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Goodale House, Ipswich (#30), ca. 1700;
Rea-Putnam-Fowler, Danvers (#77), ca. 1700;
J. Putnam, Jr., Danvers (#78), ca. 1715;
J. Thorndike House, Beverly (#1), ca. 1702/1725;
H. Smith House, Beverly (#2), ca. 1686;
Beverly Grammar School (#3), ca. 1716;
Conant-Chipman House, Beverly (#4), ca. 1695/1715;
Peter Woodbury House, Beverly (#6), ca. 1700;
Samuel Corning House, Beverly (#7), ca. 1700/1720.

Molded post heads also appear on a single chimney post at the Rev. John Tufts House in West Newbury (#44) and a prick post supporting the gable end of a longitudinal summer beam in the ca. 1700 core of the Sawyer House in Boxford (#59).

THE EXPOSED AND DECORATED TIMBER FRAME

Dwellings Built 1660s to ca. 1700. The decorative embellishment of the posts is one aspect of First Period finish work. The purposeful exposure and decoration of the structural frame is the major visual characteristic of First Period architecture. This decoration of structural carpentry is what differentiates the First Period from the otherwise similar structural system of "Second Period" or Georgian architecture. Major framing members of First Period timber-framed houses were smoothed with planes; those of the later period(s) were roughly adzed but otherwise left unfinished.

Evidence of exposure of framing materials to light and smoke is a key element in identifying First Period frames. While the selection of which members were to be exposed and decorated changed over time (leaving, in some cases, only the summer beam in selected rooms exposed by the 1720s), the decorated frame remained for nearly a century both a basic organizing principle and a vehicle for demonstrating a craftsman's technical virtuosity.

In First Period domestic and public buildings, the projecting edges of the principal ceiling supports (bridging, binding, and tie beams, generically called the "summer beam"), as well as the edges of end and chimney girts, plates, and posts were usually planed and carved with a chamfer. Where two timbers intersected, it was customary to arrest the chamfer with a decorative "stop" incised or cut into the end of the chamfer in one of many decorative patterns. James Kyprianos has developed a typology organized around several types of chamfers and the level of complexity of their stops. His list expands the half dozen examples described by Cummings in 1979 and sets the stage for future comparative study.²¹ (See Fig. 10-11 and Maps VII, VIII, and IX.)

The two most common chamfers, found on the summer beam, were the beveled (or

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"plain" or "flat" chamfer [Type B]) and the quarter-round chamfer (Type C). These could be combined with several types of stops. Listed below are examples of chamfer and stop types (based on the Kyprianos list) found in the thematic area. (Stop types illustrated, but not listed here, are found in buildings already on the National Register.)

- Type B: beveled (plain, flat) chamfer on summer
collar and cove stop (unillustrated)
Thos. Fuller House, Middleton (#75), ca. 1687
collar and lamb's tongue stop (unillustrated)
Conant-Chipman House, Beverly (#4), ca. 1695
stop type 2: raised cove and pip
Woodbury House, Beverly (#5), ca. 1696
stop type 3: lambs tongue and pip
Davis House, Haverhill (#47), ca. 1705
Carlton-Frie House, No. Andover (#68), ca. 1690
stop type 4: angled collar, lambs tongue and pip:
Stanley-Lake House, Topsfield (#62), ca. 1680-90
- Type C: quarter-round on summer and/or other major timbers
stop type 2: lambs tongue
Brown House, Hamilton (#14), 1662-1673
Goldsmith-Pickering House, Wenham (#8), ca. 1700
Sawyer House, Boxford (#59), ca. 1700-1725
stop type 4: collar and lambs tongue
Deane Winthrop House, Winthrop (#87), ca. 1650
Samuel Giddings House, Essex (#20), ca. 1678
Giddings-Burnham House, Ipswich (#38), ca. 1680-1690
Ross Tavern, Ipswich (#38), late 17th c.
George Giddings House, Essex (#18), late 17th
White-Ellery House, Gloucester (#26), ca. 1703+
- Type D: quarter-round chamfer with fillet(s) on summer
stop type 1: single fillet with lambs tongue
James Noyes House, Newbury (#41), ca. 1650-1699
stop type 3: raised ovolo stop with fillets, pip with fillets
Hosmer House, Concord (#101), ca. 1700-1725

Type F-2, a beveled chamfer with fillets with raised cove stop, found on the chimney girt, is unique to one house. Although it may be original, the house, the ca. 1689+ "Old Farm" in Wenham (#10), was restored in the early twentieth century by Joseph Everett Chandler; thus the chamfer may be a product of a restoration craftsman.

