

Why the Greenhouse Motif? A Short History of Horticulture in Brighton-Allston

William Marchione



MASSACHUSETTS



No
1749
The
OF THE
Bank of Brighton
Paid

FIFTY DOLLARS

BRIGHTON



Will pay
on demand.
Oct 1 1850
Edw. Sparhawk
1850



WAITING FOR THE CHANCES.

A large transient
element

Drinking

Gambling

Carousing

Immoral behavior

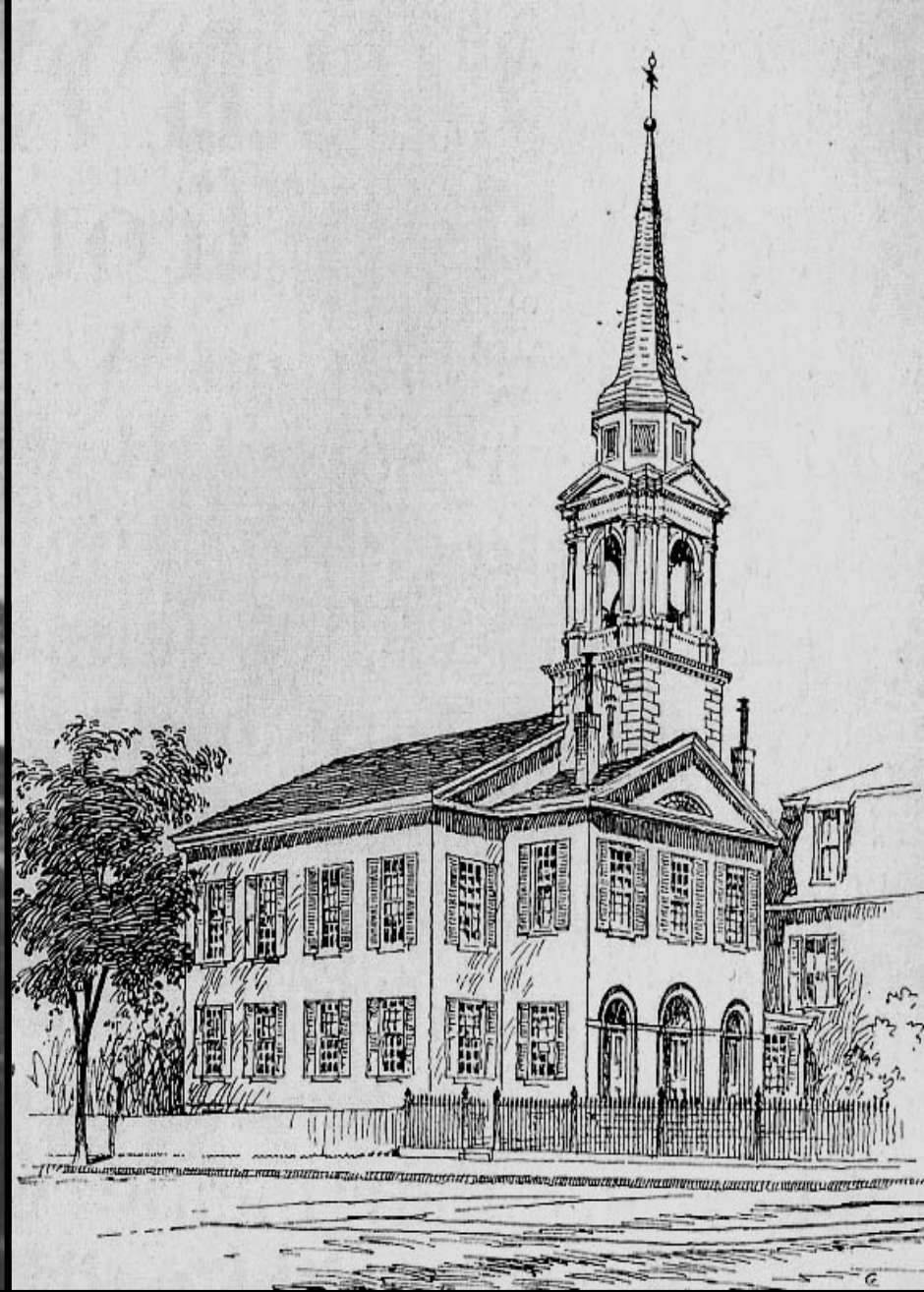
Cattle stampedes

Reckless driving

Poor roads

Air & water
pollution

Epidemic diseases

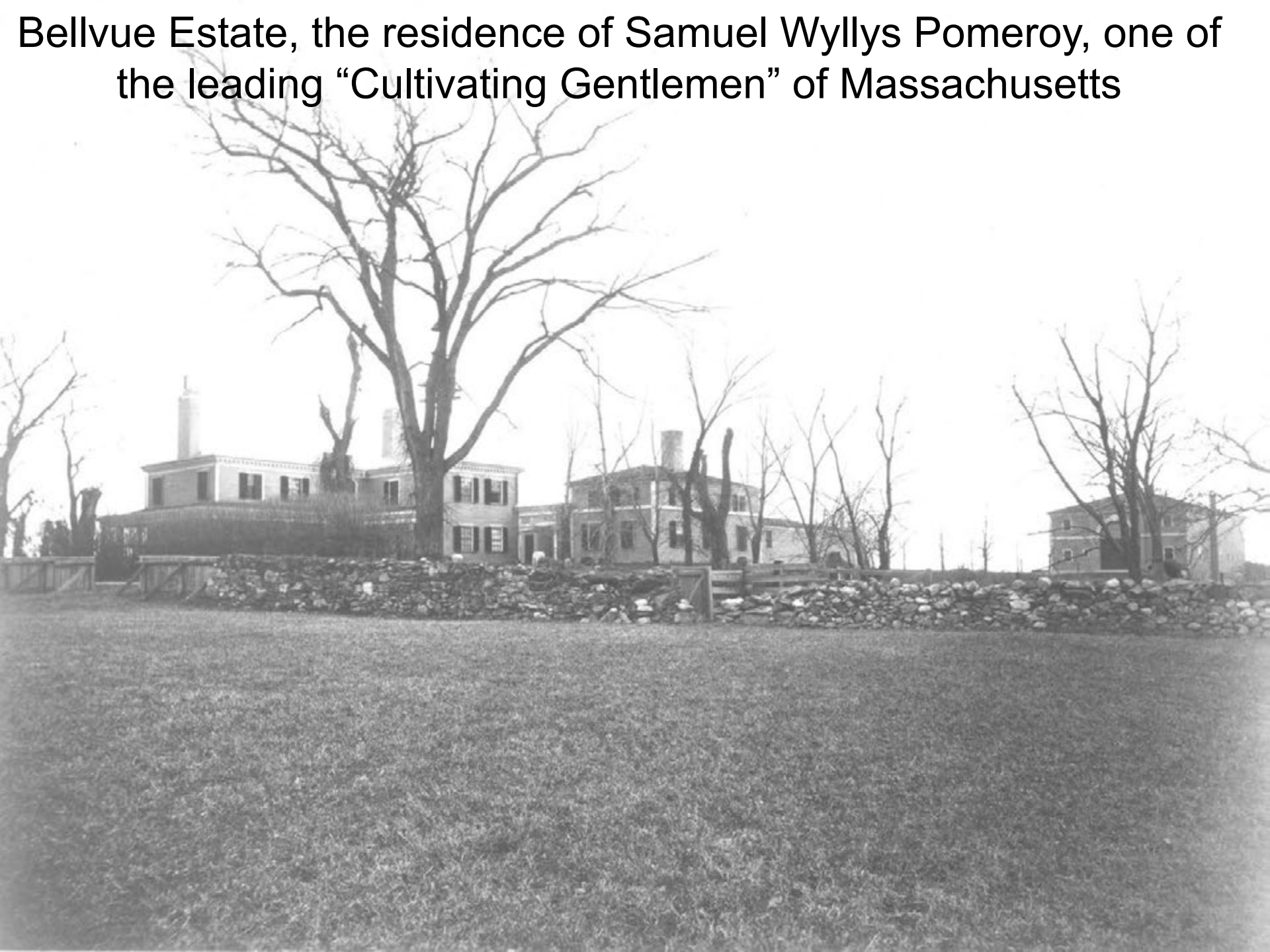


Reverend Frederic A. Whitney

Brighton's First Church (Unitarian)

Brighton's "Cultivating Gentlemen"

Bellvue Estate, the residence of Samuel Wyllys Pomeroy, one of the leading "Cultivating Gentlemen" of Massachusetts



The Gorham Parsons Estate, on Faneuil Street



The Brighton Fair & Cattle Shows, 1816-1835

In 1816, the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture picked Brighton as the site of its annual fair and cattle show. The land, now the site of the Winship School, was donated by Abiel Winship.



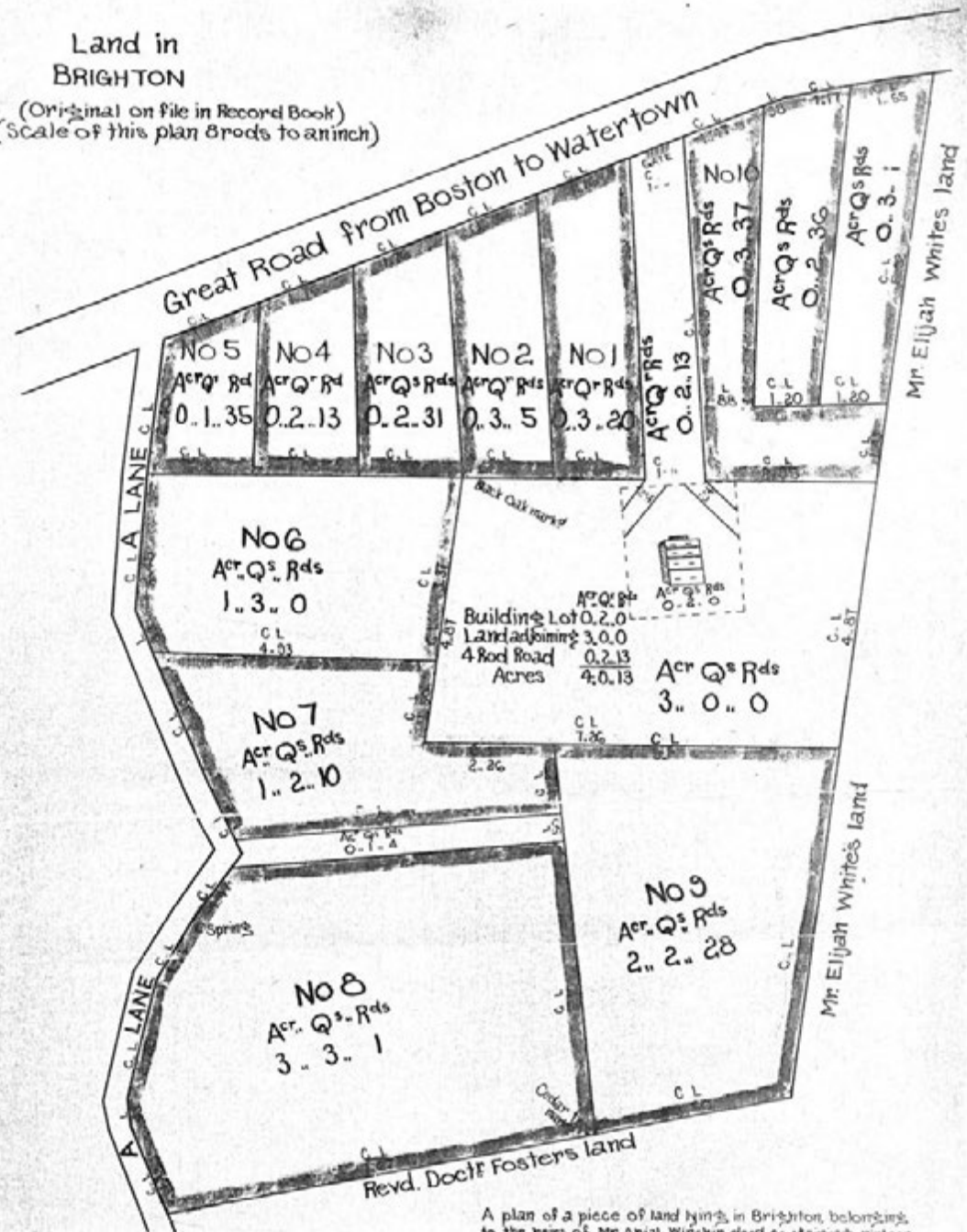


THE MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY
FOR PROMOTING AGRICULTURE

Both Pomeroy and Parsons were early leaders of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture---Pomeroy serving as First Vice President from 1813 to 1823; Parsons as Recording Secretary from 1823 to 1833.

In 1818, the MSPA built an exhibition hall on the fair grounds, known as Agricultural Hall. Here every October until 1835, the first regular state fair in Massachusetts was held

Land in
BRIGHTON
(Original on file in Record Book)
(Scale of this plan 8 rods to an inch)



A plan of a piece of land lying in Brighton, belonging to the heirs of Mr Abiel Winslow dec'd containing fifteen acres three quarters and thirty four rods, laid down by the scale of one of Gunter's Chains, or 4 rods to an inch Survey April 28th 1825. Pt Mather Withington Surv.

