

CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Willie Gibbons House

Furnishing Plan

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U. S. Department of the Interior
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Furnishing Plan
Willie Gibbons House
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

by
Keithel C. Morgan
Park Historian, Division of Interpretation

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INTRODUCTION

THE HISTORY OF HENSLEY SETTLEMENT begins with the land, when, in 1845, Governor William Owsley of Kentucky, granted to C. and R. M. Bales five hundred acres of land ". . . at the headwaters of Martins Fork and Shillalah Creek on the top of Cumberland Mountain." When Burton Hensley, Sr. purchased five hundred acres of land on this relatively flat plateau some of Bales land had been cleared and used for grazing. Burton, or "Gabby Burt" as he was known, subdivided most of this property into sixteen parts which were deeded to each of his principal heirs. Burton's son-in-law, Sherman Hensley, used his wife's share and thirty-eight purchased acres when he moved on the mountain in December of 1903. He went, as he said, to make a living, and there was "plenty of outlook for stock".

As the Hensleys and the Gibbons with whom they intermarried moved on the mountain to their future they were, at the same instance, going back in time. Not too far away in this mountain range was Cumberland Gap, where a floodtide of immigrants had channeled through into Kentucky and beyond to make their home more than 100 years earlier. The Hensleys and the Gibbons were similar to the earlier immigrants. They were perhaps the last with the pioneer spirit to foresake settled areas for a remote mountaintop. They built mud chinked log houses and stone fireplaces from materials at hand. In a few years there were several farmsteads at the settlement, most with a house, barn, chicken house, hog house, smoke house, corn crib, and springhouse. Approximately forty structures were built to house the

expanding community as the Hensley and Gibbons children grew up, married, and settled with their families on the mountain. The population probably reached about one hundred, though Sherman Hensley remembered only fifty to sixty persons.

Hensley Settlement residents made their living from the land. Their vegetable gardens, orchards, field crops and the forest provided food for the table and feed for their animals. In many ways this community could have originated fifty to one hundred years earlier; the characteristics of early pioneer life were kept alive. Residents were nearly self-sufficient at a time when the rest of the nation's people were relying on each other for their needs. Roads and electricity, symbols of progress, never reached the Settlement. In its beginning Hensley Settlement was typical of isolated settlements in the Southern Appalachian region. Now it is valuable because it gives us an insight into the life of the mountain people and our heritage. Each man, woman, and child had to work to maintain a degree of self reliance and independence. Food had to be harvested and preserved, some tools were made, there was a small school, and all the basics were made or grown at Hensley Settlement with little dependence on the outside world. As a result of ^{the} Hensleys' and Gibbons' efforts, an isolated community of rural Appalachia survived until 1950.

Hensley Settlement was purchased by the state of Kentucky in the 1940's as part of the lands to become a National Park. Under terms of the agreement residents were to have life-time tenure of the property. Many people were already leaving, however. Herbert Hensley said the biggest share of the people left because ". . . work got pretty good,

money was pretty good. The younger ones went to public jobs, the latter ones sold out to the park". By 1947 only three families remained. Two soon departed. Sherman left in 1951.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RESTORATION of ~~the~~ three farmsteads (Bert Hensley, Lige Gibbons, and Willie Gibbons) and schoolhouse began in 1965 with Job Corps labor under the direction of former resident Jess Gibbons, Willie Gibbons' son. Presently, the National Park Service is developing the Settlement as a "living history" area. Farmer demonstrators conduct maintenance, interpretive, and farming activities. Two of the restored structures include interior adaptation for use as employee quarters. The other two farms have been partially refurnished for public visitation. Furnishings were acquired from flea markets, antique shops, etc., by people knowledgeable of Hensley Settlement lifestyle but without the direction of an approved furnishing plan.

New National Park Service historic preservation policies (non-consumptive use) for artifacts make the "antique" items purchased inappropriate for living history uses planned for Settlement structures.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN is to (1) state the interpretive objectives for Hensley Settlement, (2) describe the operation plan for Willie Gibbons' House, (3) determine appropriateness of existing furnishings (4) and provide direction for future acquisitions.

PART A

DEFINITION OF INTERPRETIVE OBJECTIVES

The Park's Master Plan, October 1978, describes the objective for cultural resources as ". . . preserve the cultural values of the Park by allowing Cumberland Gap to revert to a wilderness appearance, and by protecting the other historic resources including the Civil War sites and Hensley Settlement." The Statement for Management, December 1976, further defines the objective for interpretation as fostering "public understanding and appreciation of the park's historical and natural significance through varied interpretive programs and facilities . . ."

