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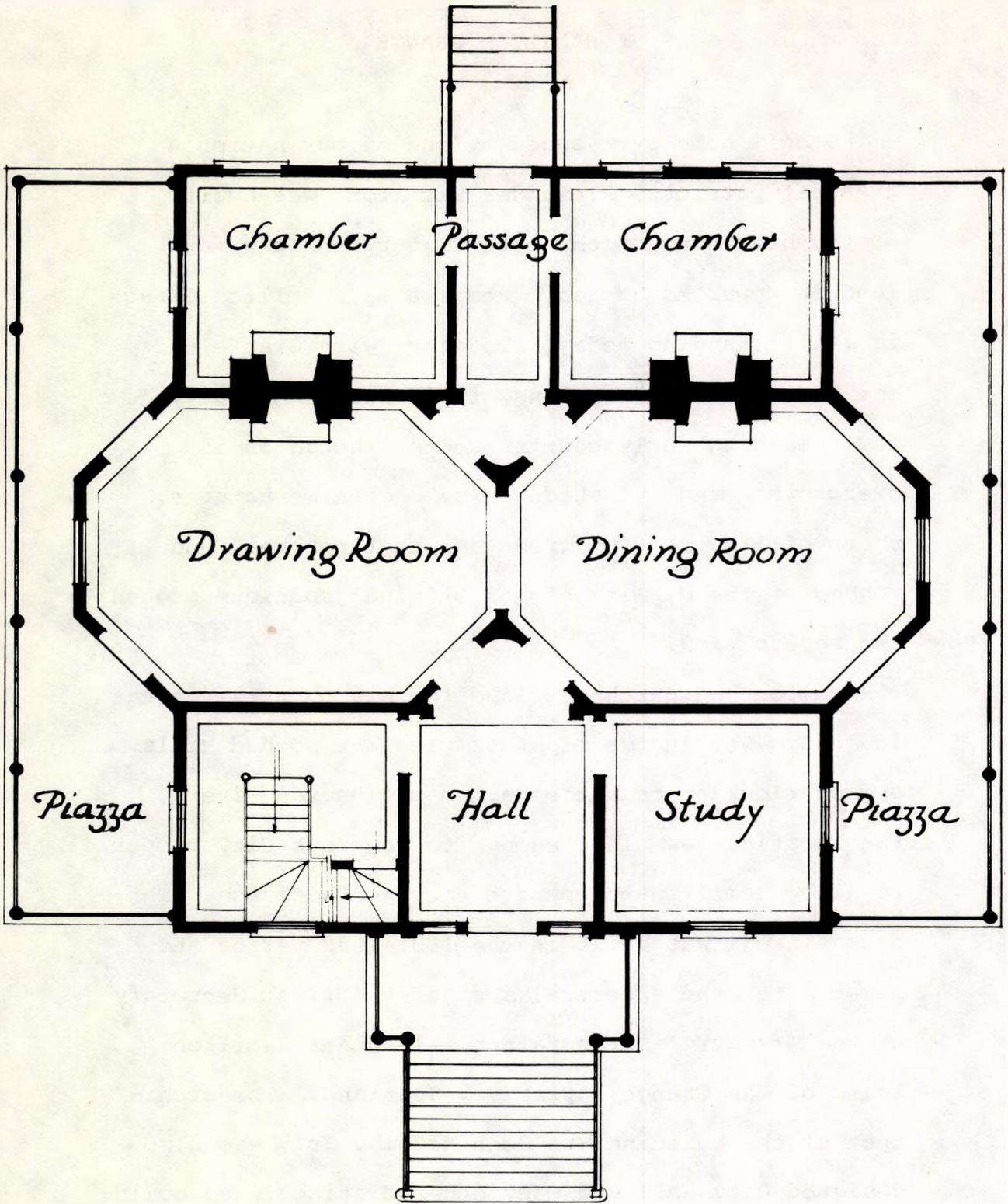


The Grange in its original setting.

## HAMILTON GRANGE

The only home ever owned by one of our nation's greatest patriots, Alexander Hamilton, was built at the beginning of the 19th Century on open farmland in upper Manhattan. Remarkably, Hamilton Grange is still standing today. Together with Gracie and the Morris-Jummel Mansions, it is one of Manhattan's few remaining early country seats, though it is overcrowded and overshadowed by modern structures, shorn of its graceful front and rear porches, and robbed of the dignity of its original spacious grounds and superb view.

