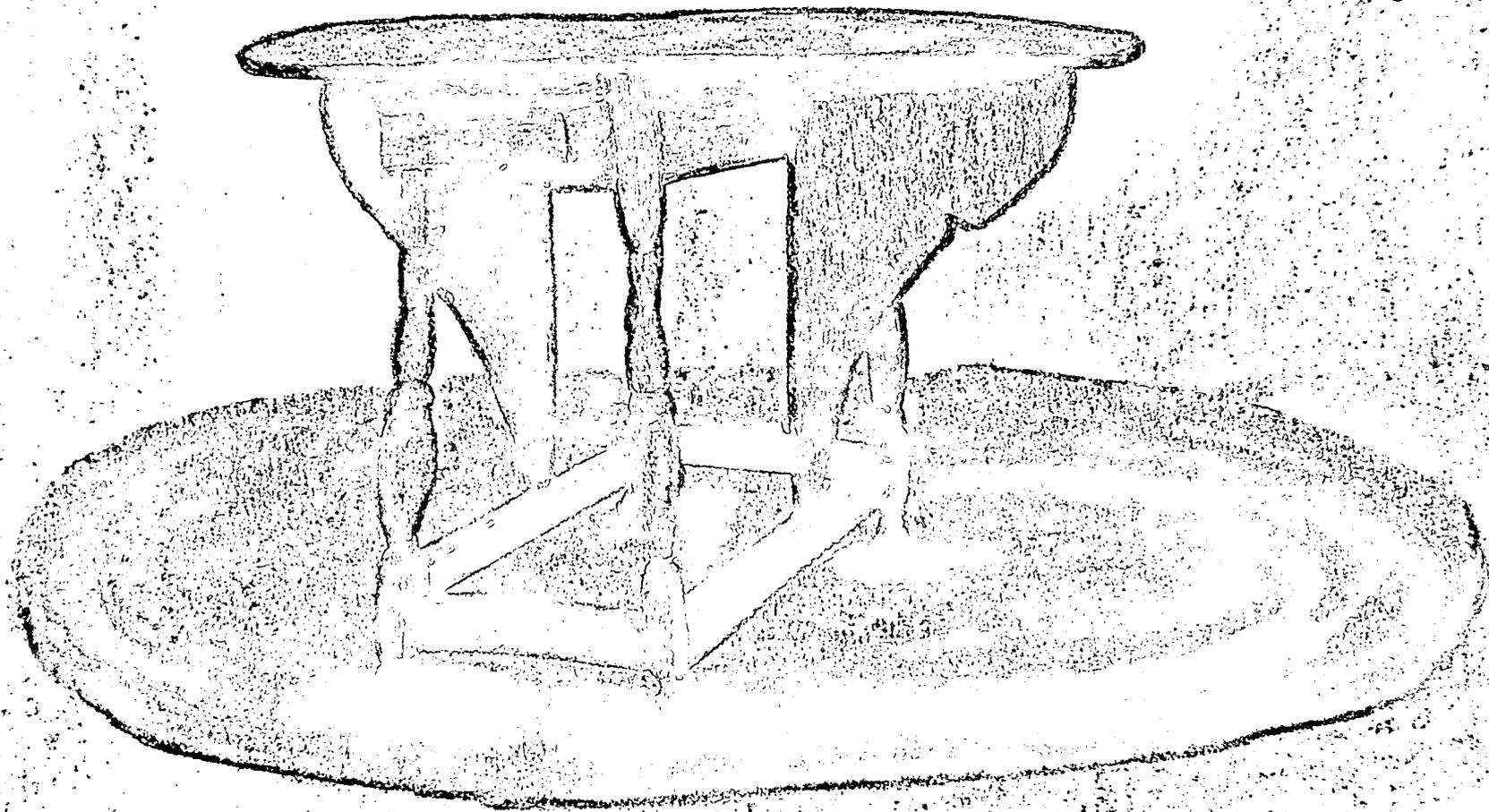
Lorane Black A.H.A.