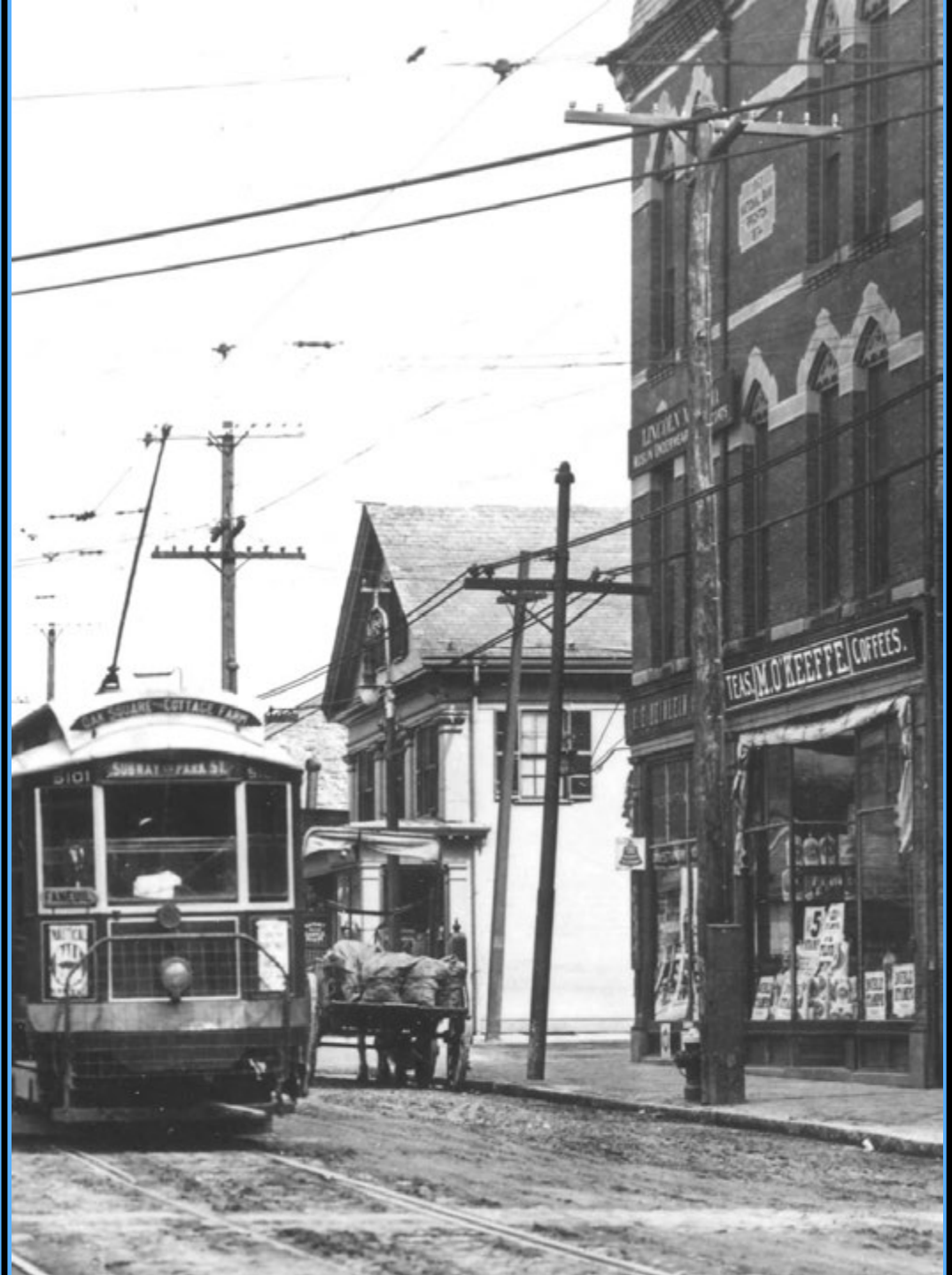
Acr. Qs. Rds
0 2 0 building lot

The Winship School, dating from 1899, atop Agricultural Hill

WINSHIP SCHOOL, BRIGHTON, MASS.



Agricultural Hall,
which was moved
from the crest of
Agricultural Hill, into
Brighton Center in
the 1840s, and was
converted into a
hotel, one of some
20 hotels that
accommodated the
drovers, cattle
dealers and farmers
who visited the
Brighton Cattle
Market on a weekly
basis



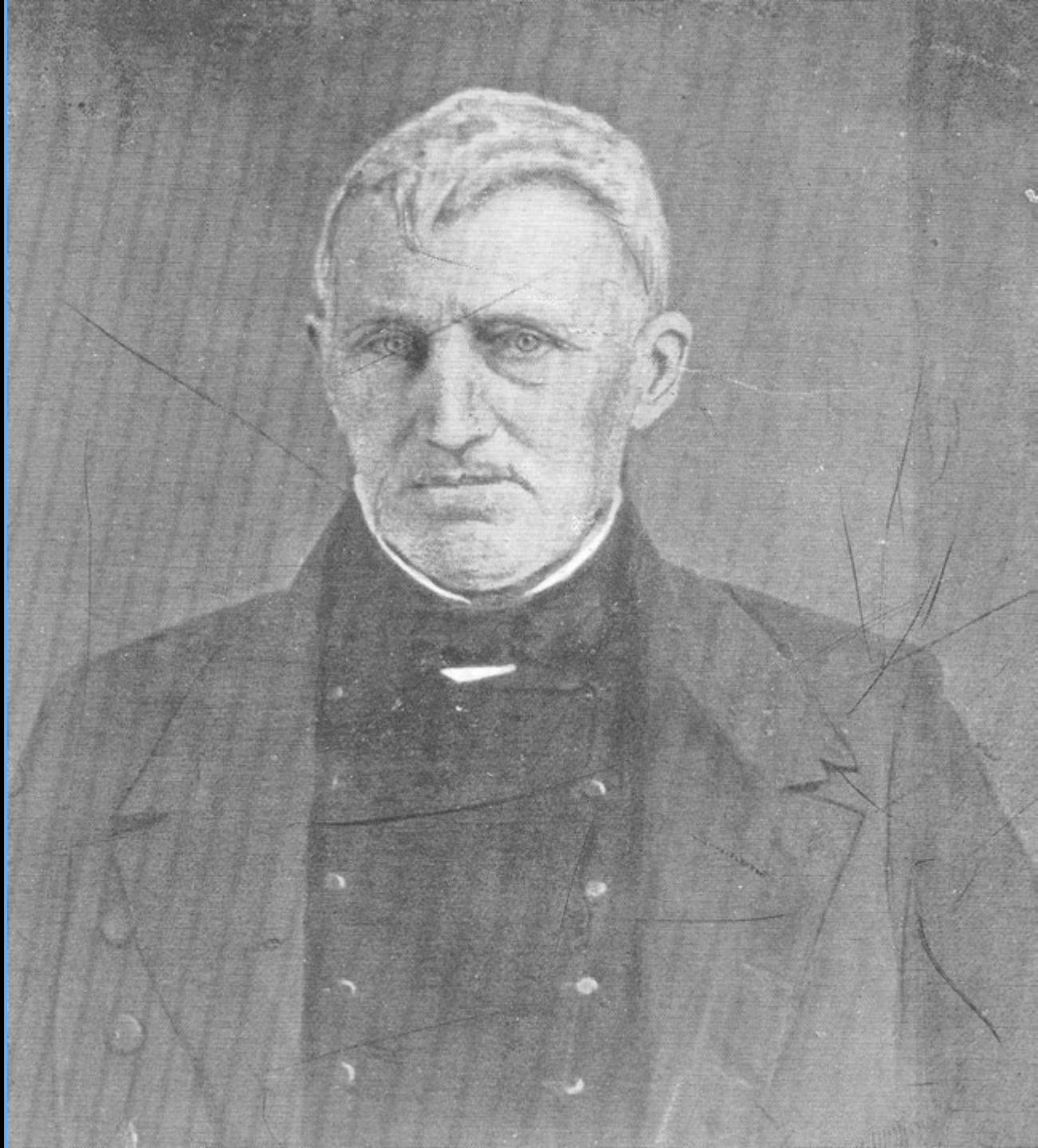
Agricultural
Hall still exists.
In the early
1840s it was
moved to
Brighton
Center and
converted into
a hotel to
accommodate
patrons of the
burgeoning
cattle trade. It
is the oldest
building in
Brighton
Cente.



The Sparhawk Homestead, dating from 1802, center of the largest estate in Brighton



Edward
Corey
Sparhawk



The Winship Mansion, built in 1780, sat on the site of the Brighton Police Station



Captain
Jonathan
Winship,
1778-1849



WATER

Arsenal

WINSHIP

 Depot

N

O

Western

avenue

BRIGHTON

I G H T

A Boston & Roxbury Mill Dam Stock Certificate, dated October
1819, to Captain Jonathan Winship

Boston, October 27th 1819. —

RECEIVED of Jon^d Winship, One hundred
Dollars for the *Thirteenth* assessment on Ten — Shares
in the BOSTON AND ROXBURY MILL CORPORATION.

J. B. Thorne

{ Treasurer of Boston
and Roxbury Mill
Corporation.

The first station on Boston & Worcester Railroad outside the city was Brighton Station in Winship's Gardens. The railroad carried many more head of cattle to Brighton from western locations than it did passengers from Boston but it also helped promote the success of Winship's Gardens.



Captain Jonathan Winship House, built 1823,
Winship's Gardens, North Brighton

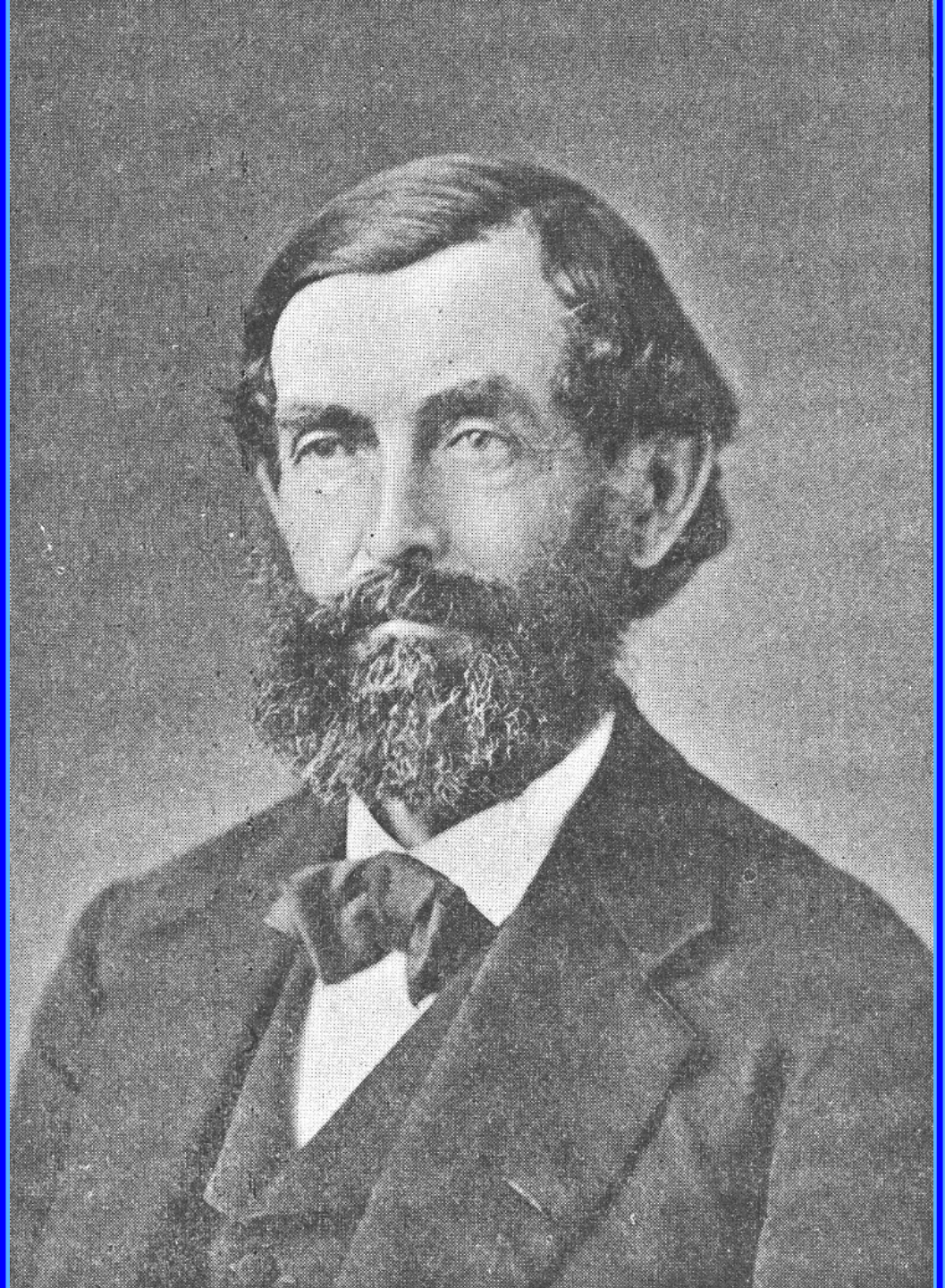


NOTE:

This large and valuable estate will be sold at Public Auction on Saturday June 14th at 3¼ o'clock P. M. It is situated on the line of the Boston and Worcester Rail Road, at the Western Avenue (or Mill Dam) leading from Boston. It is 1½ Miles from M^t. Auburn and Cambridge Colleges, and 2 Miles from Brookline, Newt^{on} Corner and Watert^{own}. The soil is of superior Quality, and in a high state of cultivation. Persons desirous of obtaining a valuable building lot are requested to attend the sale. The proprietors are confident, that no superior inducements to purchase have been offered for many years.

Cars will leave the Depot of the Boston and Worcester Rail Road at 3 o'clock P. M. Free Tickets and Plans can be obtained of the Auctioneer

Edward Augustus
Story, Superintendent
of Winship's
Gardens, carried on
a horticultural
business on the site
of the former nursery,
for the next 35 years



Vineland
Street

North Beacon
Street





Early MHS Officers & Councilors

Captain Jonathan Winship, Vice President, 1835-1847;
Councillor, 1829-1841

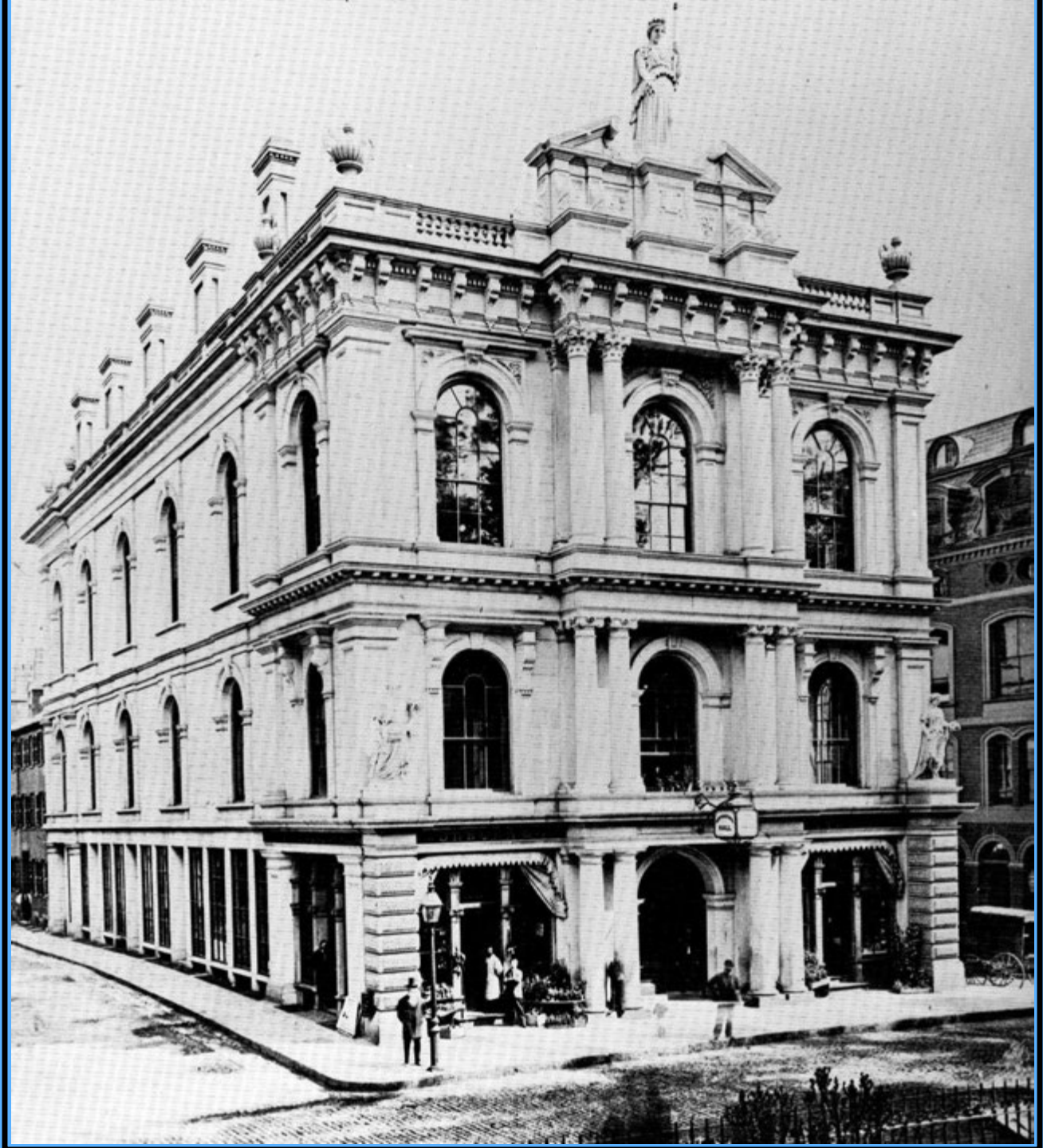
Joseph Breck, President, 1859-1862; Vice President, 1858