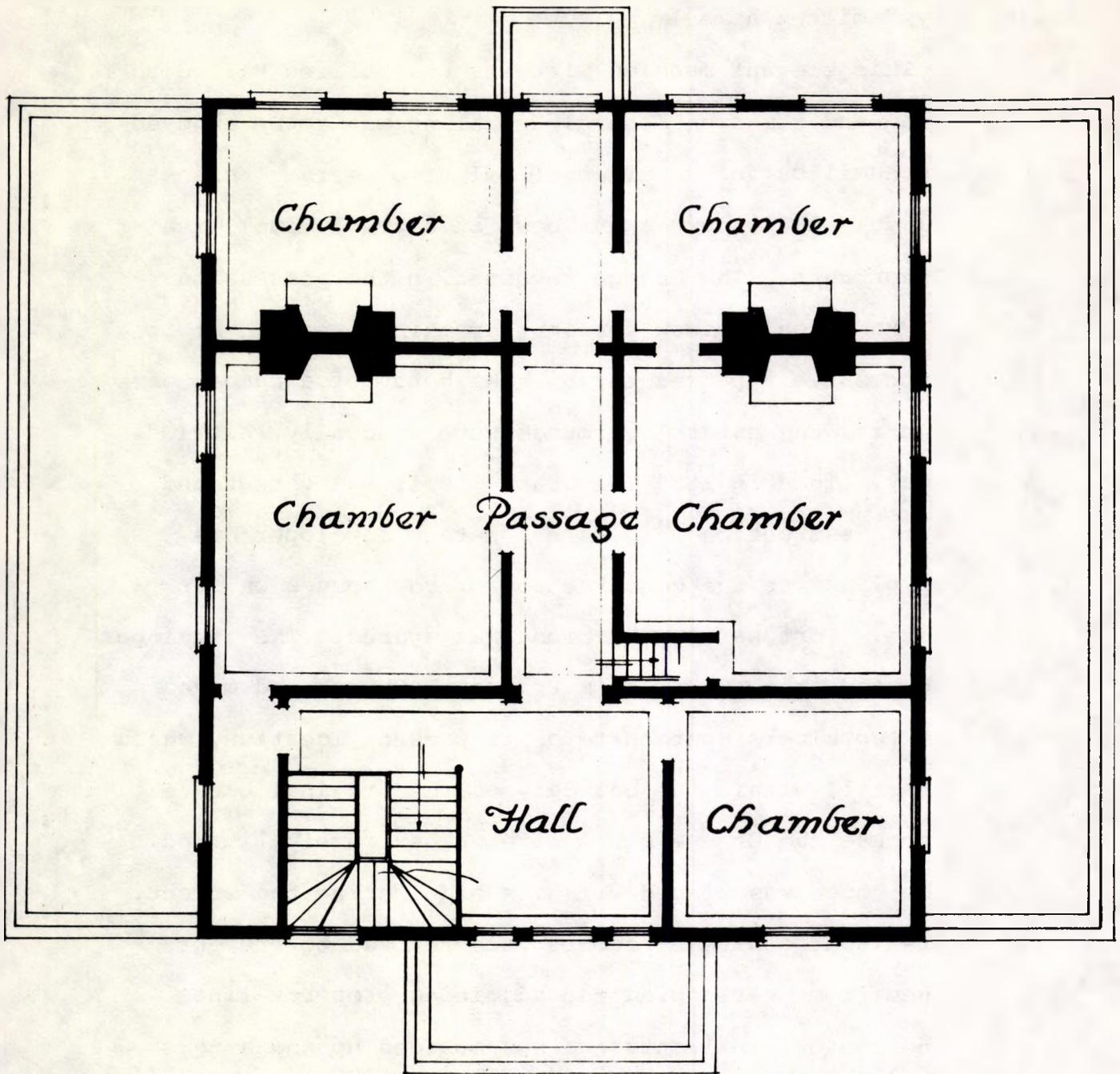
Hamilton had purchased land for his country retreat in 1800. Set in the midst of pleasant wooded hills and overlooking both the Harlem and Hudson Rivers, the location was close enough to New York City proper to allow Hamilton to commute there on business. The house itself was built in the 1801-1802 period and named after the ancestral seat of the first Secretary of the Treasury's grandfather, Alexander Hamilton, Laird of the Grange, Ayrshire, Scotland. The architect of the building was John McComb, Jr., who also designed City Hall and many other distinguished buildings in early 19th-century New York. Certain of the



Plan of the First Floor.

architectural features were, however, worked out by Hamilton himself.