JOSIAH ROGER'S HOME
1700
Northford



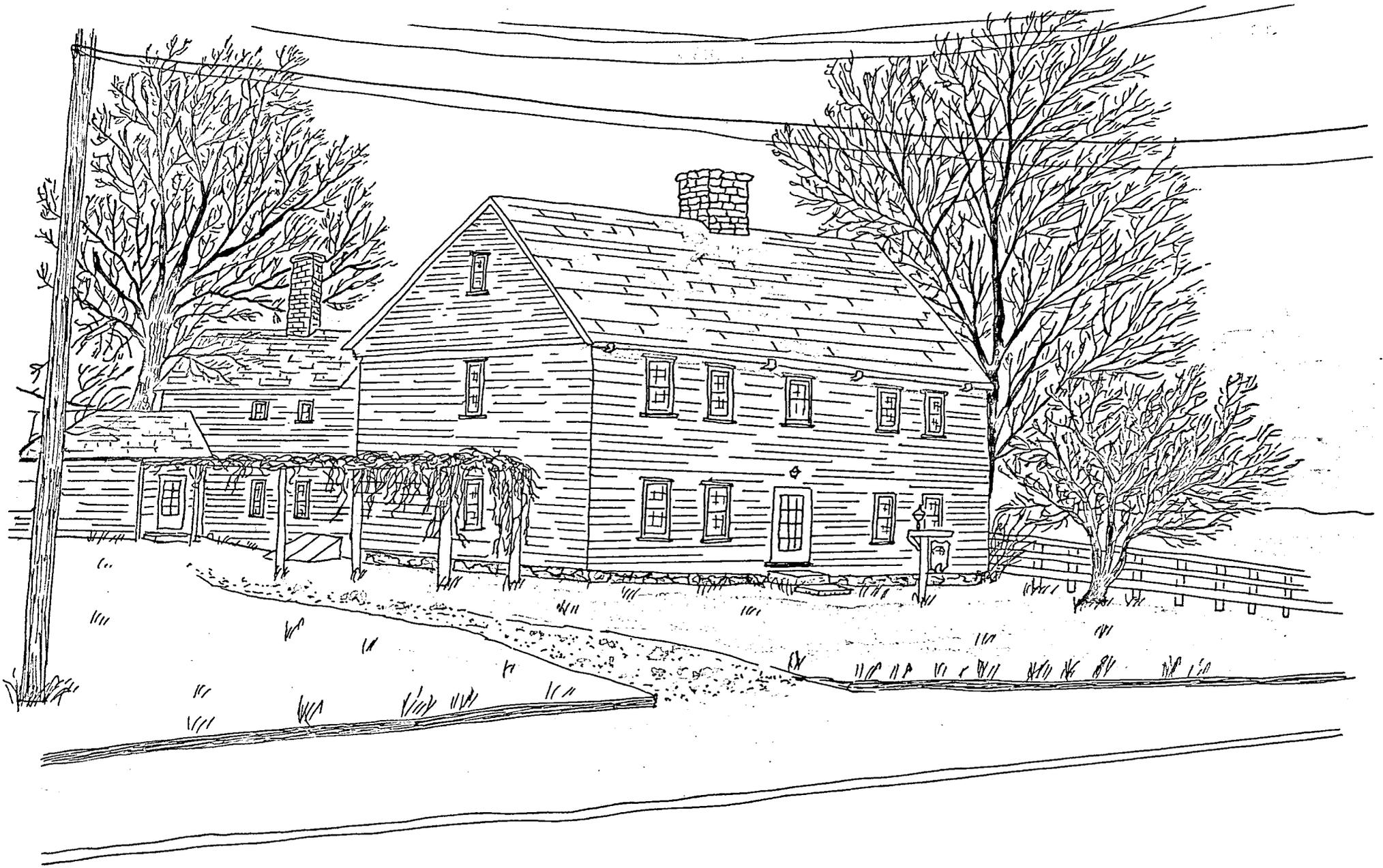
Lorane Black, A.F.A. ©

DANIEL LINSLEY HOME
1725
Northford



BUTTERFLY TABLE
Circa 1700

Lorane Black, A.F.A. ©