Specific objectives for Hensley Settlement were listed in the Individual Activity Plans of the park's Statement for Interpretation. The interpretive program for Hensley Settlement is designed to portray the lifestyle of that mountain community, how the isolation on the mountain affected that life, and how the search for new land drew inhabitants to the mountaintop. All of these elements made the community a significant extension into the 20th Century of the pioneering spirit that led thousands through the Gap in the 18th and 19th centuries. To assure quality visitor experiences, the program should meet the following objectives:

After visiting the Settlement, talking to farmers, (and reading available literature) park visitors when asked informally will be able to explain the Settlement's significance as stated above.

Visitors will be able to describe a Settlement farmstead and the lifestyle of the mountain community between 1903-1951.

The 1971 Interpretive Prospectus also described the interpretive activities that should be conducted at Willie Gibbons' house.

"The Willie Gibbons house should be one of the focal points of the interpretive effort. The kitchen, living room-bedroom, bedroom, and porch should be completely refurnished. Here a number of demonstrations should be given on a rotating, periodical basis. The house is an exhibit in place. The culture of the settlement can be brought to life with imaginative demonstrations. Among the possibilities are cookery, churning of butter, making of apple butter, soap, candles, snapping and stringing beans, spinning and weaving wool, sewing, quilting, housekeeping, the playing of battery radio and victrola, cleaning the hunting guns, shoe making, etc."

Willie Gibbons' house will be furnished to represent the homelife of a typical Settlement family in the period 1935-40. After visiting the recreated house interior with all the paraphernalia of an occupied home, visitors will understand the historic living conditions of Hensley Settlement by experiencing the "atmosphere" of the place. When the furnished house is staffed with costumed interpreters actively engaged in daily-life tasks, visitors will have a vivid picture of Settlement life and a better understanding of the proud, independent spirit that kept the pioneer character of this community alive into the mid-twentieth century.

PART B
OPERATING PLAN

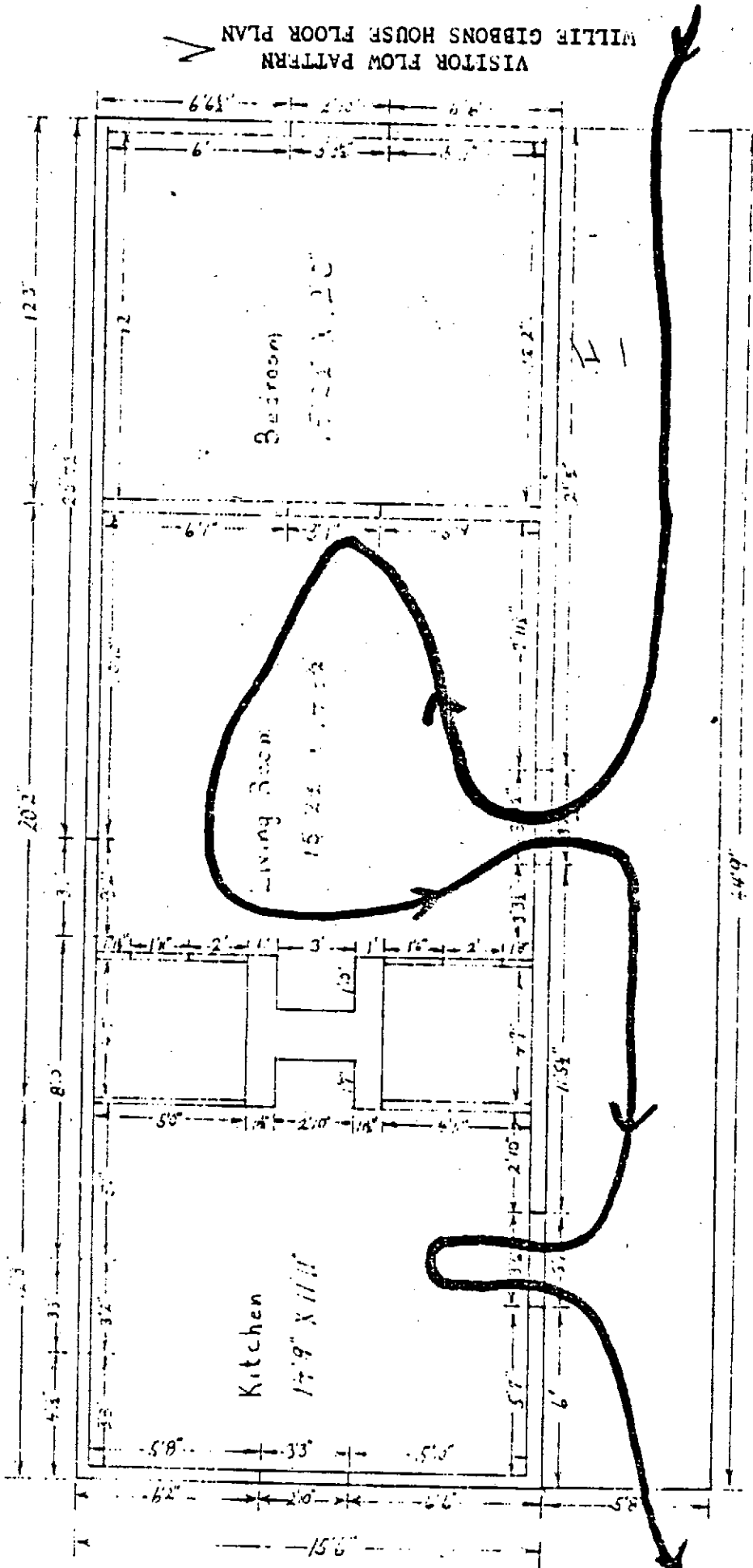
The living history farm concept of interpretation can vividly portray the lifestyle of past cultures and will be used at Hensley Settlement. The structures of Willie Gibbons' farm will be the focal point of the interpretive effort. The refurnished home will be an exhibit presenting the physical elements of a home environment from which visitors can make self-determination about homelife.