William C. Strong, President, 1871-1874; Vice President,
1860-1870: Recording Secretary, 1852-1855

Francis Lyman Winship, Recording Secretary, 1856-1865

Charles H. B. Breck, Vice President, 1876-1879 & 1882-
1900

Horticultural
Hall, on
Tremont
Street, dating
from 1865,
accommodat
ed the
Society
during the
Presidency of
William C.
Strong

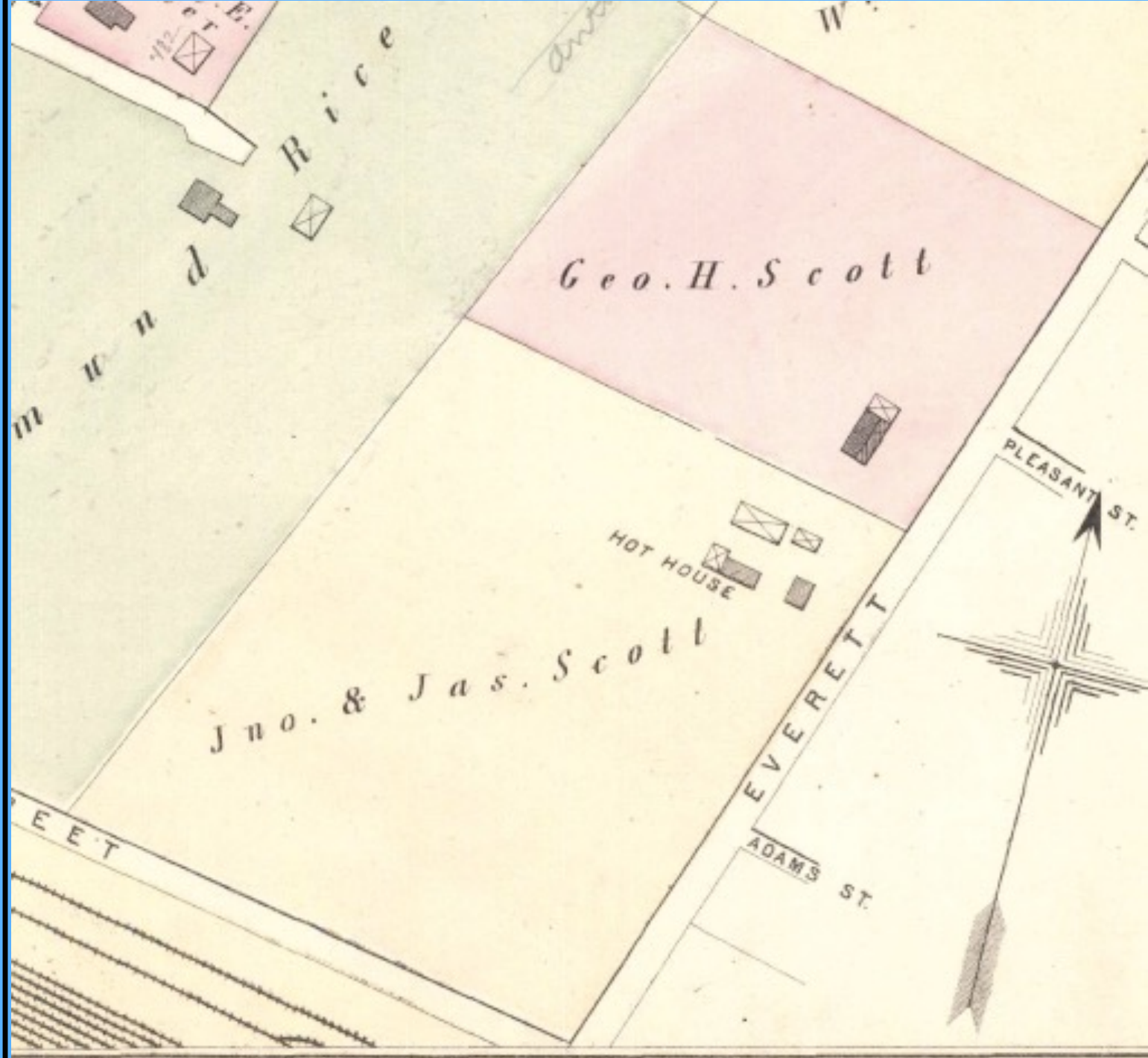


The Horticulturalists of North Allston

The Abel Rice House, corner of Everett and Holton Streets, built in 1833 by School Master and Strawberry Farmer Abel Rice. The first strawberries introduced into the Boston market were grown here



The Scott
Farm,
Everett
Street,
North
Allston,
dating
from the
1840s

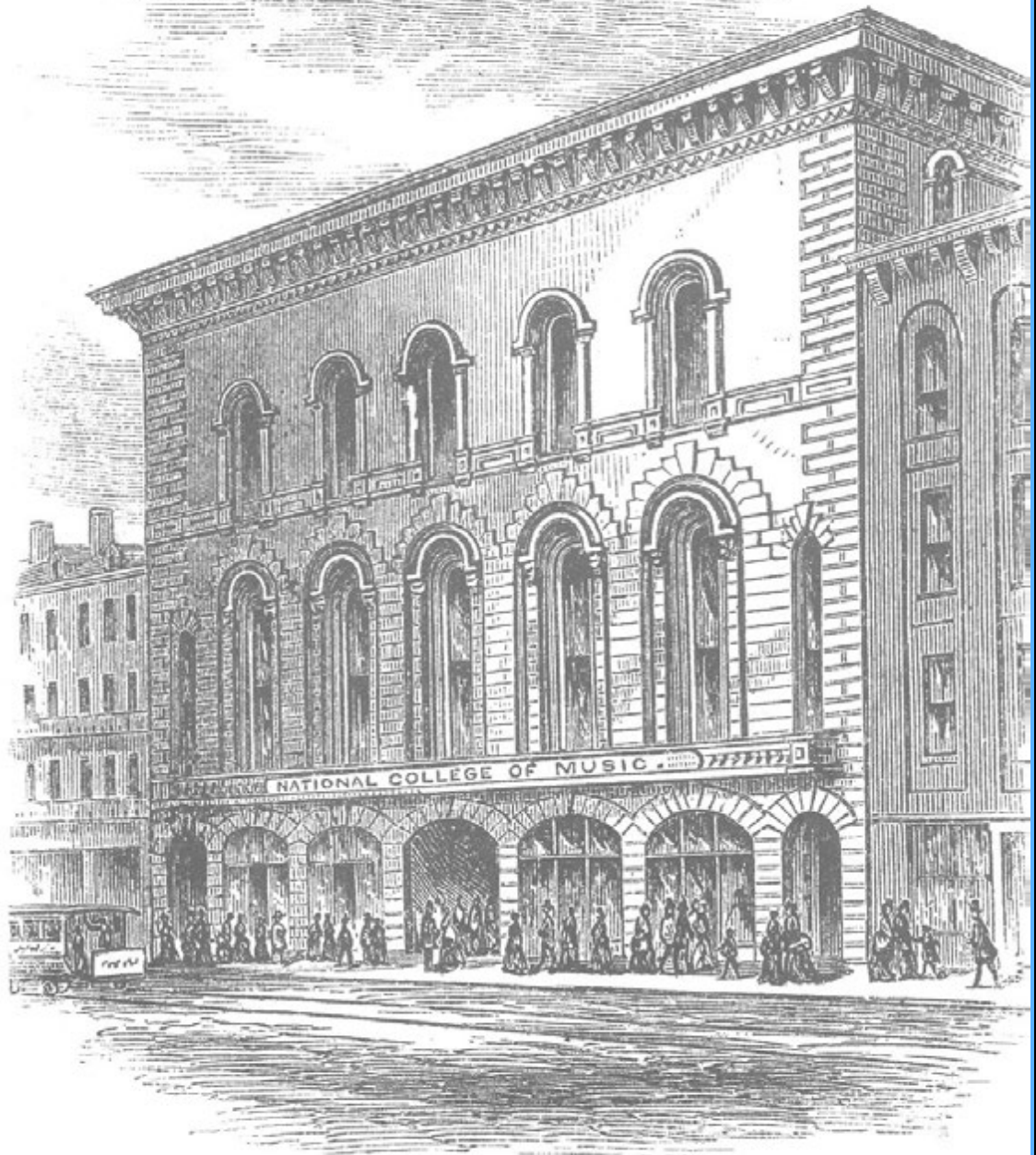


James Lloyd Lafayette Warren
of Brighton:
“The Father of California
Agriculture”

James Lloyd Lafayette Warren,
Brighton horticulturalist, Boston
businessman, and social reformer:
“The Father of California Agriculture”



The Old
Tremont Temple
Building, the
converted
Tremont
Theater, dating
from 1843,
included
Warren's Floral
Salon

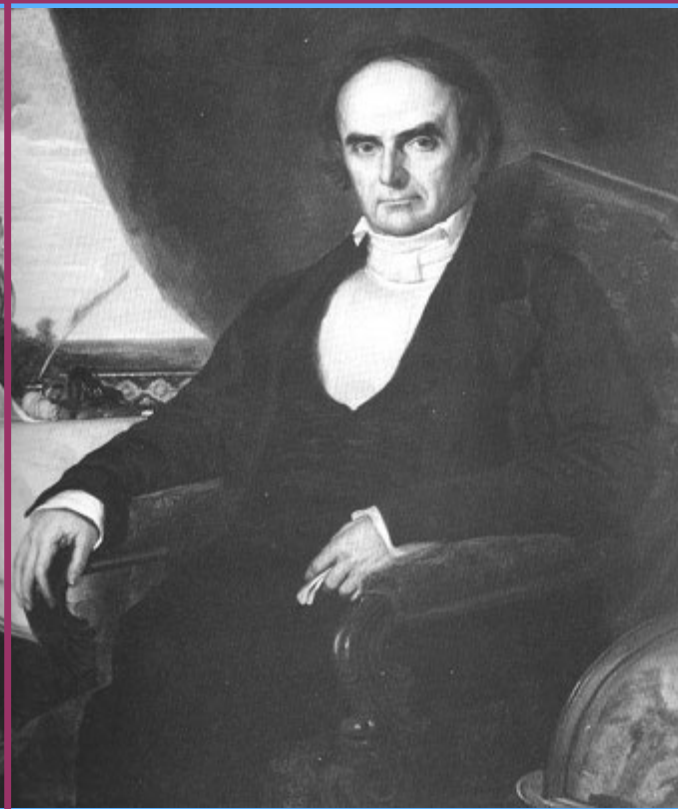


TREMONT TEMPLE.

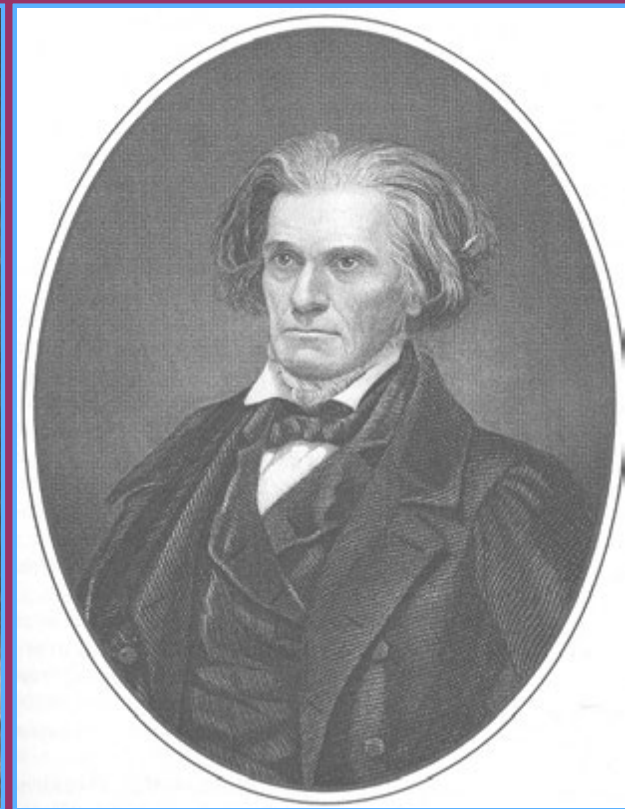
Visitors to Warren's Nonantum Vale Gardens included the so-called Great Triumvirate of U.S. Senators