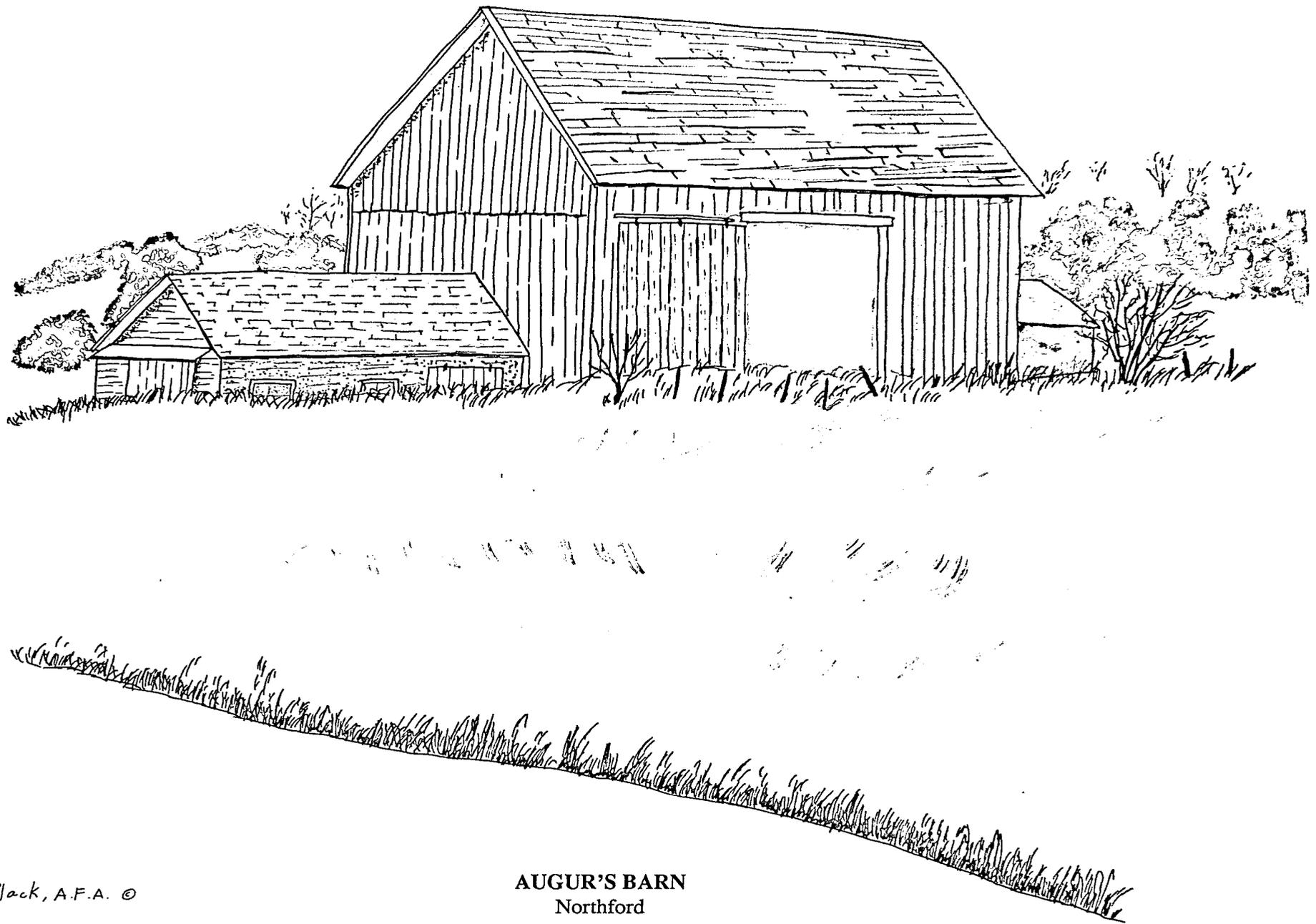


ROLLING ACRES
JOHN LINSLEY HOME
1698
North Branford



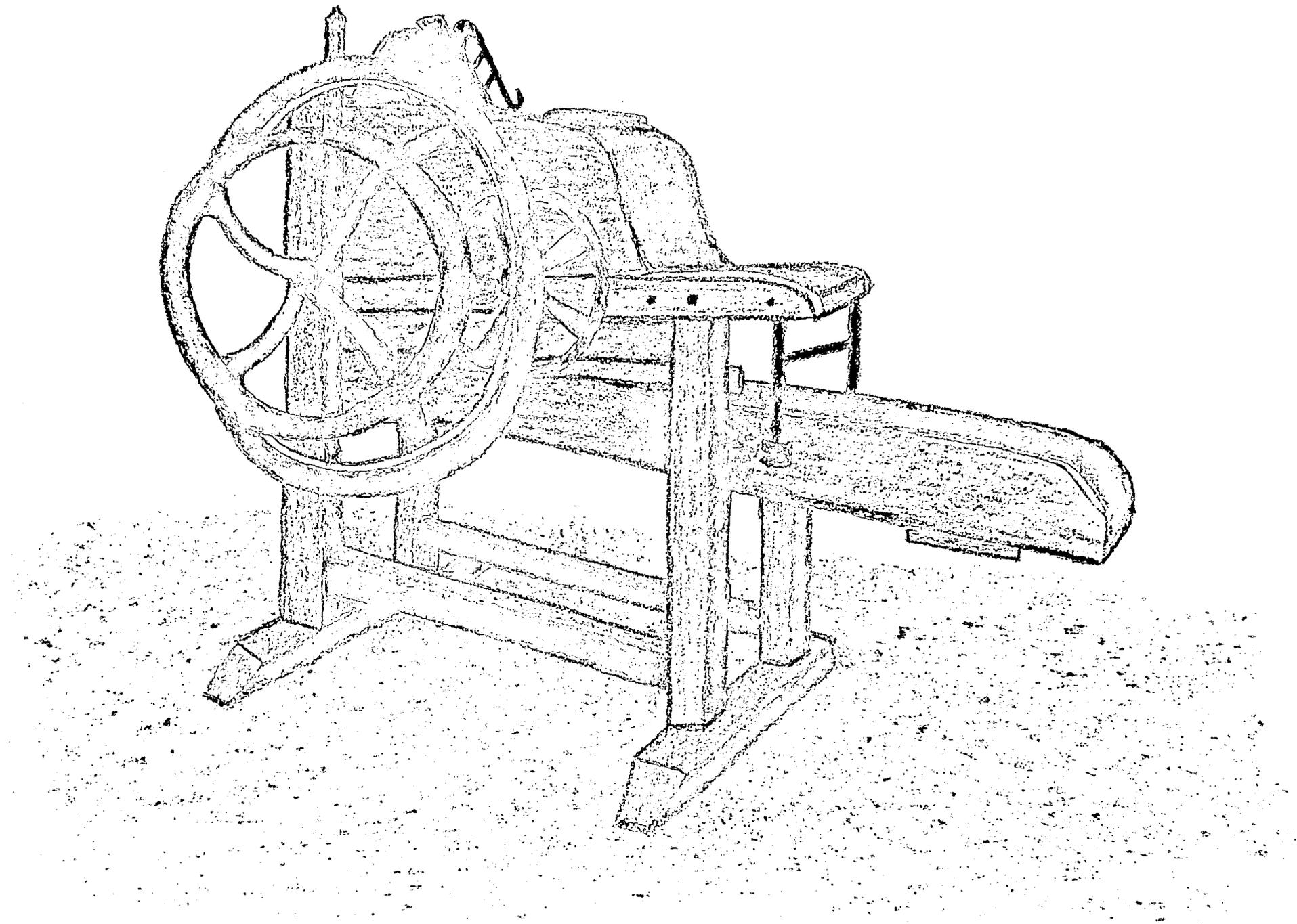
ROLLING ACRES BARN
North Branford

Lorane Black, A.F.A. ©