While the decoration on major framing timbers represents the most common surviving First Period elaboration, it was only one element of the post-medieval aesthetic. Immigrant carpenters, joiners, and turners who came to New England brought with them not only a thorough knowledge of the

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stylistic treatment of houses, but also the complete sets of tools they needed to realize those ideals in three-dimensional form. Cummings has demonstrated that the continuing influx of craftsmen from England introduced Massachusetts Bay builders to newer English methods.²²

Shadow Molding. Sheathed walls and doors were decorated with shadow moldings created by planes that were run along the outer face of a board at its juncture with another. This relatively rare interior finish is well-recorded by Cummings.²³ (See Fig. 12.) At the Browne House in Watertown, shadow molding appears along the edges of the original horizontal sheathing. Examples of houses displaying shadow molding include:

Deane Winthrop House, Winthrop (#87), ca. 1650/75;
Newman-Fiske-Dodge House, Wenham (#12), ca. 1658[?];
Brown House, Hamilton (#14), ca. 1662-73;
Stanley-Lake House, Topsfield (#62), ca. 1703+;
Paine-Dodge House, Ipswich (#37), ca. 1703+;
Browne House, Watertown (#104), ca. 1694-1701.

Surviving doors or door surrounds in seventeenth-century houses are uncommon. An older reused door was found in the Giddings-Burnham House in Ipswich (#36) and is now in the collections of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (see Fig. 13). A shadow-molded door survives in the cellar of the ca. 1700 Goldsmith-Pickering-Low House in Wenham (#8), and an original door opening with segmental arch survives in the late 17th century Herrick House in Gloucester (#22). Other decorative elements of the interior include a rare ogee brace at the ca. 1700 Goldsmith-Pickering-Low House in Wenham (#8).

First Period stairs are also unlikely to survive. Those documented among the nominated properties are in the Benaiah Titcomb House (moved to Essex from Newburyport, built after 1700 [#19]), and the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House at 162 Cherry Street in Wenham (#12).

The Decorated Frame House ca. 1700-1730. After 1700, the quarter-round chamfer disappeared and a narrow flat chamfer became common, especially in older settled areas of Essex County. A less common variation was the diminutive cyma molding executed along the edge of and at the surface of beams in only four houses in Essex County (three of which are in the present nomination; the so-called "Witch House" in Salem was previously listed in the National Register). Both types of later chamfering were reductive, simple finishes that were terminated, if at all, by the least elaborate stops. Most, but not all, the late houses with this form of finish are in Essex County:

Type A. flat/bevel chamfer on summer
stop 1: taper stop

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"Old Farm," Wenham (#10), 1690-1700 addition
Thorndike House, Beverly (#1), 1702
Hammond House, Newton (#105), 1700-1720
Friend House, Wenham (#9), 1700-1725
Perkins House, Wenham (#13), 1725

stop 2: raised cove stop

Rea-Putnam-Fowler House, Danvers (#77), ca. 1700
Phineas Upham House, Melrose (#88), after 1703

stop 4: lambs tongue stop

Abraham Browne House, Watertown (#104), 1694-1701
H. Smith House, Beverly (#2), ca. 1686?
Lambert House, Rowley (#39), ca. 1699
Benaiah Titcomb House, Essex (#19), ca. 1700-1709
Wm. Livermore House, Beverly (#6), ca. 1700
Samuel Corning House, Beverly (#7), ca. 1700
Dustin House, Haverhill (#51), ca. 1700
Samuel March House, W. Newbury (#45), ca. 1700 addition
Pillsbury-Witham House, Georgetown (#56), ca. 1700+
Proctor House, Peabody (#80), ca. 1700 addition
Samuel Giddings House, Essex (#20), ca. 1702+
Abraham Adams House, Byfield, Newbury (#40), ca. 1705
Benjamin Coker House, Newburyport (#42), ca. 1706
Davis-Freeman House, Gloucester (#23), ca. 1709-1712
Woodbury-Quarrels House addition, Hamilton (#15) ca. 1710
Hazen-Kimball-Aldrich House, Georgetown (#55), ca. 1710
Chase House, West Newbury (#46), ca. 1715
George Hopkinson House, Groveland (#52), ca. 1716
Thomas Hammond House, Newton (#105), ca. 1700-1720
Rev. Daniel Putnam House, N. Reading (#92), ca. 1720
Solomon Kimball House, Wenham (#11), ca. 1700-1725
Hardy House, Groveland (#53), ca. 1725
Smith House, Ipswich (#32), ca. 1725
House, Labor in Vain Rd., Ipswich (#31), ca. 1720-1730
Gott House, Rockport (#29), ca. 1702?-1703

Type G2, cyma chamfer on summer or bridging beam with no stop

Haskell House, Gloucester (#21), ca. 1720;
"Old Garrison," Rockport (#28), ca. 1703+;
Samuel Chase House, West Newbury (#46), ca. 1715.