Hensley Settlement is open to visitors daily throughout the year; however, until increases in visitation warrant full time operation, Willie Gibbons' house will be opened by Farmer Demonstrators only when visitors are present. On those occasions visitors will be directed through the building on conducted tours lasting 10-15 minutes. The building will be opened and staffed by costumed interpreters six hours on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer. In addition to protecting the facility and talking to visitors, interpreters will conduct mountain culture demonstrations to enhance visitor interest created by the Settlement environment. Demonstrations will illustrate the character of mountain people and the nature of family life with its inter-relationships, size, work activities, and recreation. At least an OMC interpreter will be stationed on the porch or in one room so all visitors will be contacted.

Interior access is restricted to a single door in each of two rooms--the living room and the kitchen--eliminating the possibility of circular traffic flow through the building. Room size and location of

H-1 Willie Gibbons House

2 1/2" Scale 11-9-23



WILLIE GIBBONS HOUSE FLOOR PLAN



VISITOR FLOW PATTERN

furnishings further restrict visitor movement and permit entrance of only ten people at a time. Visitors will enter the living room through a door opening onto the front porch. A waist high barrier across the door between the living room and bedroom will allow a full view of the bedroom, but prohibit entrance. Visitors will then return to the front porch and turn right to the kitchen door. Although visitors can see the entire kitchen from the porch they will normally be permitted to enter the room to become fully involved with the historic environment. Occasionally the kitchen will be used for demonstrations using reproduction stoves and utensils. During those times the table and chairs will be rearranged slightly to create a non-conspicuous barrier preventing visitor injury from hot stoves, etc., or a inconspicuous barrier will be placed in the doorway to prevent entrance.

Maintenance and interpretive activities are directed by a GS-9 Park Historian (stationed at the Visitor Center.) ^{This necessary?} Onsite maintenance and interpretation are conducted by two permanent, full-time Farmer Demonstrators, WG-8, whose responsibilities include all structures, trails, and grounds in the Historic District. Weekend summer activities are provided by two seasonal Park Technicians, GS-4, and VIP's. Current staffing is minimal to conduct existing activities. As visitation increases in the future additional personnel will be required to expand hours of operation. Protection division personnel make daily patrols of the area in summer from a base camp at Hensley Settlement. Less frequent winter patrols are also made. The maintenance division provides assistance with problems that cannot be corrected by Farmer Demonstrators.

(Could we mention YCC/YACC ?)

A collection Management Plan and Historic Resources Management Plan provide direction for maintenance and protection activities. The building is locked when personnel are not present and windows are permanently secured so they cannot be opened. Theft of large items is discouraged by prohibiting private vehicles in the Settlement. A portable fire pumper is stored at the Administrative area a half mile from the house and an extinguisher is kept inside the dish cabinet in the kitchen. Since inside climate cannot be controlled without totally changing the character of the historic structure, valuable items are moved to storage when visitation declines in winter. Small attractive items are secured inconspicuously with metal wire to discourage theft.