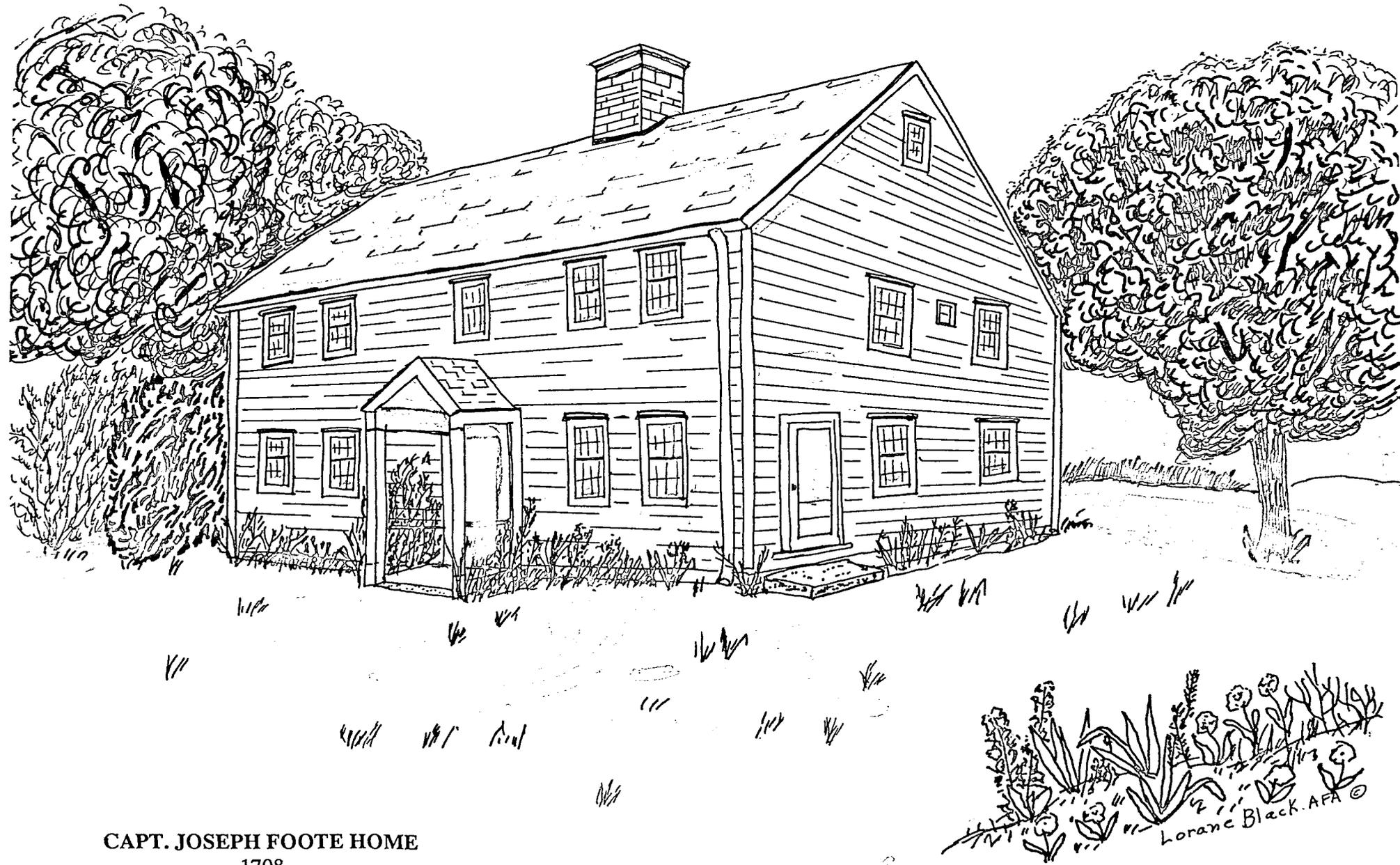
Lorane Black, A.F.A. ©

AUGUR'S BARN
Northford

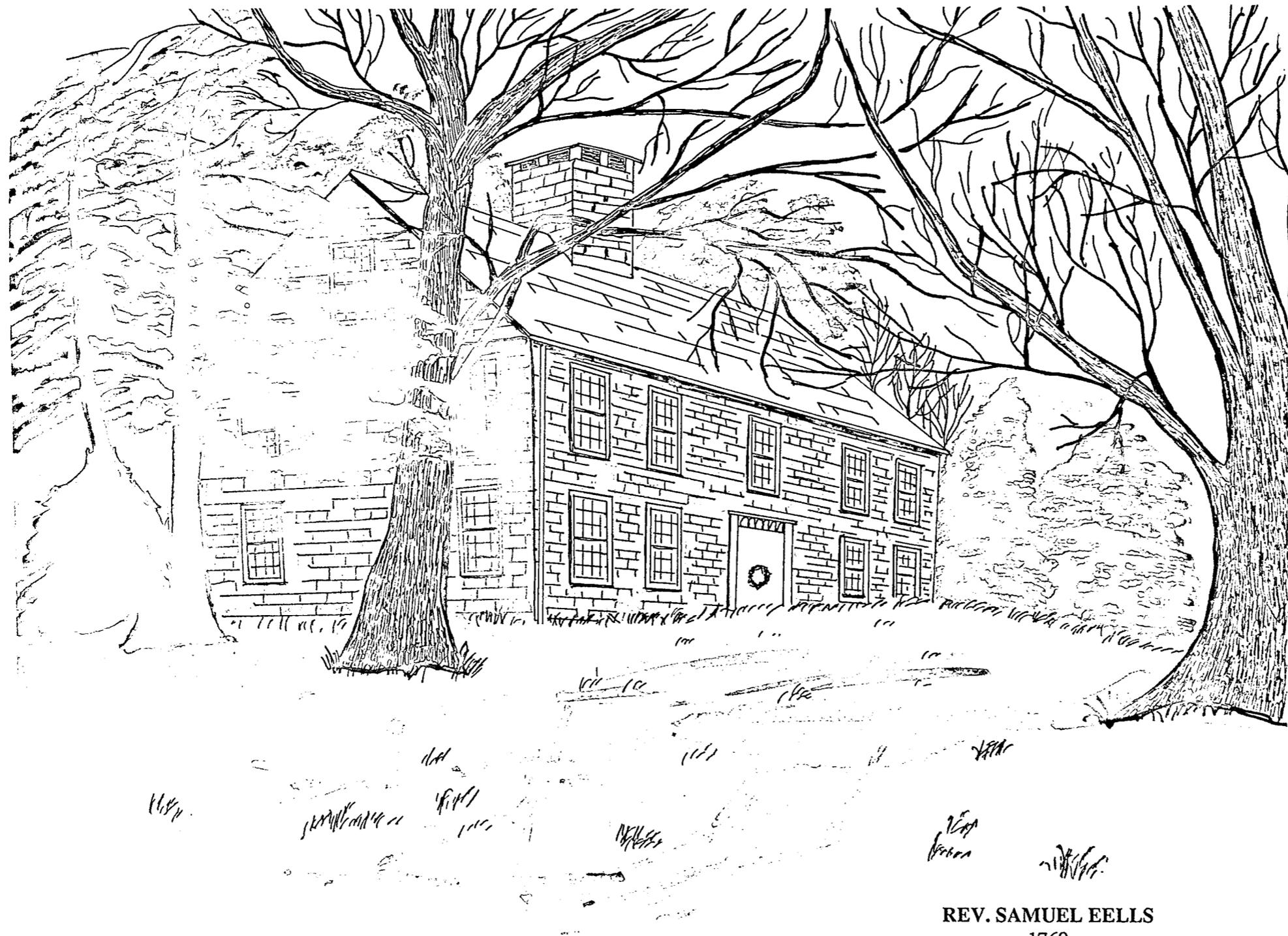


Lorane Black, A.F.A.c

CORN HUSKER
Circa 1880's



CAPT. JOSEPH FOOTE HOME
1708