Quirked-beaded chamfered frames: Beginning no earlier than the 1690s, the wider-beveled and quarter-round chamfers began to be supplanted by a "quirked" or wide rounded bead running from end to end of the timber's edge without a terminating stop. Perhaps because of their later date of settlement at a time when this element of First Period decoration was in fashion, quirked-beaded frames are particularly prevalent in Middlesex County and the western towns of

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Essex County. (See maps)

Type G-3 quirked-beaded chamfer on summer with no stop

Moses Brewer House, Sudbury [Wayland] (#112), ca. 1700;
Zeb Spaulding House, Carlisle (#100), ca. 1700-1720;
Stephen Bacon House, Natick (#109), ca. 1704-1720;
Timothy Johnson House, N. Andover (#67), ca. 1704-1727;
Hopestill Bent Tavern, Wayland (#10), ca. 1710;
Blanchard-Upton House, Andover (#70), ca. 1710-1720;
Isaac Bullard House, Holliston (#108), ca. 1711-1720;
John Mason House, Lexington (#102), ca. 1715;
Dyke-Wheeler House, Gloucester (#25), ca. 1720;
Foster Homestead, Andover (#71), ca. 1720;
Walcott-Whitney House, Stow (#114), ca. 1720-1730;
Abraham Jacquith House, Billerica (#98), ca. 1725;
Hapgood House, Stow (#113), ca. 1726;
Addington Gardner House, Sherborn (#106), ca. 1730;
Christopher Page House, Bedford (#96), ca. 1740.

It is unclear whether one variant, type F-1, which is a wide quirked bead with lamb's tongue stop found at the Benaiah Titcomb House (#19) (ca. 1700-1709) in Essex (formerly Newburyport), is original or part of Norman Isham's early 20th century restoration.

In the second decade of the eighteenth century, shadow molding of sheathing for the fireplace wall or doors gave way to applied moldings, which were often used to create simulated panels. This is true in the Davis Freeman House in Gloucester (#23), the doors of the James Putnam House in Danvers of ca. 1715 (#78), and the White-Ellery House in Gloucester (see Fig. 13).

The stairs at the Davis-Freeman House (#23), the White-Ellery House (#26), and the Prince-Osborn House in Danvers of ca. 1715 (#79) are also excellent examples of transitional staircases of this later period. The Hapgood House in Stow of ca. 1726 (#113) represents the transitional developments of the First Period/Second Period style.

First Period Framing/Decoration in Second Period Houses. Beginning in the early decades of the eighteenth century, framing members were left roughly adzed and encased by boxing which was often decorated with a quirk bead similar to that used on the exposed frame of late First Period buildings. In the Second Period, the aesthetic of an exposed and decorated structure was gradually supplanted by one that concealed the frame. Walls and ceilings were plastered, and the liberal use of feather-edged and raised-field paneling further obscured the structure. For a time, both First and Second Period features were often combined in a building. Frequently, the new boxed beams of the classical or "Georgian" aesthetic existed in some rooms, while others

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were built with an exposed and decorated frame. Houses deemed by the survey criteria as "transitional" contain quirked-beaded or flat chamfer decoration on summer beams in at least one room, even if other rooms were built simultaneously with their frame hidden beneath decorative boxing.

One of the best examples of this phenomenon is the ca. 1700-1702 addition to the William Murray House in Salem (#82). Here, the second-story ties were exposed with flat chamfers and taper stops; the first-story summer, however, was only partially chamfered, as if the decision to case the beam was made during construction. Other examples of this combination include:

Joseph Fuller House, Middleton (#74), ca. 1714-1720;
Abbot-Stinson House, Andover (#72), ca. 1720-1726;
Christopher Page House, Bedford (#96), ca. 1740,;
Gott House, Rockport (#29), ca. 1702?-1730;
Timothy Johnson House, North Andover (#67), ca. 1720.