This elegant mansion with its centralized Palladian plan and its fine Federal detailing was to be enjoyed by Hamilton for a period of only two years. For on 11 July 1804, he was cut down in a tragic duel with Aaron Burr. The Grange remained in the possession of Hamilton's widow for another thirty years. At it successively passed through the hands of a number of owners, the estate's grounds were gradually whittled away. Then in 1889 the house itself was threatened with destruction when a real estate developer drew up plans for the construction of row houses on its site. Fortunately the house was spared. The developer donated it to St. Luke's Episcopal Church and moved it two blocks southeast to its present location, which is still within the boundary of the original estate. Because the Grange's new site was extremely limited, the house was placed with its side facing the street. Its front and rear porches were removed to prevent them from overlapping the adjoining property lines; and the original entrance was boarded up and a new doorway cut through the side of the building that now faced the street.



Plan of the Second Floor.

The Grange served St. Luke's in a number of capacities until 1924. In that year George F. Baker, Sr., and J.P. Morgan, Sr., stepped forward and purchased the Grange and its present site from St. Luke's for \$50,000, and conveyed title to the property to the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society. These same two public-spirited citizens also established a \$50,000 trust fund to help offset the Society's costs in maintaining the structure as a memorial to Hamilton. The trust continues to generate income today that is used for the structure's benefit. In 1962 the Secretary of the Interior was authorized by Congress to accept the donation of the Grange to the people of the United States to establish the Hamilton Grange National Memorial in commemoration of the historic role played by Alexander Hamilton in the establishment of the nation. The property is now administered by the National Park Service.

At 141st Street and Convent Avenue the Grange today stands in a vibrant, middle-class section of Harlem, just north of the City College campus. The area has been designated a Historic District by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Because the

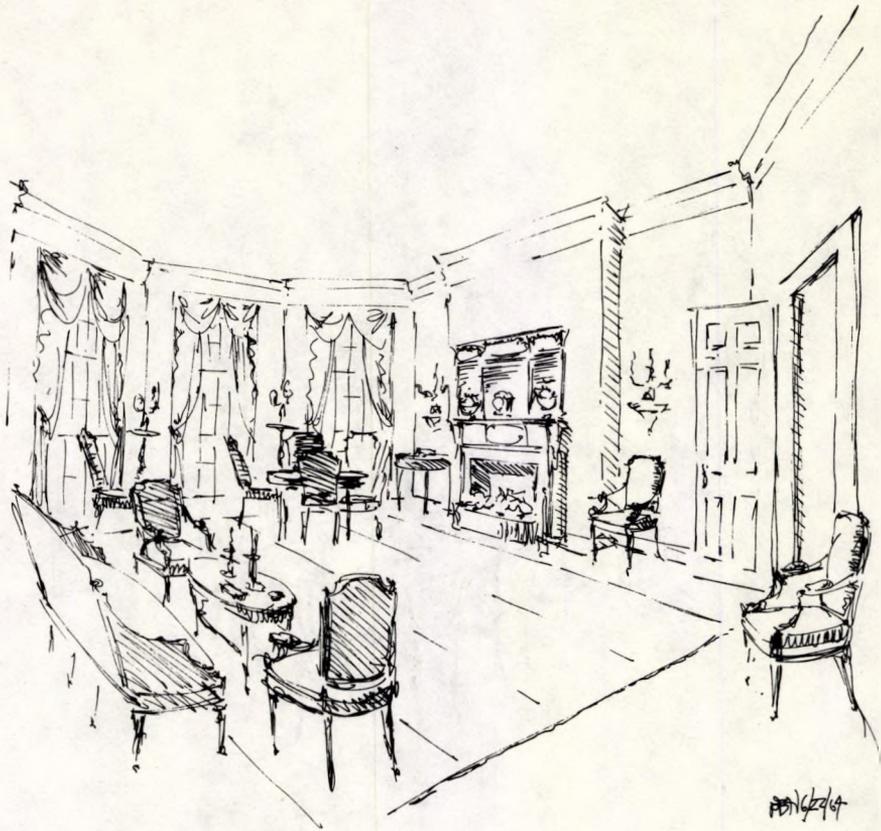


The Grange as it appears today.