Northford



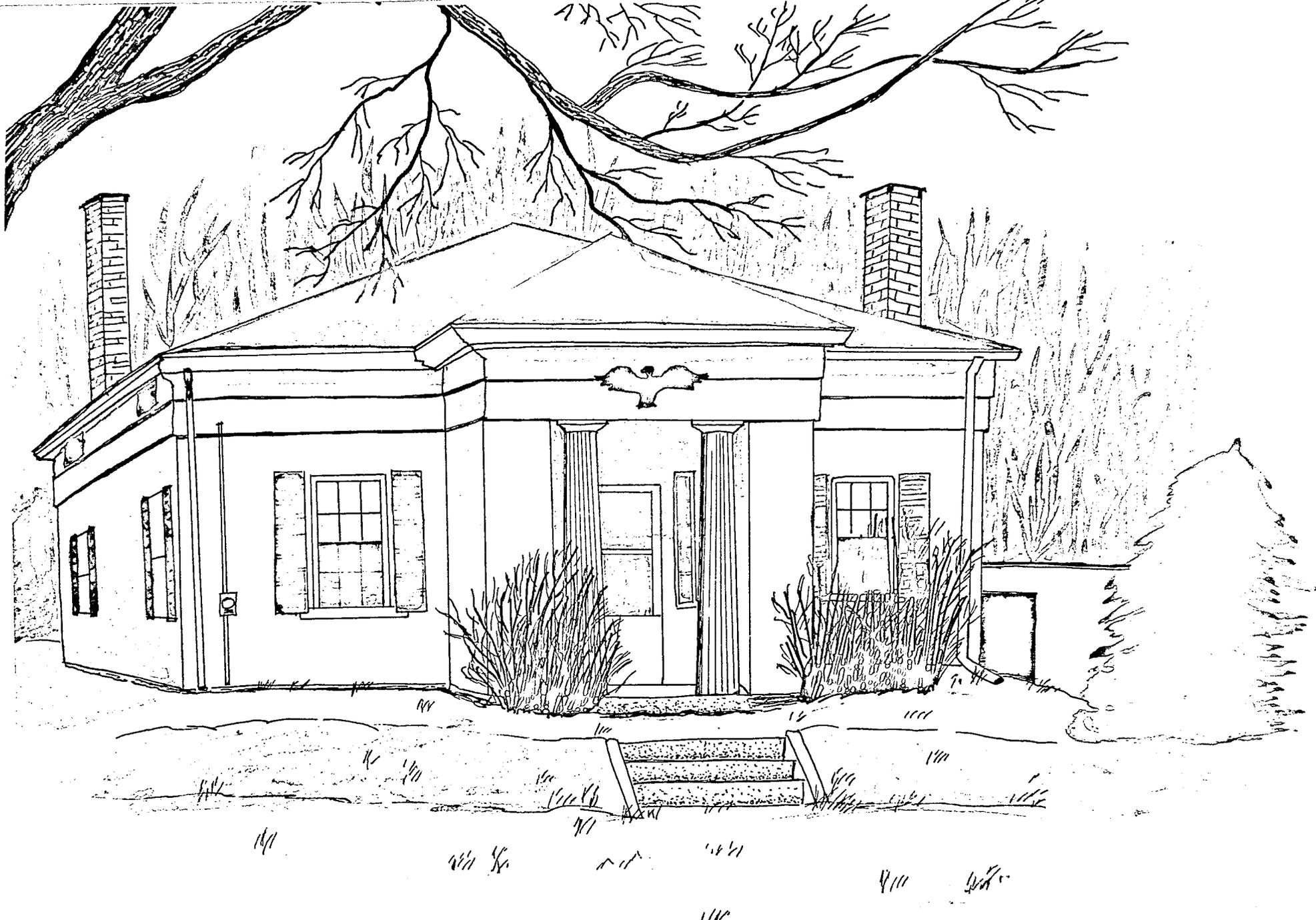
Lorane Black, A.F.A. ©

REV. SAMUEL EELLS
1769
North Branford



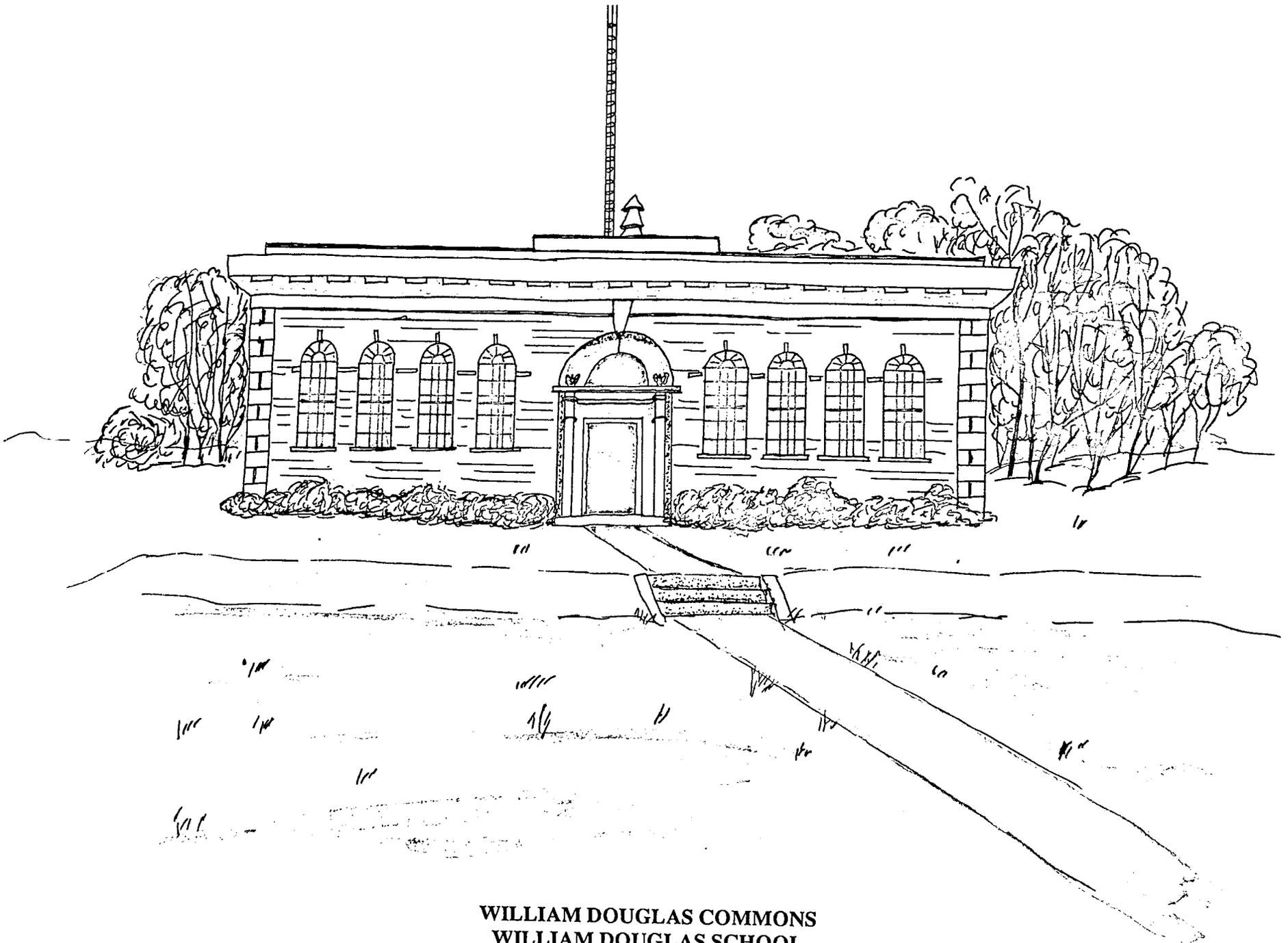
Lorane Black. A.F.A. ©

DAY DRESS
1890's