Henry Clay of
Kentucky



Daniel Webster of
Massachusetts

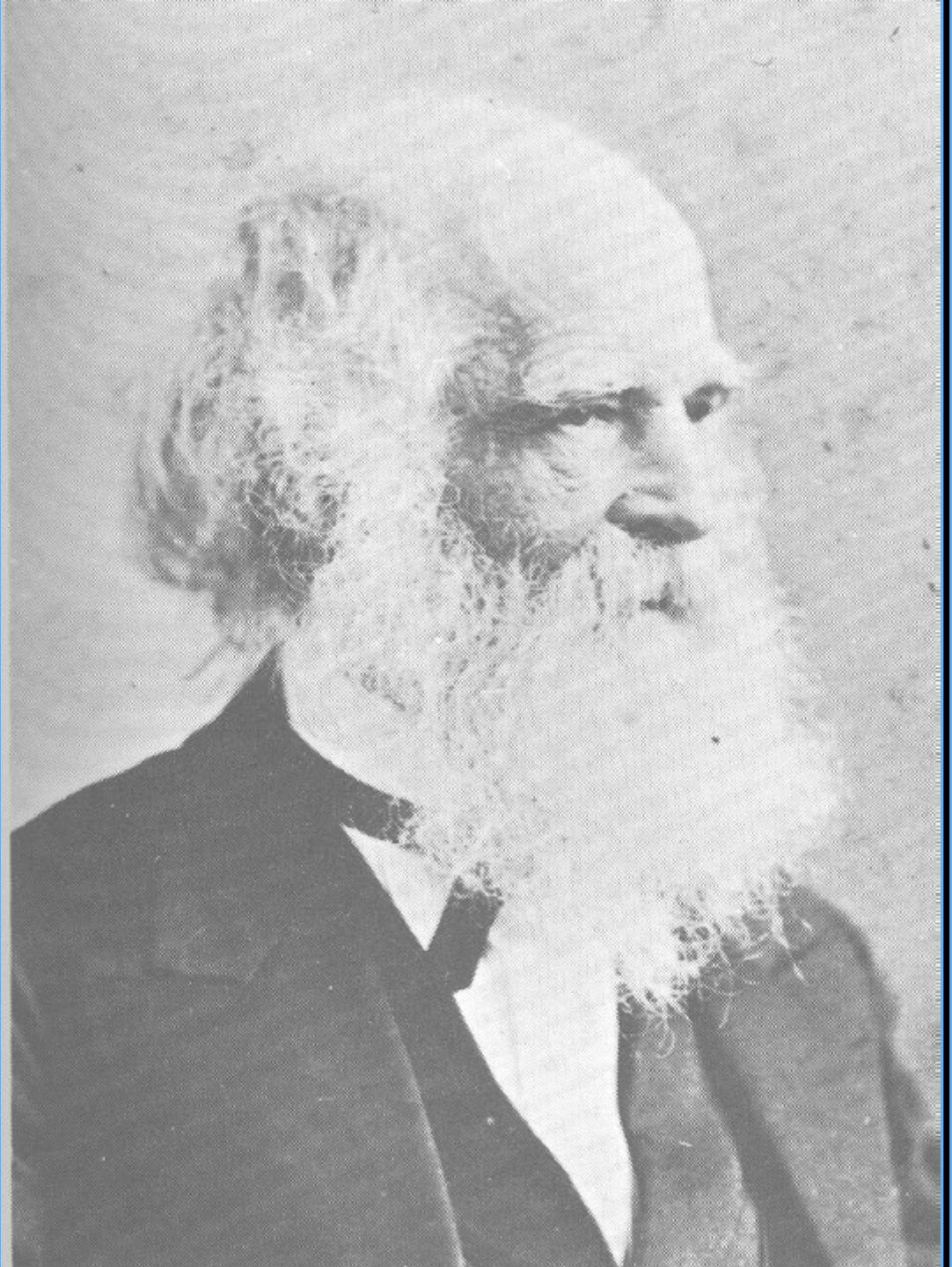


John C. Calhoun
of South Carolina

Warren visited Ireland during the period of the Potato Famine



In 1839 JLLF
Warren joined his
friend, the poet
William Cullen
Bryant, seen here,
in helping to found
the first antislavery
political party in the
United States, the
Liberty Party



Broadside advertising
the ship "Sweden" on
which Warren set
sale for California in
1849, during the Gold
Rush

FOR SAN FRANCISCO,



CALIFORNIA!
DIRECT!!

The Elegant, Coppered, & Copper-fastened, A 1
—FOR PASSENGER USE—
SHIP SWEDEN
CAPT. J. G. COTTING,

Will sail for the above Port once in twenty days, and is a very commodious & rapidly moving
of 700 and 800 tons. Passengers, Merchants who are about attending to business,
will please call and see the accommodations.

OF THE SWEDEN we guarantee Passage and baggage, and will be the first where
passengers will be attended to, and all charges for passengers.

The ship is built iron, and her accommodations will suit for passengers' comfort. In her
interior there is room for cargo and passengers.

The ship SWEDEN has been made a commodious voyage to California, having completed
the first voyage to the Pacific, and is now at the mouth of the Sacramento, and will return
in the fall of 1849. This will be a valuable ship for the purpose of the trade, and the
most reliable of the Pacific.

Passengers will find a good commodious passage, and a rapid voyage, and a good crew of
men, and will be the first of the kind of the kind. There is no other ship of the kind
that will carry so many passengers, and will be the first of the kind.

FOR FREIGHT OR PASSENGER, APPLY TO
JOHN R. DOW & CO.,
120. STATE STREET, BOSTON.

Ag. Via Atlantic Steamers to be taken as Freight.

Building and for the ship Sweden, and all other ships of the kind,
at the shipyard of the shipyard, and all other ships of the kind.

Circa 1850 Advertisement offering Nonantum Vale Nursery for sale



BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY RESIDENCE

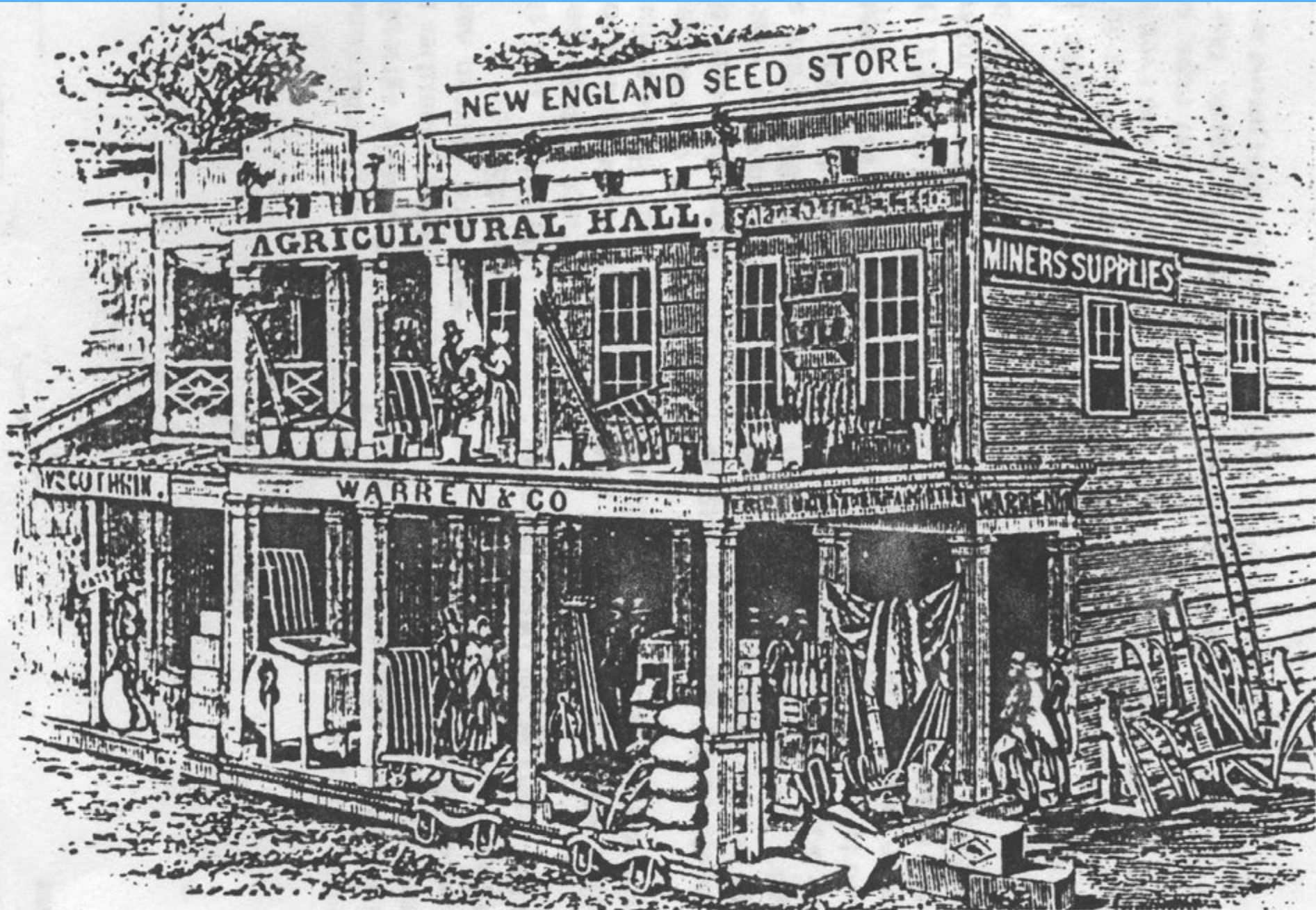
FOR SALE—A valuable Estate, situated in NONANTUM VALE, BRIGHTON, containing

about ten acres of land, abounding in choice fruit trees of every description, in fine order; a two story dwelling house, stable, and outbuildings, in thorough repair, with the modern conveniences; a never failing spring of water. It is retired, and yet within a short distance from the main road and the railroad. The beautiful scenery, and salubrity of the air, render it one of the most desirable residences in the vicinity of Boston. Terms easy. For further particulars inquire of the proprietor, or of ROBERT FARLEY, 24 State Street, Boston.

Tu 1/2c

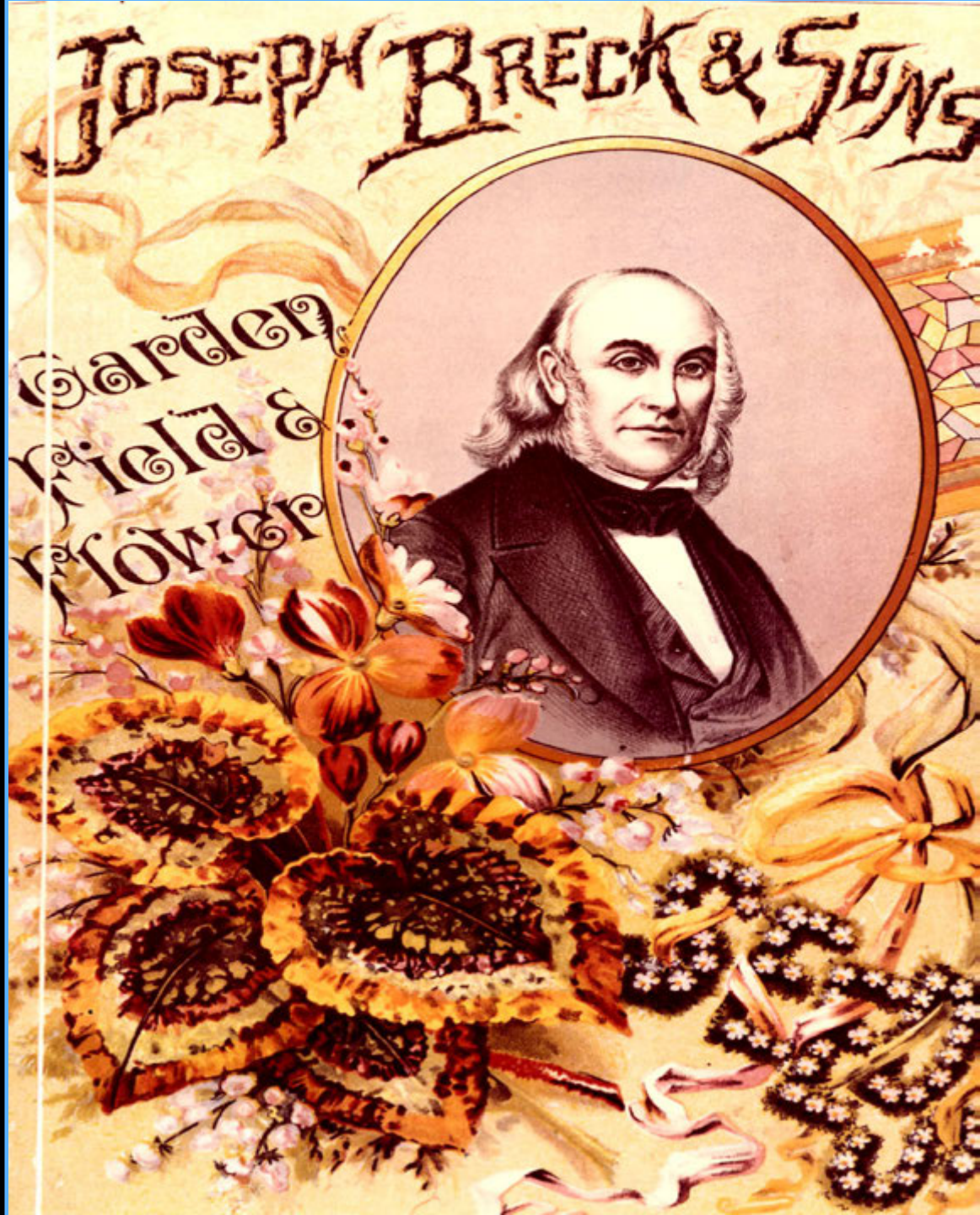
Feb 8

JLLF Warren's Agricultural Supply Store, Sacramento, California



**Joseph Breck of Brighton:
Massachusetts' Leading
Horticulturalist**

Joseph Breck,
preeminent
horticulturalist in
Massachusetts, editor
of the New England
Farmer, founder of
Joseph Breck & Son
Agricultural Supply
House (the Breck Seed
Company derives from
this enterprise), and
President of the
Massachusetts
Horticultural Society
from 1859 to 1862



THE

FLOWER-GARDEN;

OR,

BRECK'S BOOK OF FLOWERS;

IN WHICH ARE DESCRIBED

ALL THE VARIOUS HARDY HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS, ANNUALS, SHRUBBY PLANTS, AND EVERGREEN TREES,
DESIRABLE FOR ORNAMENTAL PURPOSES,

WITH DIRECTIONS FOR THEIR CULTIVATION.

BY JOSEPH BRECK,

SEEDSMAN AND FLORIST, AND FORMER EDITOR OF THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER AND THE
HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.