ATTRIBUTION OF BUILDINGS TO INDIVIDUAL CARPENTERS/"SCHOOLS"

The attribution of specific structures to known carpenters on the basis of stylistic or structural framing characteristics and documentary evidence of the carpenter is possible in a few cases. Thus, in Ipswich, we can assign three houses to the owner-carpenter of one house on the basis of similarities between his own house and others in the immediate vicinity, including:

Giddings-Burnham House, Ipswich (#36), ca. 1680-1690;
Thomas Low House, Ipswich (#33), ca. 1700;
James Burnham House, Ipswich (#34), 1677-1703.

The important stairway at the Benaiah Titcomb House (#19) in Essex may be the work of Benaiah's son, Edmund Titcomb, who was a known turner. On the basis of nearly identical molded post-heads in two Topsfield houses, we can assign both the ca. 1670 Zaccheus Gould House (#64) and the Stephen Foster House (#60), built ca. 1700 to one unknown carpenter.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

The potential for significant prehistoric sites to be located on the properties listed in this nomination is high. First Period houses are often situated at locations exhibiting the same characteristics favored by native people in selecting sites. These include close proximity to wetlands, preference for well-drained soils (especially on south-facing slopes), and protection from prevailing winds and storms. In addition, the documentary record indicates that First Period houses and settlements were actually located in locales where natives had cleared dense forests either for agricultural or settlement purposes.