PART C

ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL OCCUPANCY

Willie Gibbons lived in Harlan County, Kentucky, with his father Joseph prior to moving to Cumberland Mountain. He married Nancy Hensley, daughter of Jack Hensley of Harlan County. In 1903, Willie purchased two shares of Hensley land from Nancy's family to combine with several acres his wife received from her father. He moved his wife and four children (Lige, Rhoda, Frank, and Bert) to their mountaintop land in 1904.¹

The Gibbons' first house built on the headwaters of Shillalah Creek in 1904 was characteristic of structures built 100 years earlier. It was a three room, hewn log structure with puncheon floor and split board roof. A bedroom, adjoining bed-living room combination, and adjacent kitchen created a "L" shaped structure.² Although the small house appeared insignificant if compared to the elaborate mansions and hotels raised in nearby Middlesboro by an English mineral development organization a few years earlier, it represented an equally important development to the Gibbons family. It provided a serviceable home for twenty years.

Willie steadily developed his property. His first concern was clearing land to put in crops. The first few years witnessed a gradual widening of the cleared area as Willie pushed the woods back to plant more and more corn, grasses, gardens, and fruit trees. Farm buildings constructed

¹ William E. Cox, Hensley Settlement (Eastern National Park & Monument Assn, 1978) 38.

² Conversation by telephone with Jesse Gibbons, November, 1978.

near the house included a smoke-house behind the main building; a chicken house, and a workshop.³

Willie's family had also been developing. A short time after moving to the mountain Hiram and Walter were born, followed by Josie in 1909, Alkie in 1911, Jess in 1913, Crockett in 1915, Bishop in 1917, and Nathan two years later. By 1920, Willie and Nancy had given birth to thirteen children, eight of them having been born at Hensley Settlement. Life was not easy for the young. Sally had been born and had died in Harlan County before the move to the mountain. Crockett died an infant in 1915 and Hiram, one of the first born on the mountain, died from injuries received when his clothes caught on fire in 1908 or 1909. He was three year old.⁴

Marriages had also reduced the number of Gibbons children at home by the early 1920's. Frank and Lige married about the same time. Frank moved off the mountain; Lige moved several hundred yards down the ridge. He remained on his father's farm, but built his own collection of buildings that included a house, a barn, a chicken house, and a hog house. Together he and his father worked the farm and shared the produce and problems of the land.