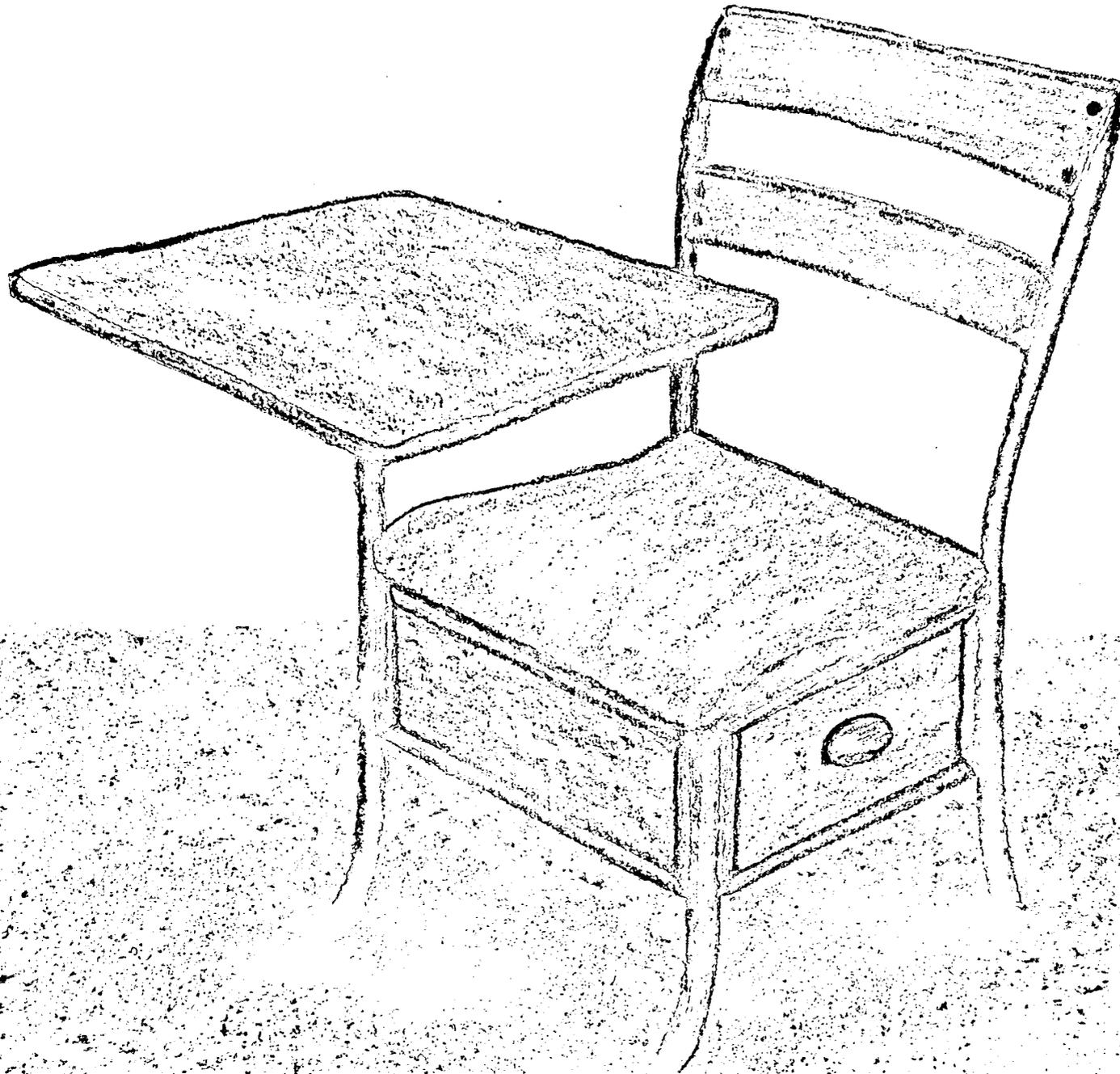
GEORGE BALDWIN HOME
1846
North Branford

Lorane Black, A.F.A. ©



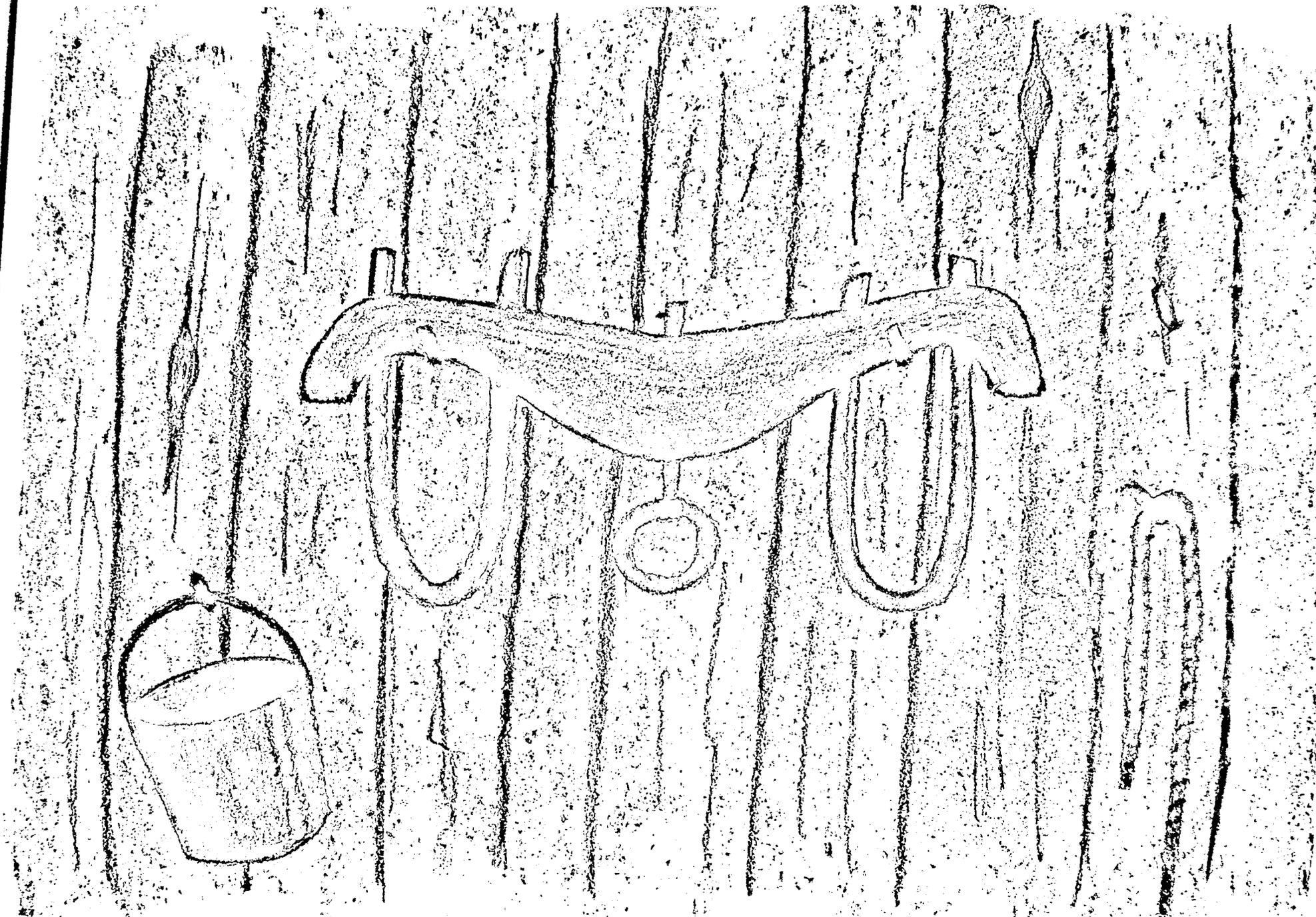
**WILLIAM DOUGLAS COMMONS
WILLIAM DOUGLAS SCHOOL**

1924-1982