Grange shows severe signs of wear, it is the National Park Service's intention to begin restoration of the structure. This restoration will probably take place on the present site. However, additional support from the immediate community and the public at large would raise the possibility of the Grange's being moved to another location that would permit the reconstruction of its front and rear porches. In either case, a total of \$435,000 will be expended on the building's physical rehabilitation during fiscal years 1977 and 1978.

The National Park Service also hopes to furnish the house to evoke the period of Alexander Hamilton's residency. To that end, a furnishing plan has been drawn up. The National Park Service itself owns some of the furniture that was originally in the house. And there is a very good possibility that other pieces of the original furniture now in the possession of the Smithsonian Institution and the Museum of the City of New York might be loaned to a restored Grange. But even under optimal conditions, at least 90% of the furnishings for a restored Grange would have to be purchased outright, including all of the carpeting, draperies, wallpapers, etc. It is therefore estimated

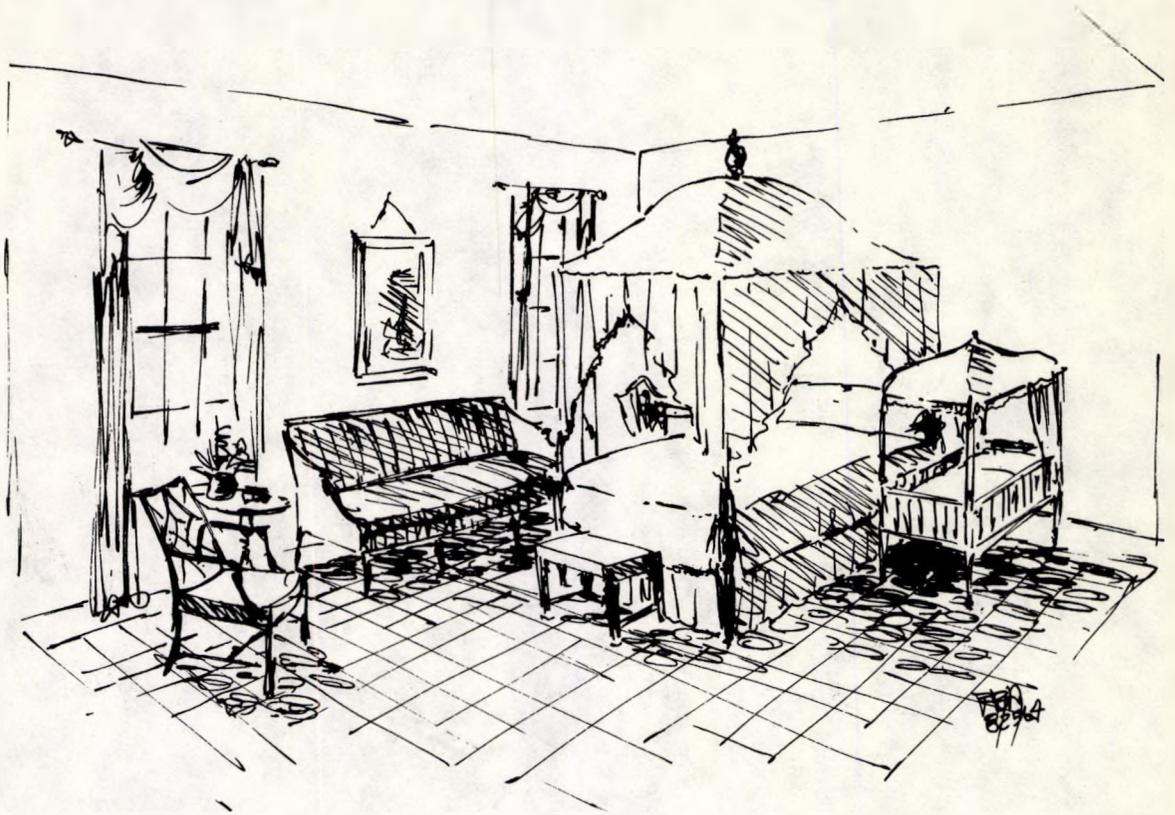
that approximately \$1,000,000 would be required to execute the present furnishing plan. Current Congressional appropriations for Hamilton Grange will not permit the National Park Service to finance this aspect of the project. It is therefore hoped that funds might be located in the private sector to accomplish this highly important work.



Artist's rendering of the  
restored Parlor.



Artist's rendering of the  
restored Dining Room.



Artist's rendering of the  
restored Master Bedroom.



Artist's rendering of the  
restored kitchen.