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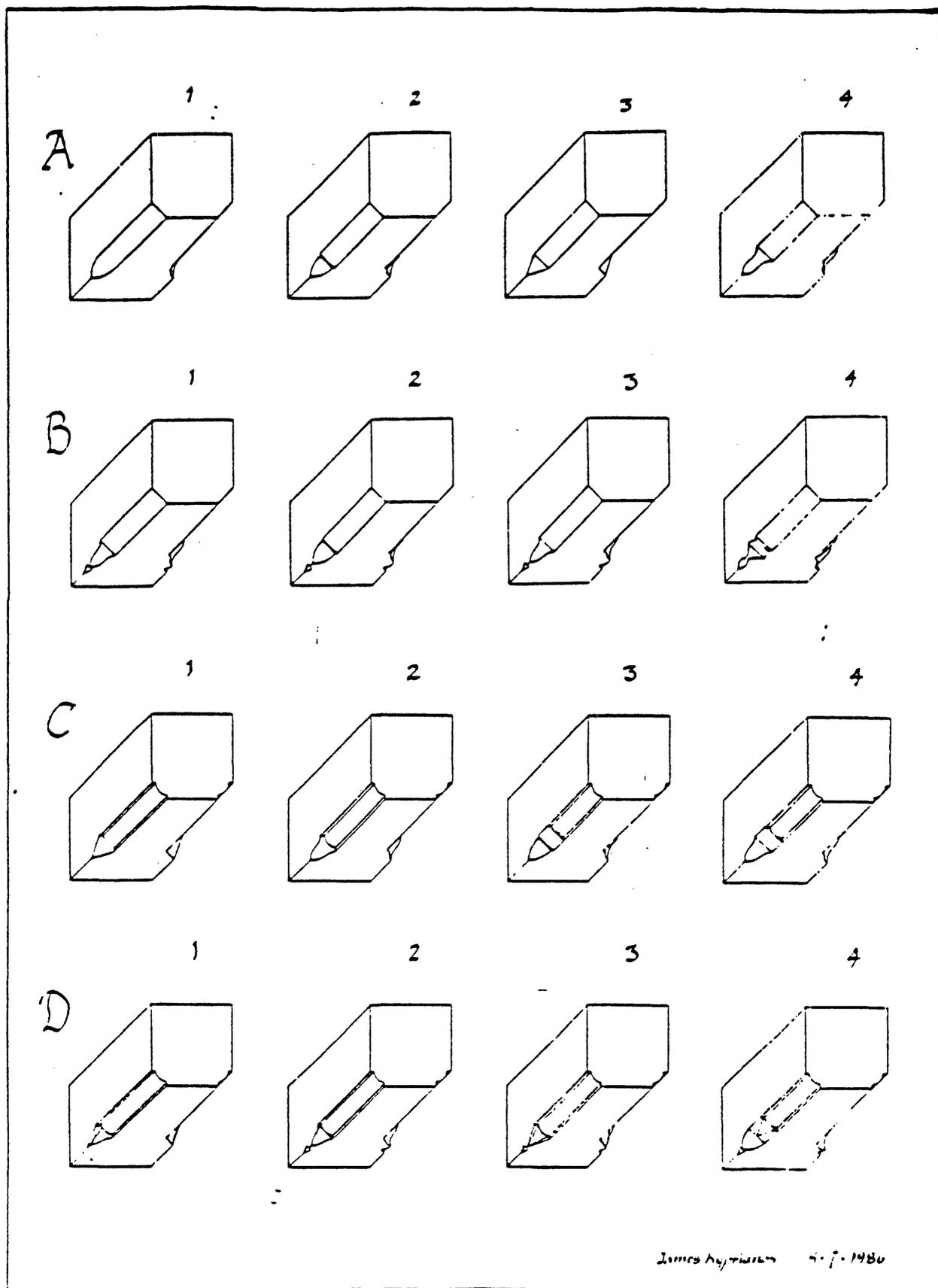
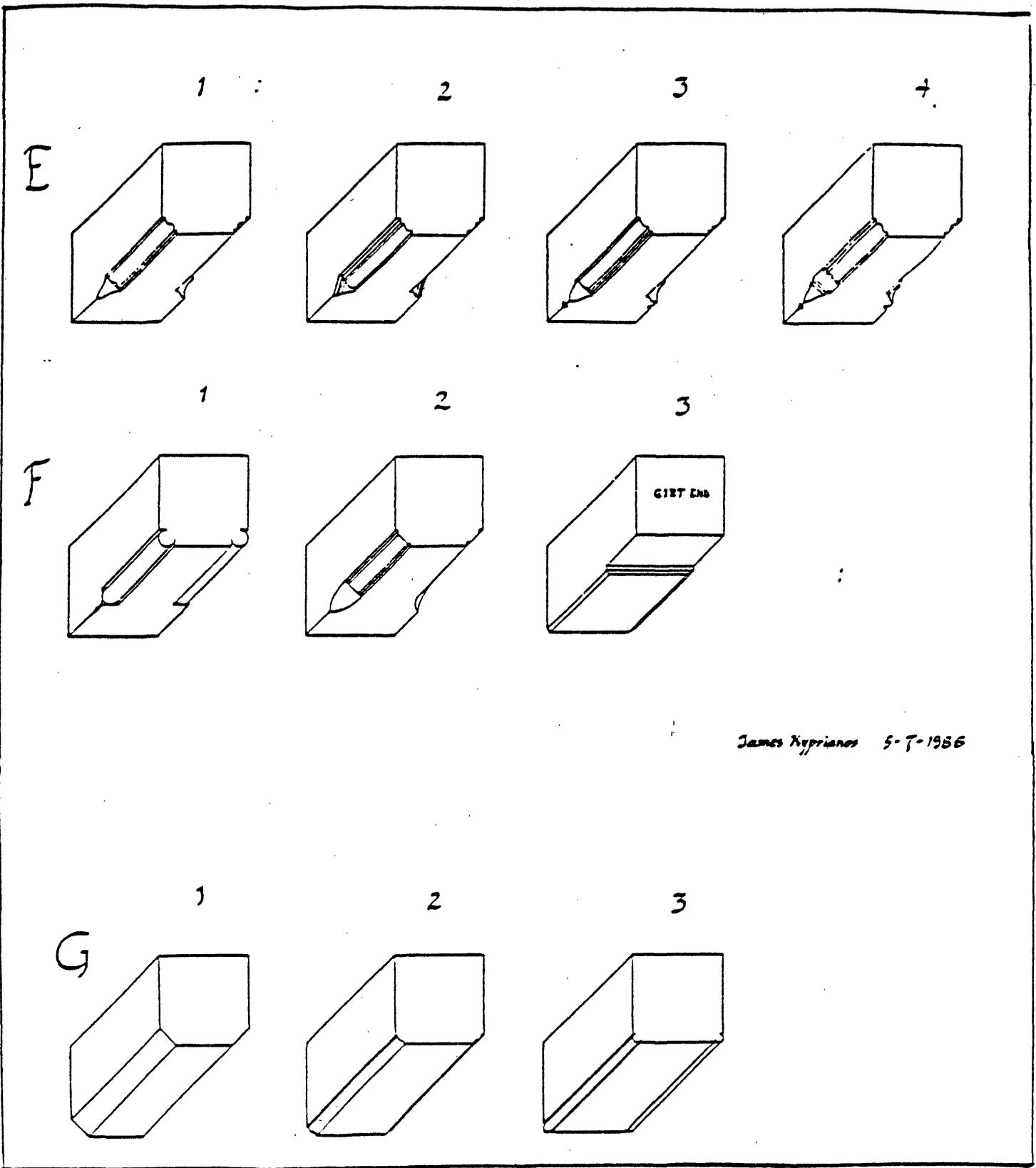