Northford



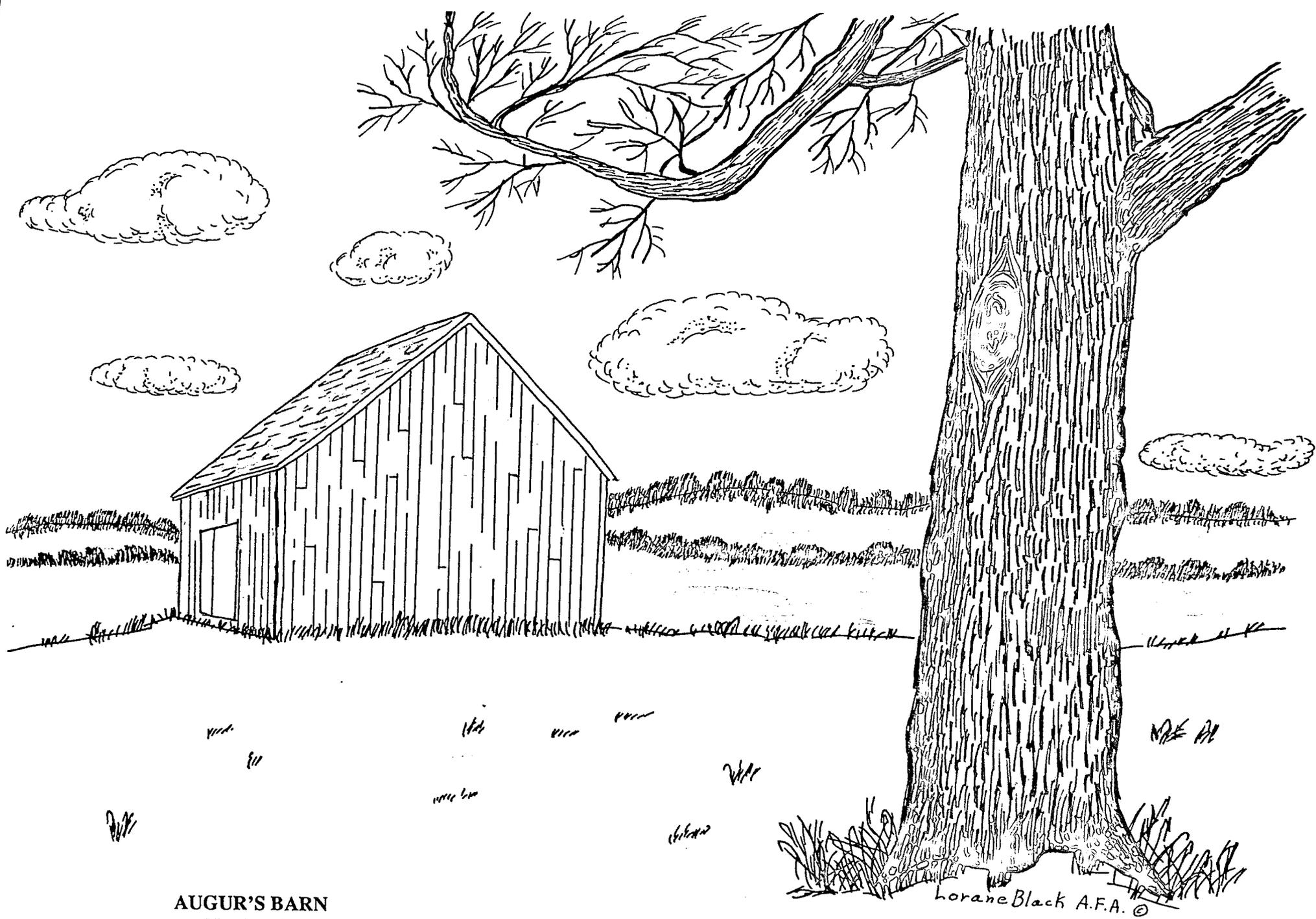
SCHOOL DESK
Circa 1920's

Lorane Black, A.F.A. ©



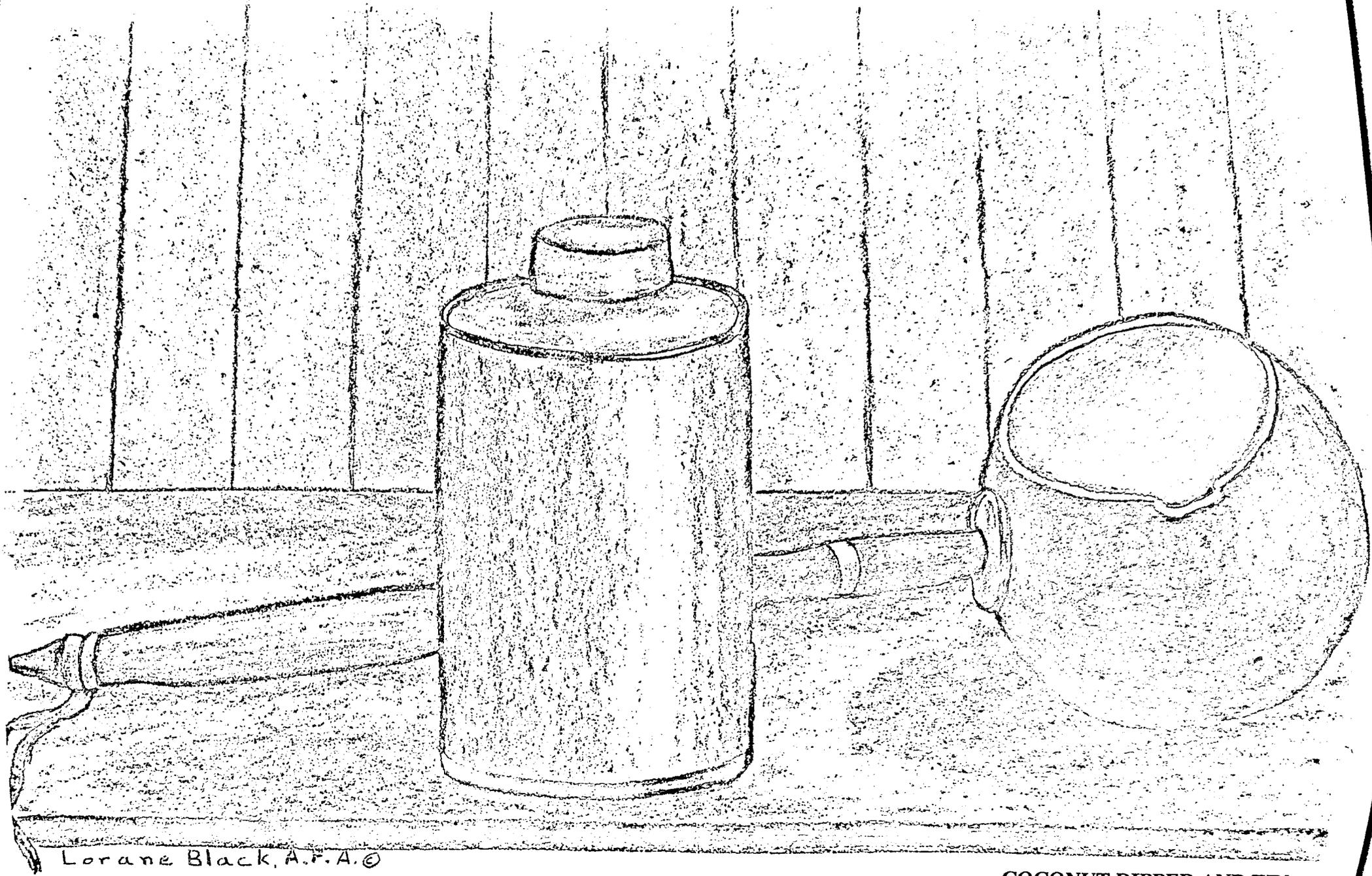
OX YOKE
Circa 1880's

Lorane Black A.F.A.O



AUGUR'S BARN
Northford

Lorane Black A.F.A. ©



Lorane Black, A.F.A. ©

COCONUT DIPPER AND TIN

1867

Made in Northford

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DRAWINGS BY
LORANE BLACK

MAY 1992