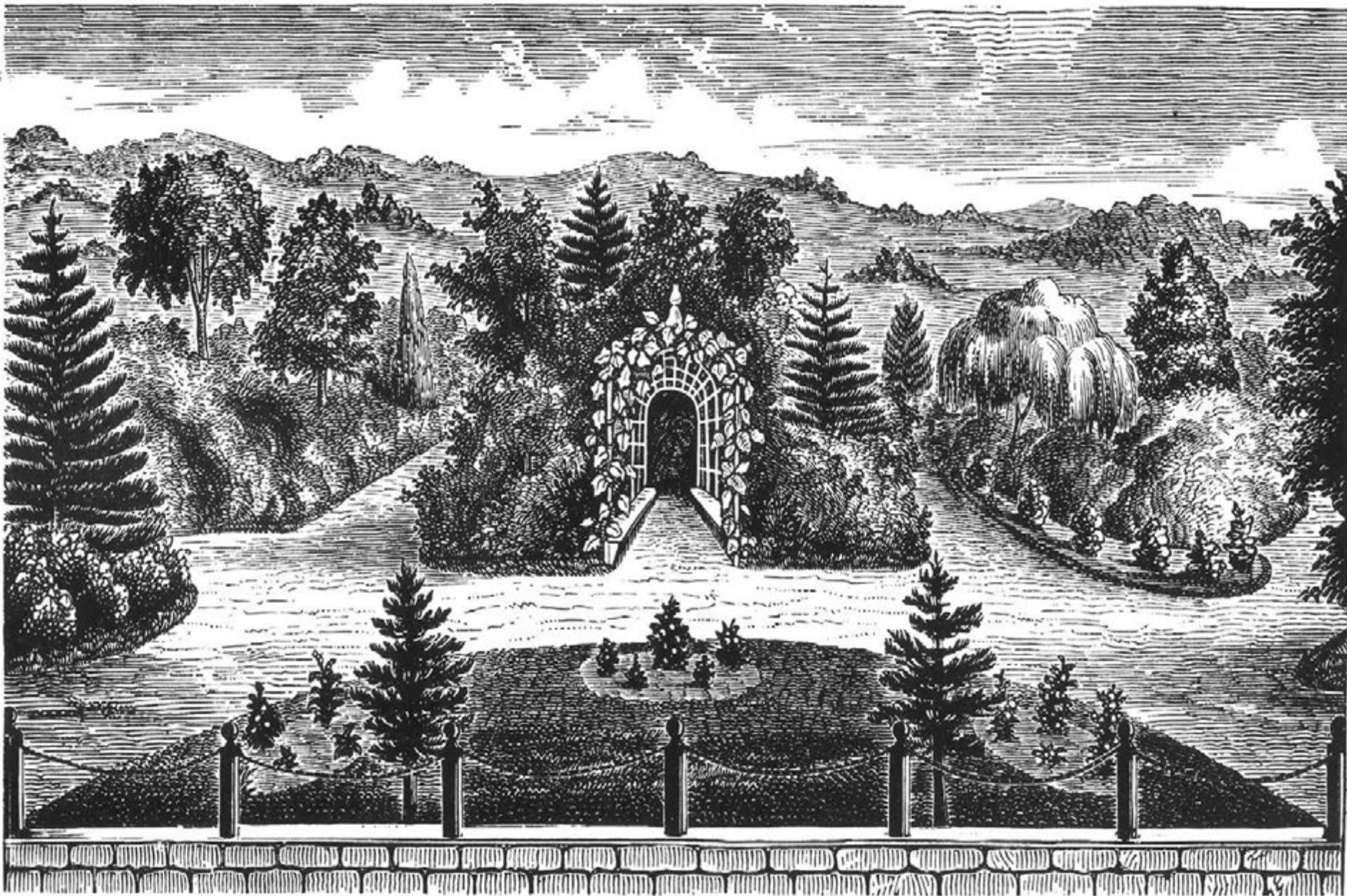
BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY JOHN P. JEWETT & COMPANY,

Nos. 17 & 19 Cornhill.

1851.

Garden Design by Joseph Breck





The Breck residence in Brighton's Oak Square section



TREMONT

NONANTUM

C. H. B. Breck

J. Grace

Mary N. Allen

G. P. Brown

D. Shillaber

Jua O'Brien

Shillaber

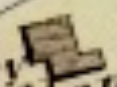
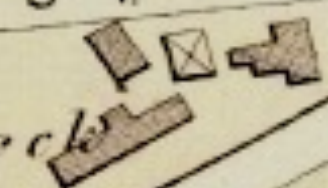
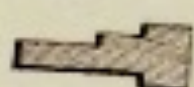
CHESAPEAKE

W. C. Strong

B. F. Ricker & George A. Wilson

WASHINGTON

OAKS SCH. HOUSE



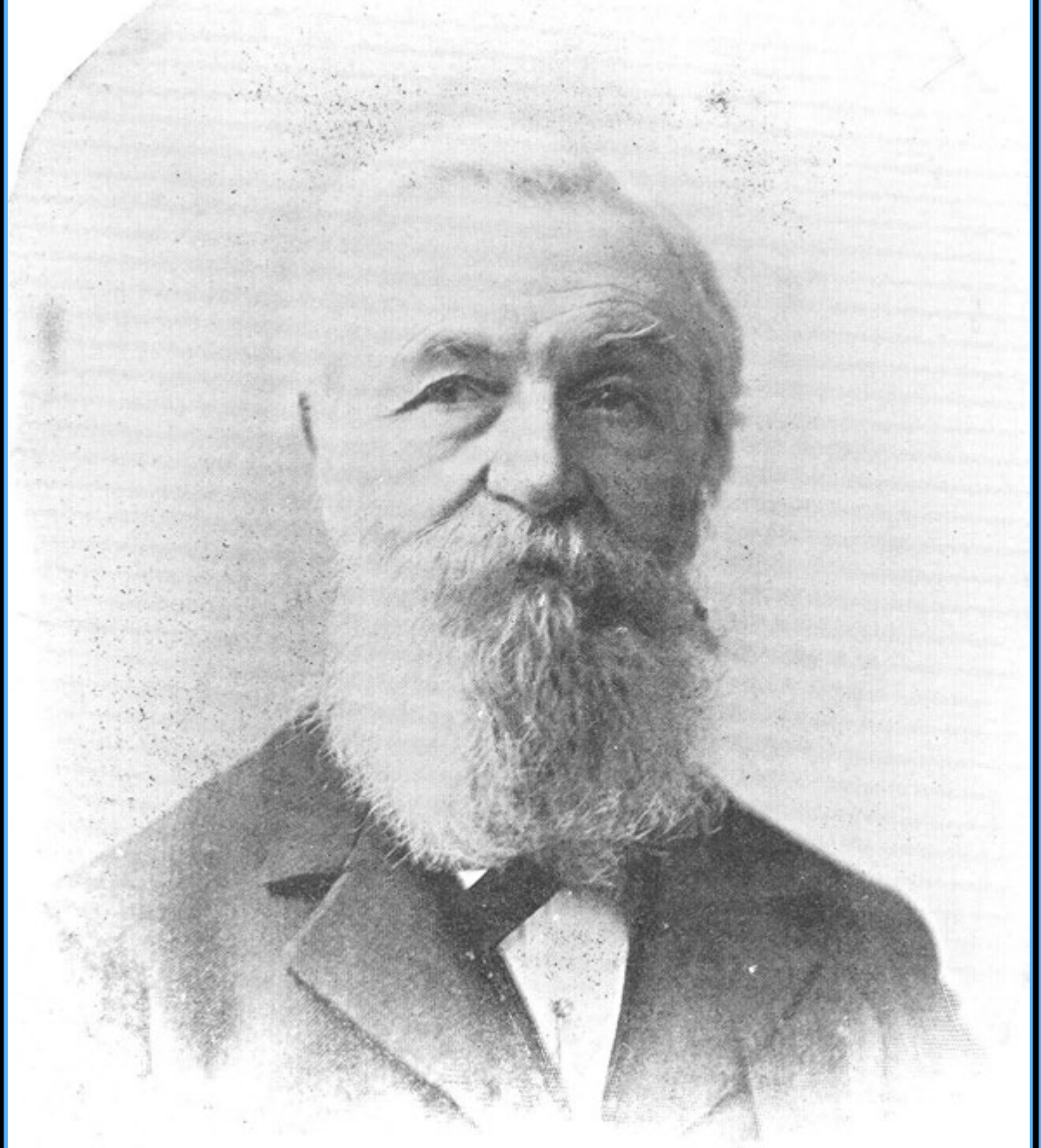


Joseph Breck & Sons
headquarters in Boston,
adjacent to Quincy Market

Illustration from
one of the many
profusely
illustrated
catalogs that the
Breck firm
issued over the
years



Charles H. B.
Breck, son and
business partner
of his father
Joseph. The
younger Breck
served as Vice
President of the
Massachusetts
Horticultural
Society



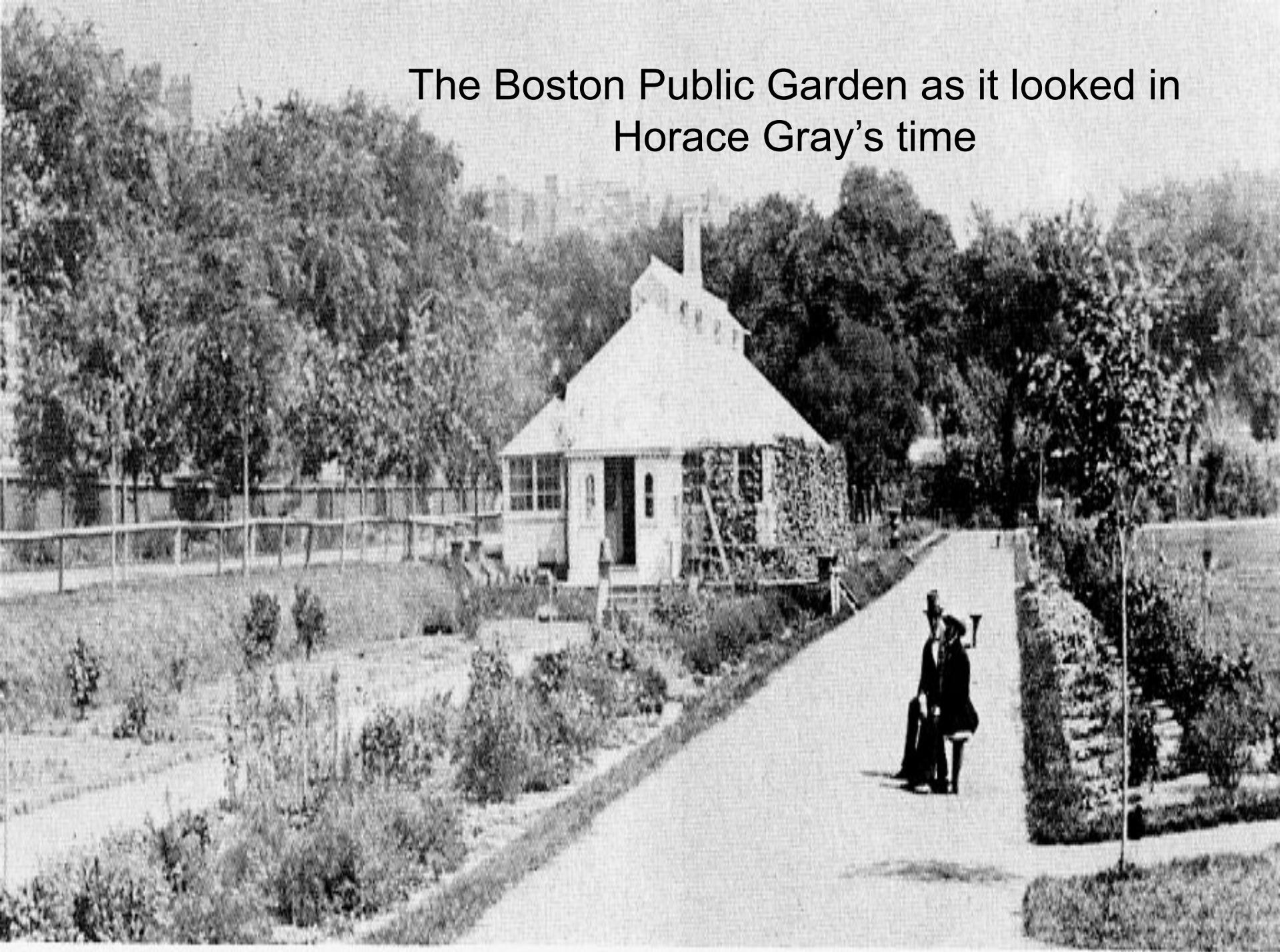
C. H. B. BRECK.

Horace Gray:
Father of the Boston Public
Garden

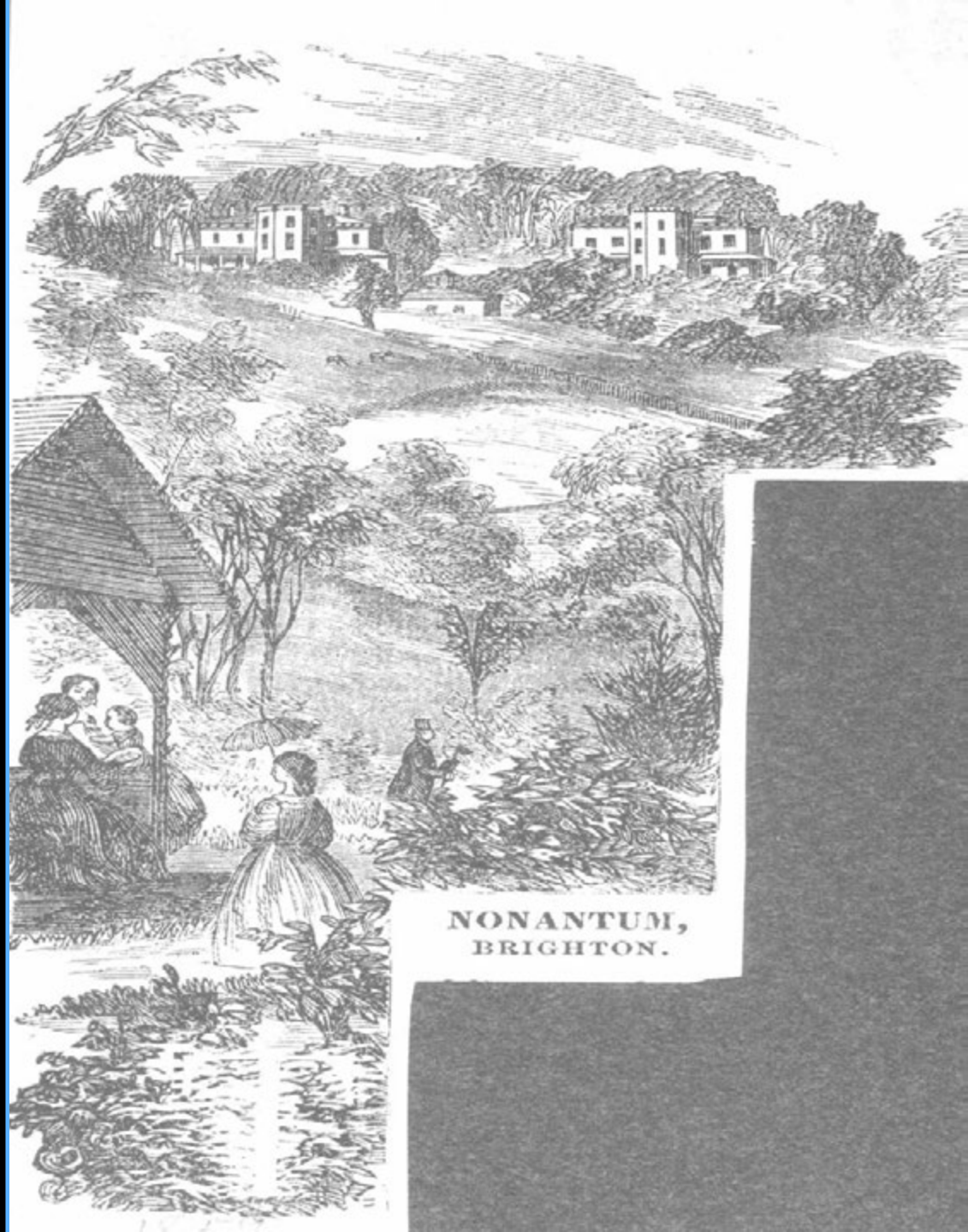
In the 1830s,
Horace Gray
establish a “grapery”
on Nonantum Hill,
for the cultivation of
grapes under glass.
Gray maintained
residences in
Boston and
Brighton. He
introduced the first
camelias into
Massachusetts and
helped found the
Boston Public
Garden