Fig. 10. Typology of Chamfers and Chamfer Stops (J. Kyprianos)



James Kyprianos 5-7-1986

Fig. 11. Typology of Chamfers and Chamfer Stops (J. Kyprianos)

FIG. 12

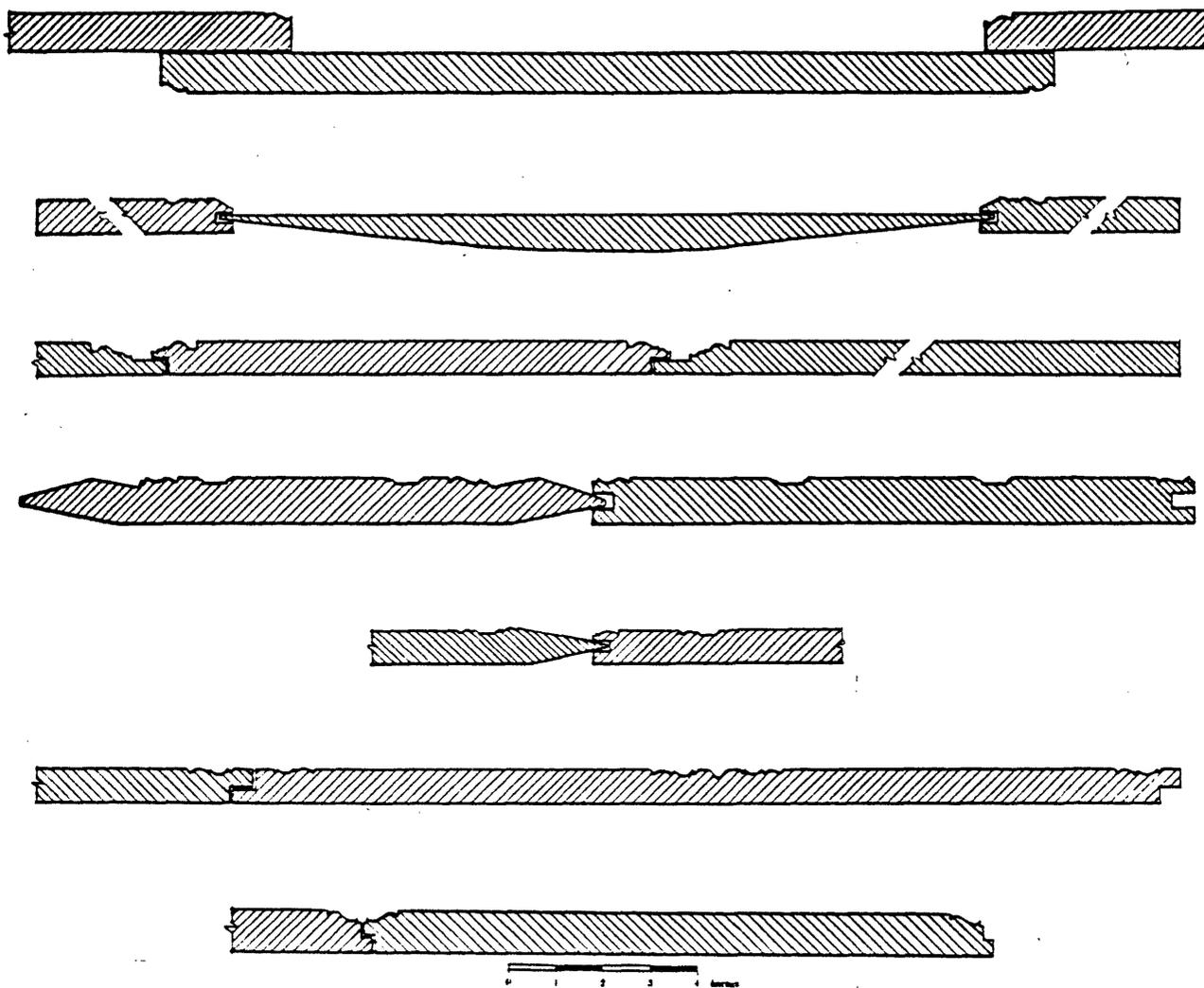


Fig. 12. Profiles of Molded Sheathing, [from Cummings, Framed Houses, p.176]