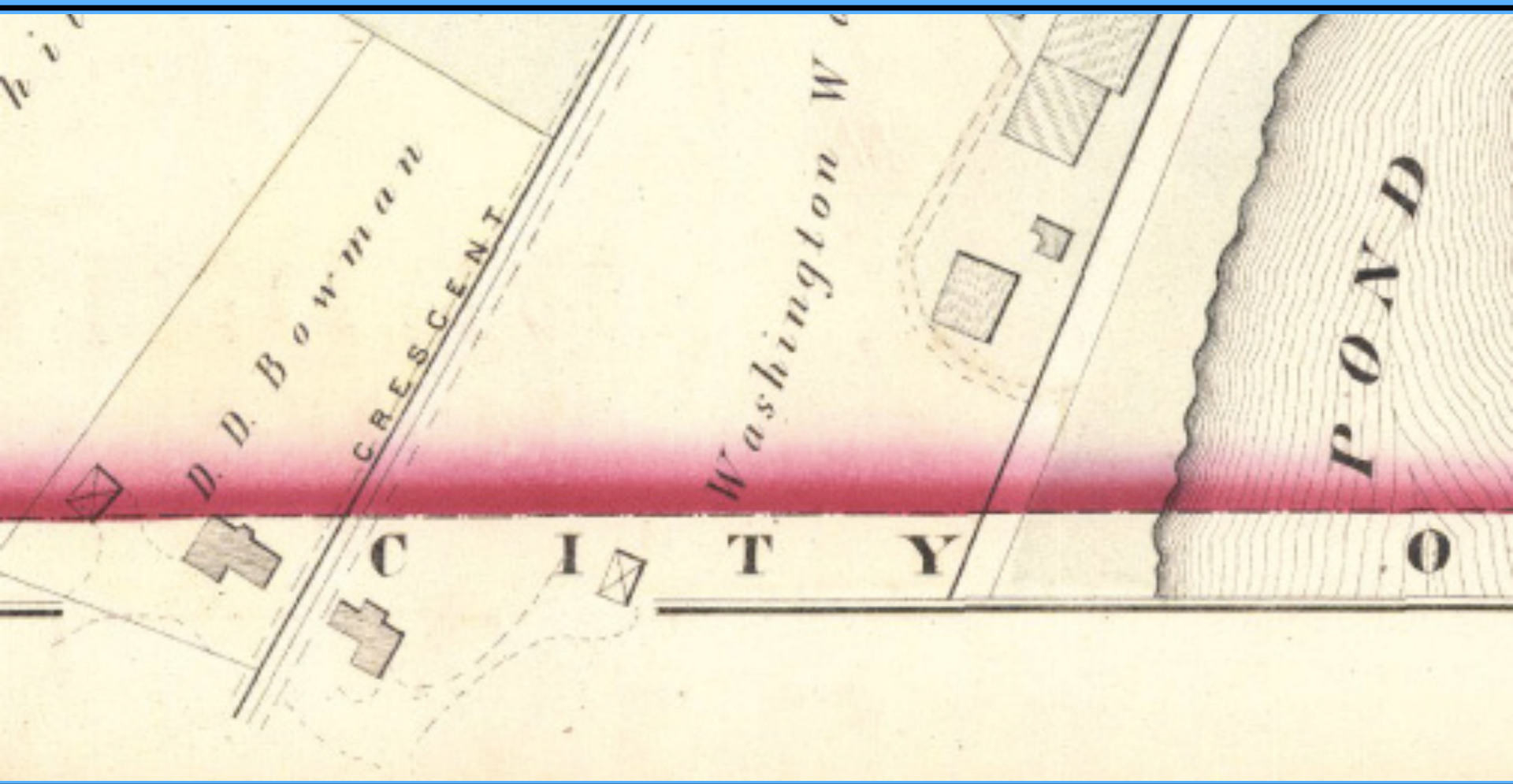


The Boston Public Garden as it looked in
Horace Gray's time

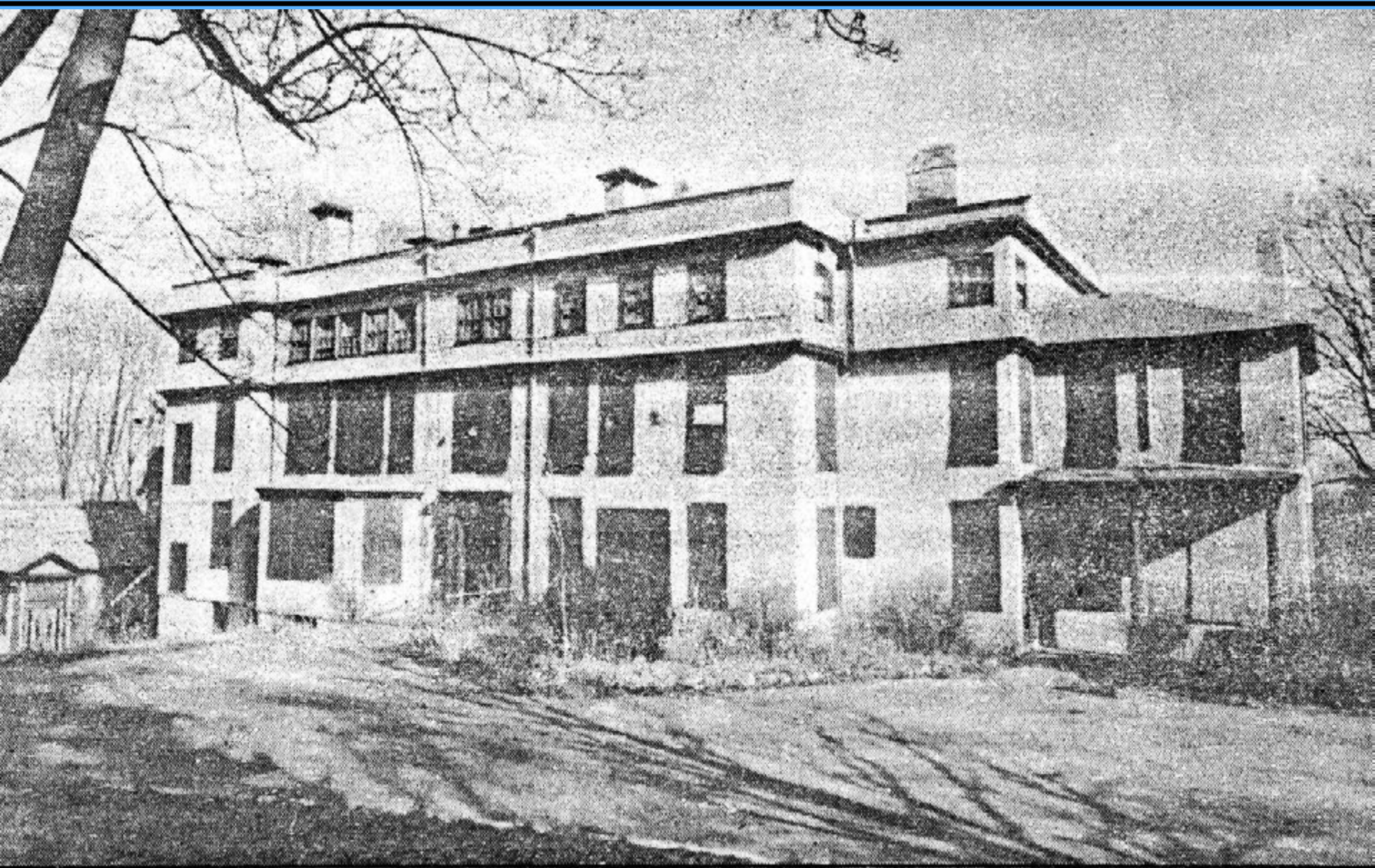


Horace Gray's
Nursey and
Residence (top
left) on Nonantum
Hill in Brighton.
The building in
which Gray
resided on the
Brighton-Newton
boundary was
later converted
into the St.
Sebastian's
Country Day
School.





St., Sebastian's Country Day School Building, the converted Gray Mansion



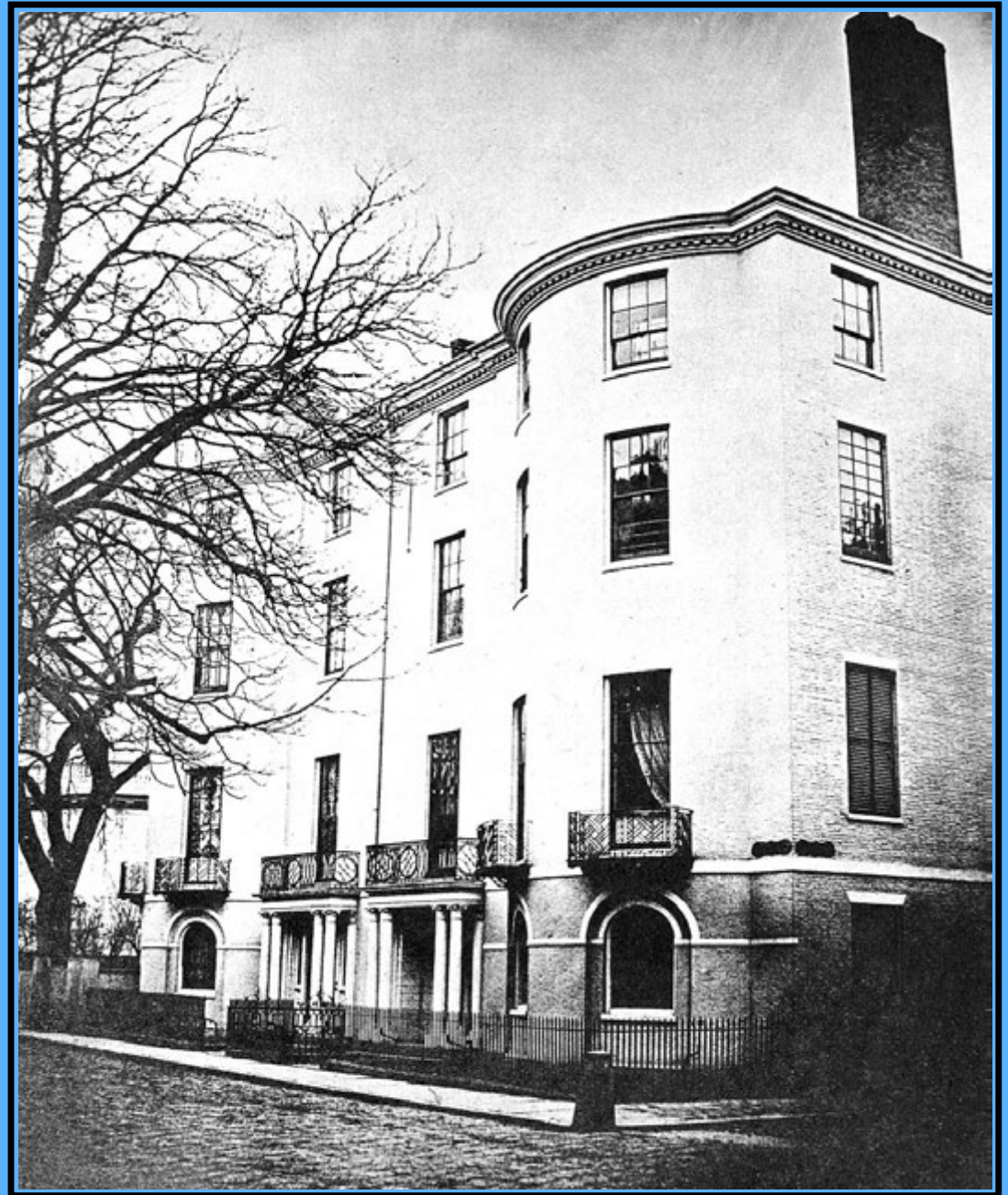


Horace Gray, Jr



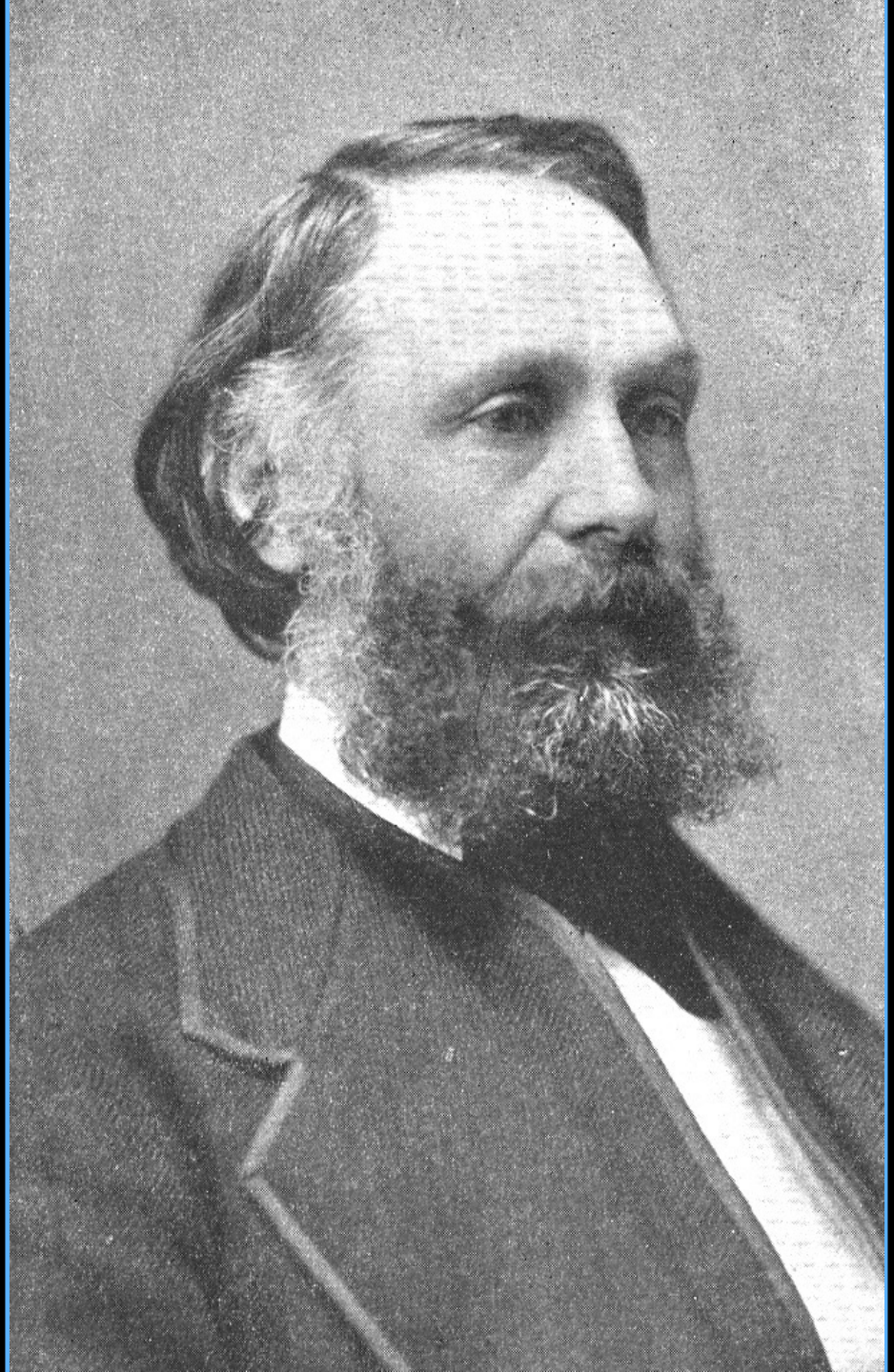
John Chipman Gray

The Horace
Gray
Residence,
Kingston
Street, Boston

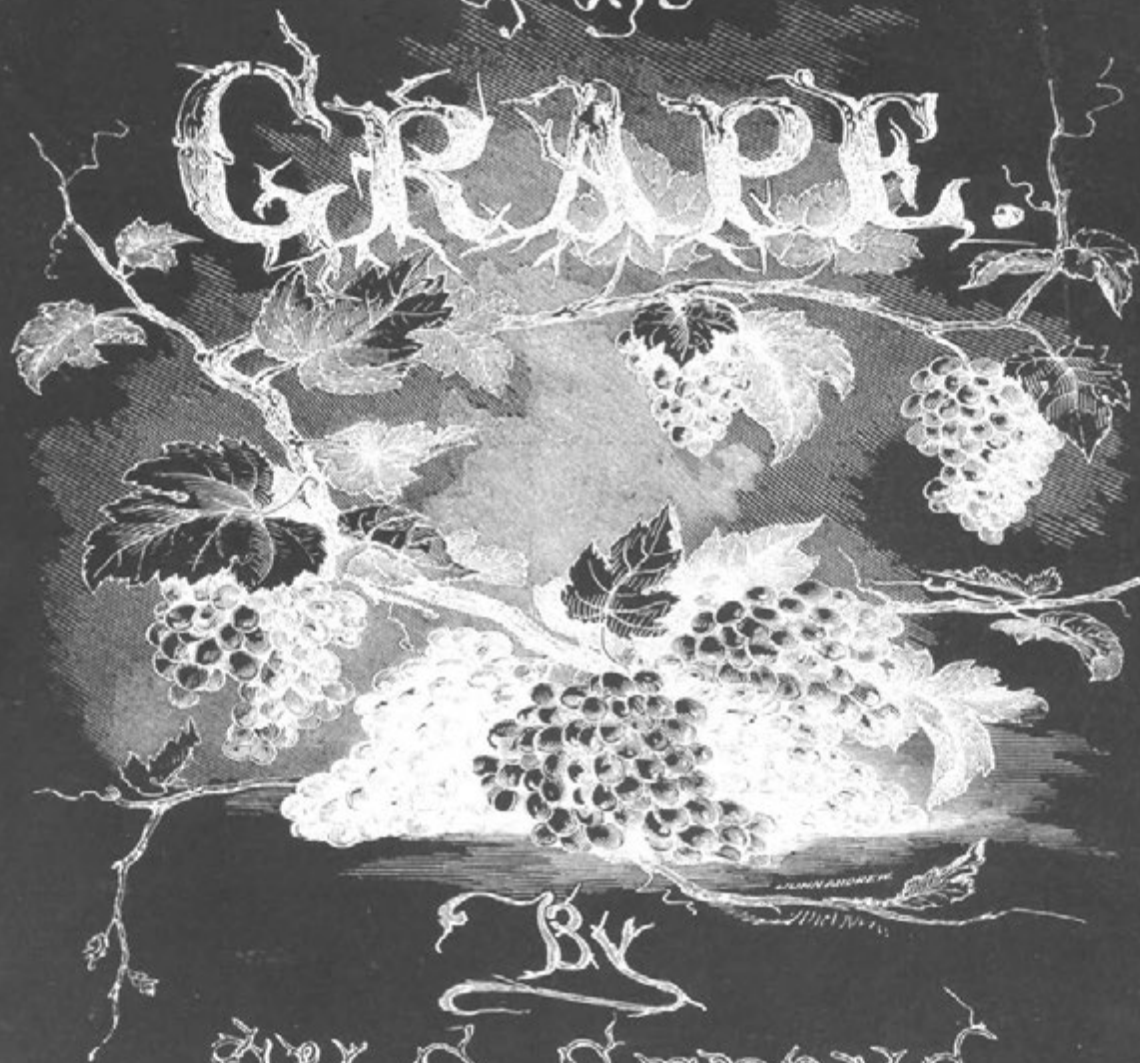


William Chamberlain Strong: The Horticulturalist as Entrepreneur

Brighton
Horticulturalist and
entrepreneur
William
Chamberlain
Strong, who
bought Gray's
Nursery in 1848---
President of the
Mass Horticultural
Society, 1859-
1862



CULTIVATION
of the
GRAPPE.



By
W. C. STRONG.

TILTON & CO.

Strong also pioneered the ice cutting industry in Brighton, excavating two Ice Cutting ponds (Chandler's and Strong's Ponds) in the Nonantum Valley



The Elliott Nursery



In the 1880s, the Strong property was purchased by William Elliott



Brighton Congregational Church picnic, on the Elliott Grounds



Evergreen Cemetery: A Local Horticultural Legacy

Brighton's rural-style Evergreen Cemetery, which opened in 1850, promoted and designed by local horticulturalists



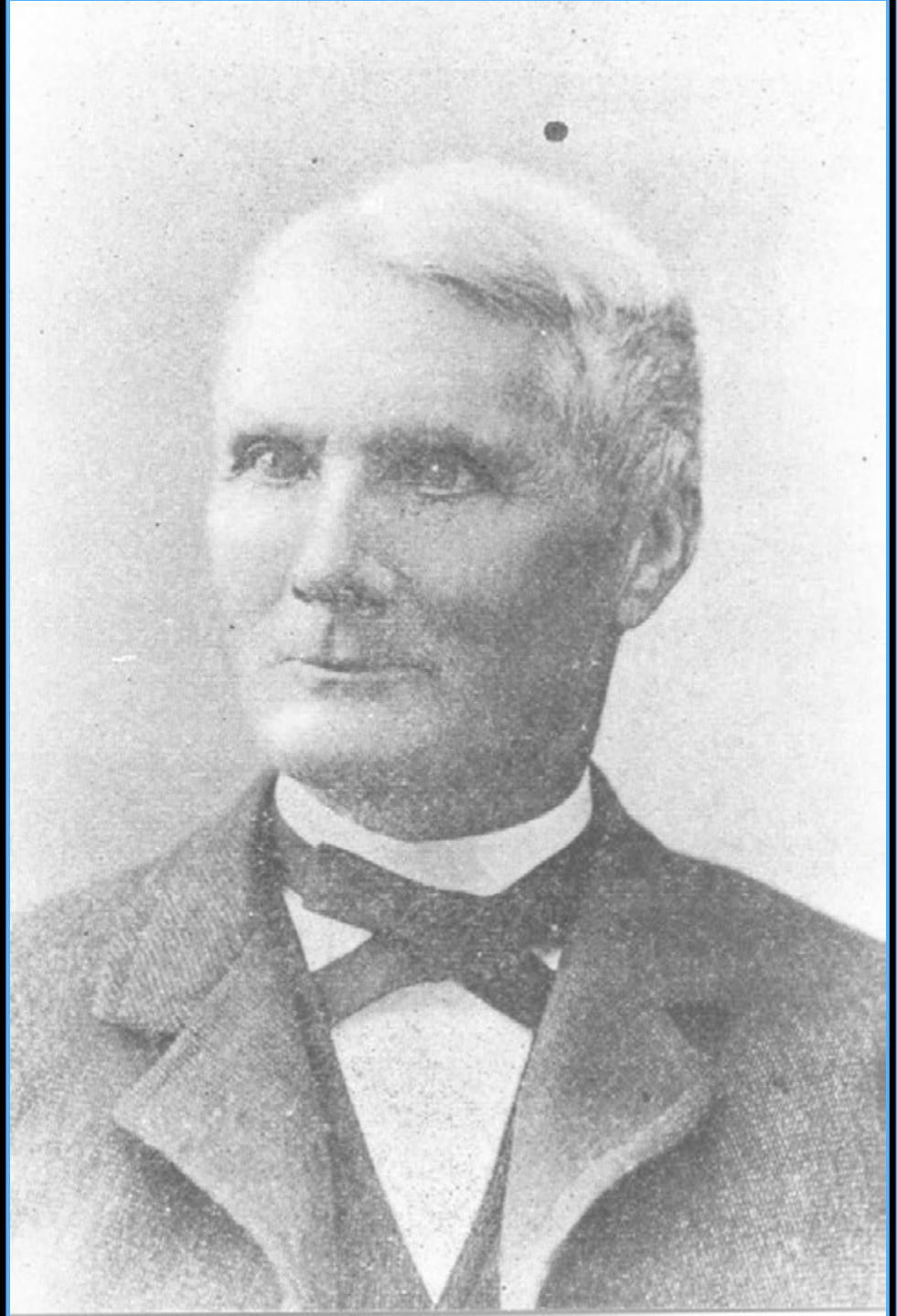


Some Lesser Horticultural Luminaries

Samuel
Jackson
Nursery on
Chestnut Hill
Avenue,
opposite the
present day
Wallingford
Road
intersection



Samuel Jackson
and his twin
brother Nathaniel
also owned and
operated a nearby
slaughterhouse,
almost certainly a
source of animal
fertilizer for the
nursery



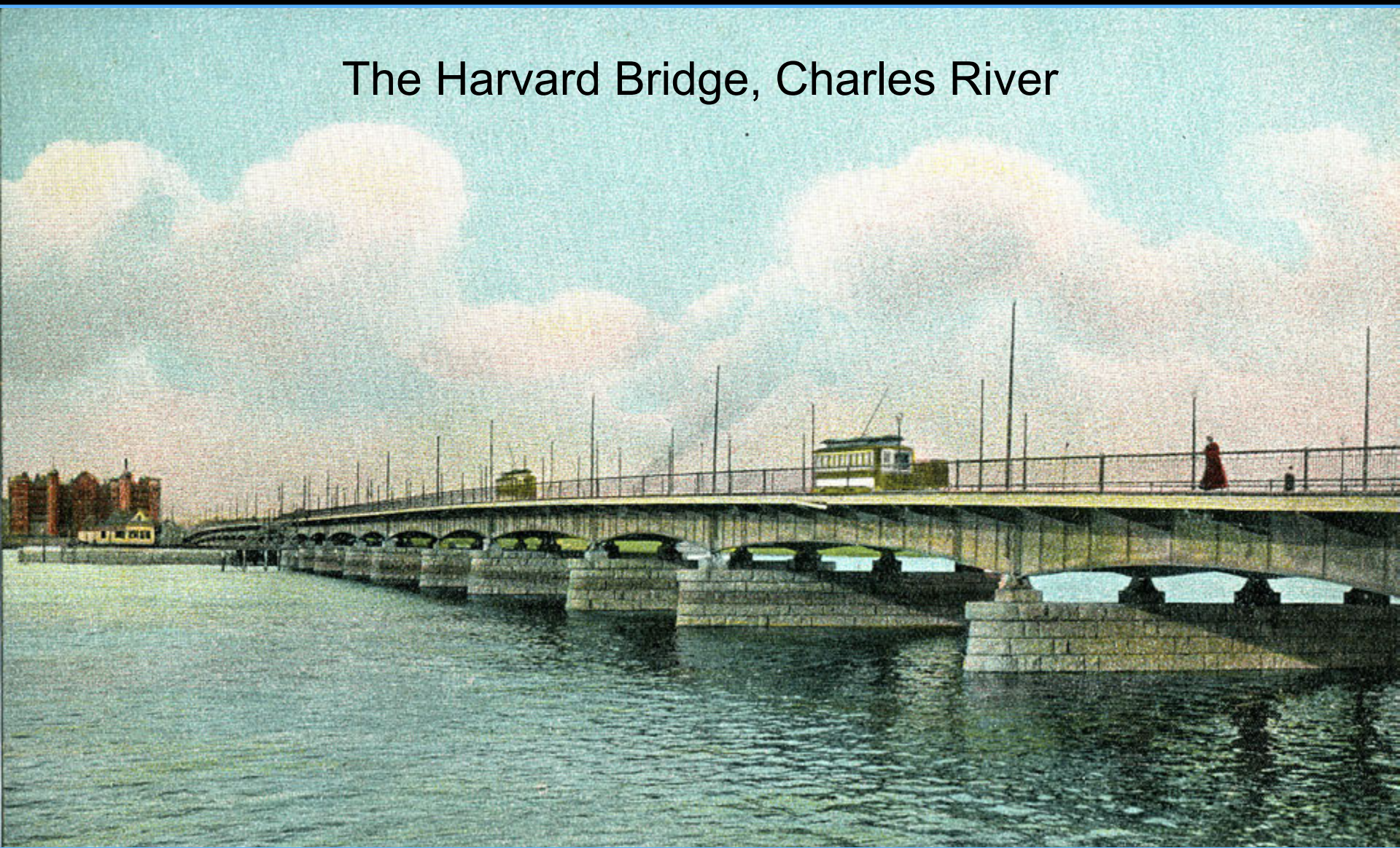
The Samuel Jackson House



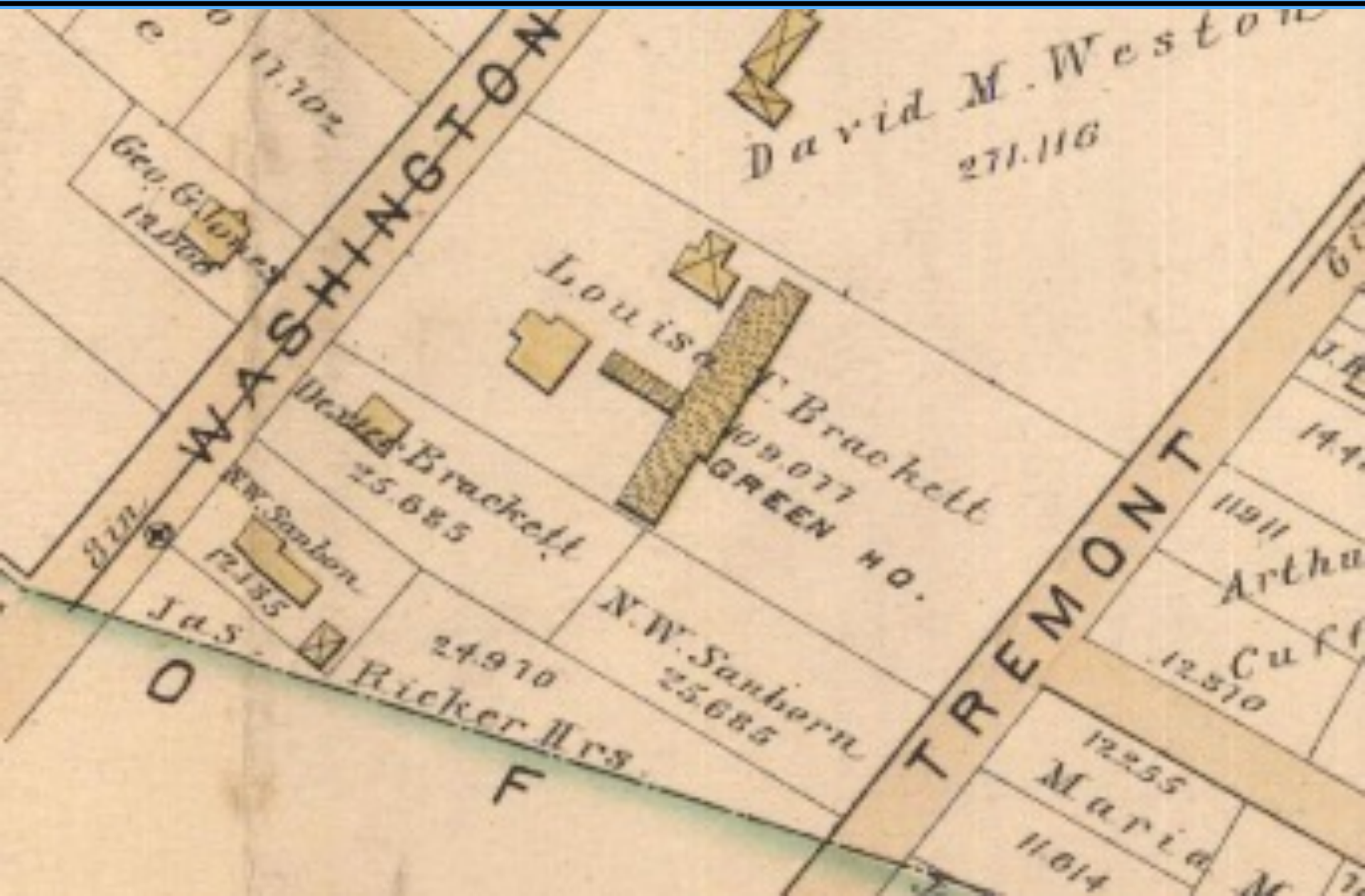
Samuel Jackson's son, William Jackson, a prominent engineer who designed the Harvard Bridge across the Charles River, and William Jackson Avenue, which runs through the grounds of the former nursery, was named in his honor



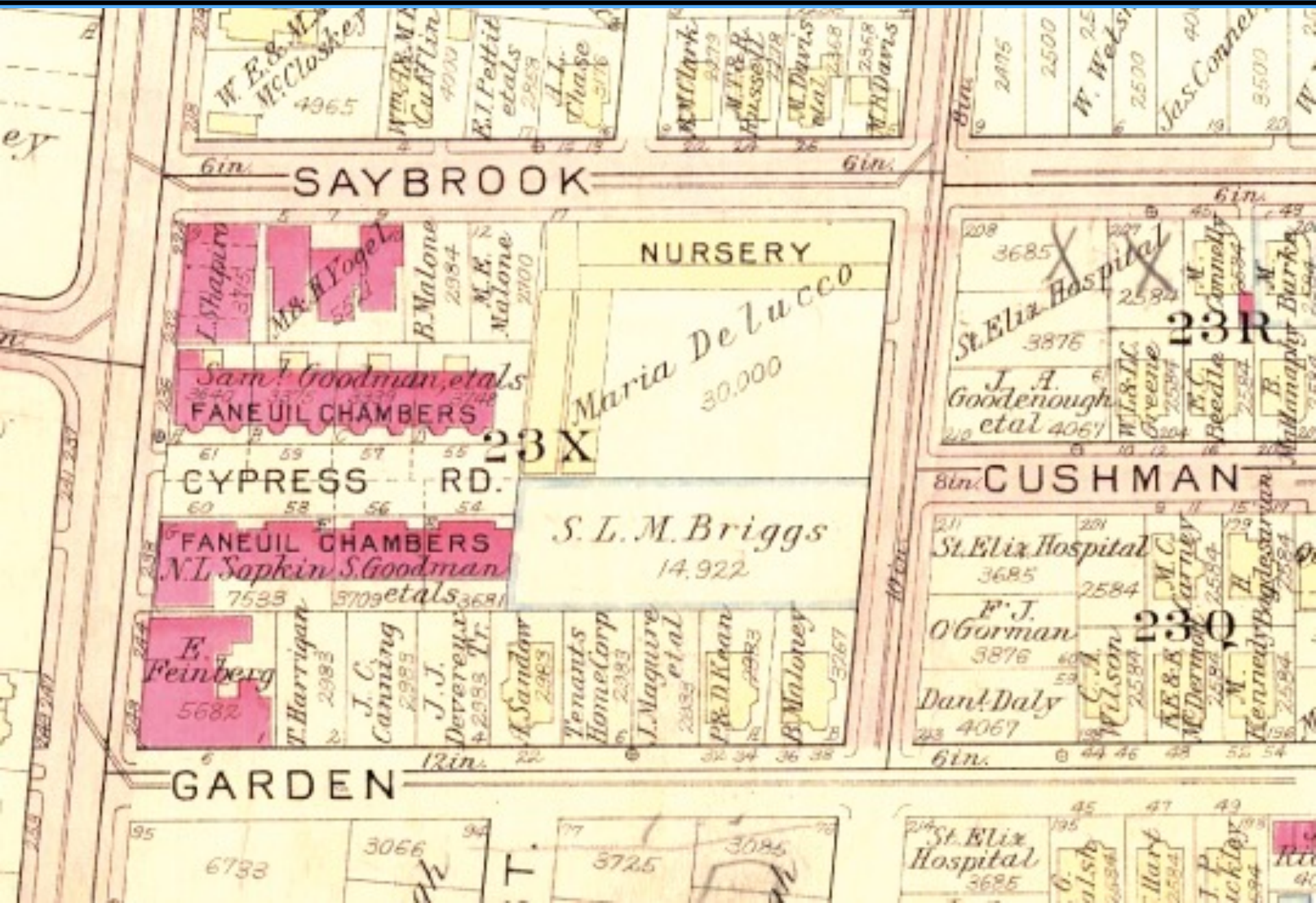
The Harvard Bridge, Charles River

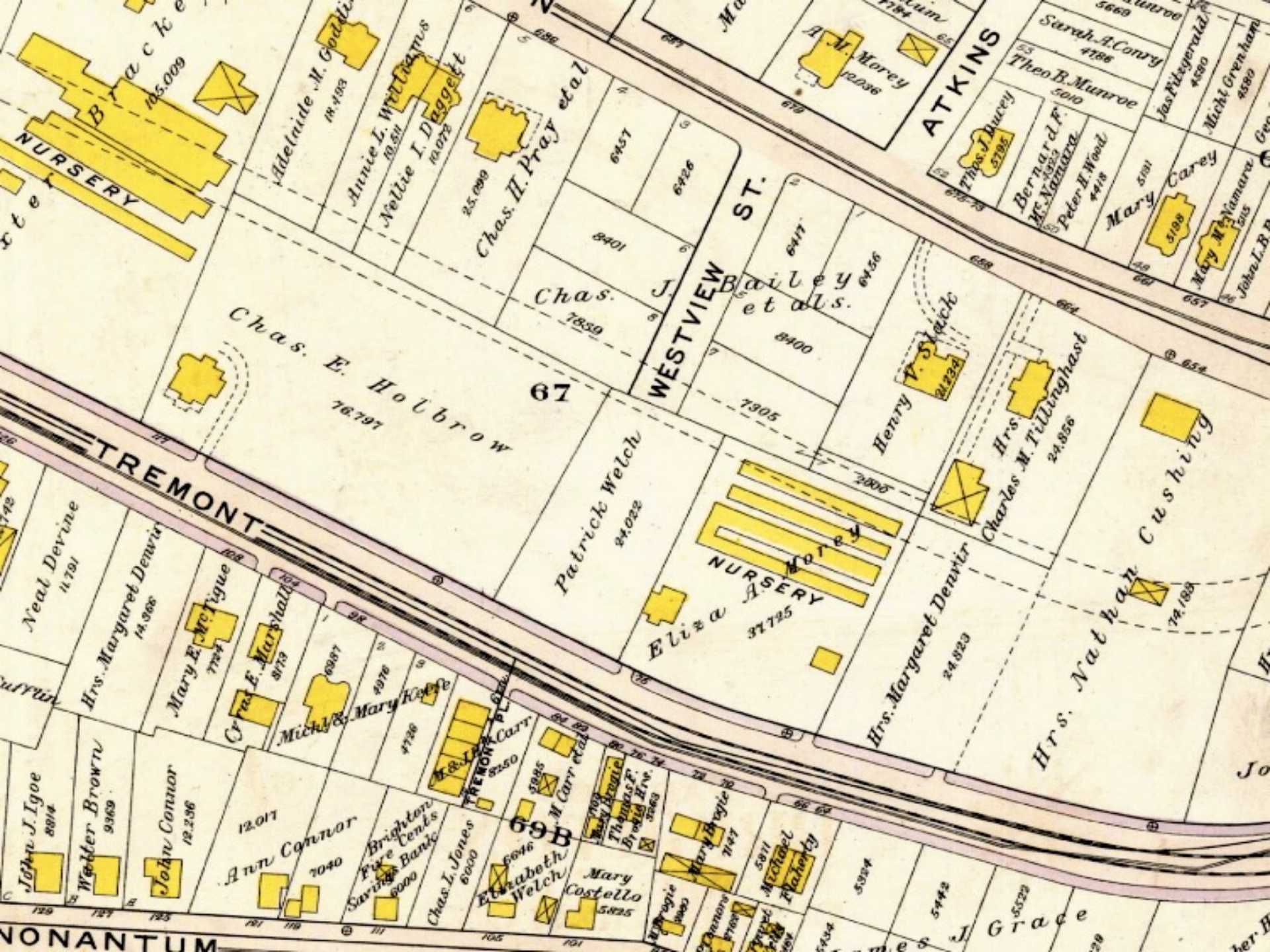


Brackett Estate Greenhouse, Washington Hill, west of Oak Square,
built by horticultural enthusiast, Dexter H. Brackett, about 1880



The De Luco Nursery, Saybrook Street





Map showing property owners and addresses in a neighborhood, likely from a historical census or directory. The map includes streets such as Westview St., Tremont, and Grace. Key property owners and addresses are listed below:

- Westview St. (Left Side):**
 - Adelaide M. Goddard 18 493
 - Annie L. Williams 10 34
 - Nellie I. Daggett 10 72
 - Chas. H. Pray et al 25 09
 - Chas. E. Holbrow 76 79
 - Patrick Welch 84 02
 - Henry V. Slack 82 24
 - Charles M. Tillinghast 24 85
 - Hrs. Margaret Dearie 24 82
 - Hrs. Nathan Cushing 74 18
- Westview St. (Right Side):**
 - Ma 65
 - A. M. Morey 12 36
 - ATKINS
 - Thos. J. Huvey 57 85
 - Bernard F. H. Nantara 50 0
 - Peter H. Wood 44 18
 - Mary Carey 51 08
 - Mary M. Nantara 51 05
 - John L. B. 51 05
 - Sarah A. Conry 47 08
 - Theo. B. Munroe 50 0
 - Jas. Fitzgerald 48 0
 - Nicht. Oren. 45 80
 - John L. B. 51 05
- Tremont (Bottom):**
 - Neal Devine 47 01
 - Hrs. Margaret Dearie 14 30
 - Mary E. McFigue 74 7
 - Cr. E. Marshall 81 7
 - Mich. & Mary Keefe 49 78
 - John J. Igoe 89 14
 - Walter Brown 93 69
 - John Connor 12 36
 - Ann Connor 70 40
 - Brighton Fire Cents Savings Bank 60 00
 - Chas. L. Jones 60 00
 - Elizabeth Welch 60 16
 - Mary Costello 58 25
 - Mary Braggie 74 7
 - Michael Flaherty 58 11
 - Grace 54 42
 - 55 29
- Other Labels:**
 - NURSERY (Yellow shaded area, top left)
 - NURSERY (Yellow shaded area, center)
 - NURSERY (Yellow shaded area, bottom right)
 - 67
 - 69B
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The Holbrow Nursery; The Last of Brighton's Large-scale Horticultural Enterprises

Holbrow house, greenhouses, and flower Shop, Tremont St.,
Brighton





The Holbrow Flowere Shop



The Holbrow Greenhouse



Gile Holbrpw



Finis