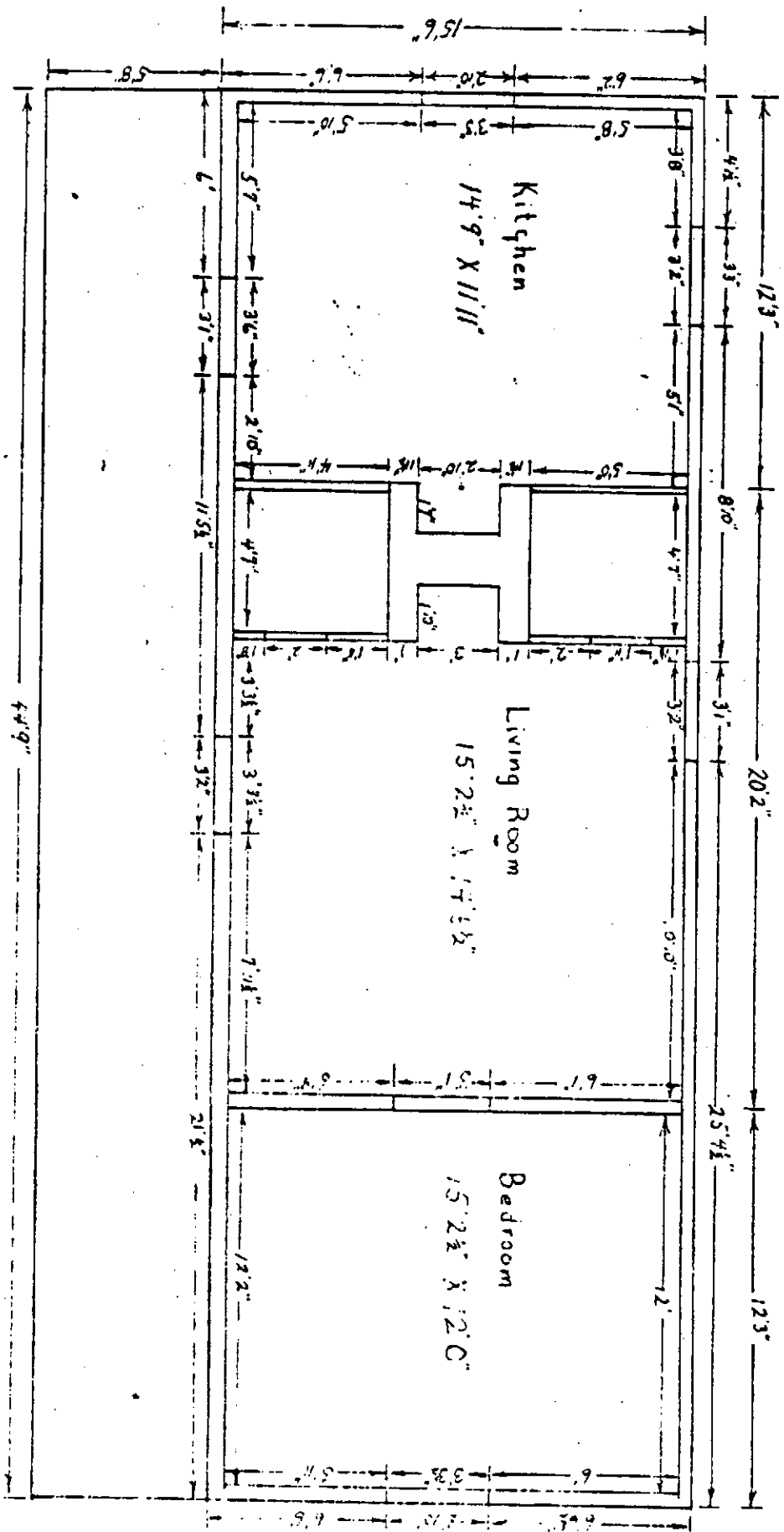
In the first twenty years at Hensley Settlement, Willie had cleared approximately forty acres of land for crops and pasture. He had expected his "L"-shaped house to be a permanent residence, but its location in a low area on Shillalah Creek drainage became a problem as water and silt from surrounding cleared areas created a swamp beneath the house. *Continue pg 11 he.*

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

H-1 Willie Gibbons House

3/16" Scale 11-9-73



FLOOR PLAN
WILLIE GIBBONS HOUSE 1974-1967

In 1924, the old house was removed and a new one constructed 100 yards down Shillalah creek on a steep, well drained hill.⁵ This was also a three room (kitchen, sitting room, and bedroom, and porch) 21 x 45 foot hewn log structure. The log walls were dovetailed at the corners and the mud-filled chinks were sealed both sides with rived boards, covered on the interior with pasted layers of newspaper, which served as wallpaper and protection. The gabled ends of the walls were horizontal rived boards nailed to hewn studs. The roof was hand-rived oak boards nailed to rived *stringers*. Ceilings were whip-sawed chestnut. Puncheon floors were chestnut boards 3 inches thick. The board enclosed fireplaces between the kitchen and living room were served by a chimney built of sandstone laid in clay mortar. A covered porch extended along the entire east wall, its roof supported by a single 40-foot hand hewn chestnut beam.

By the late 1930's, the farm facilities included a barn, hog house, chicken house, corn crib, wood/coal house, springhouse, sheep barn, and blacksmith-carpenter shop. About fifty acres had been cleared and fenced to protect pasture and cropland. A large fruit orchard was planted. Farming was the major work function with most of the food consumed by the family. Surplus fruits and vegetables were canned or otherwise preserved for use at a later time.

Everyone in a mountain community had to help with the work. The sons worked the fields, did outside and heavy work, while the daughters helped in the home, worked the garden, and did the light work around the place.

⁵ Ibid

Indent
Additional ~~M~~ marriages slowly depleted Willie's available family workers. Rhoda, the oldest daughter, had married and left home. Walter married in 1927, but divorced one month later and continued living with the family until his second marriage in the early 1930's. Bert married and left home in 1928. Josie left two years later, but like her brother Lige, she didn't go far. She and her husband settled within a hundred yards of her father's house.⁶

During the late 1930's the Gibbons family consisted of Willie, Nancy, Bishop, Jess and Alkie. Since moving to the mountain eight children had been born, six had married and left home, and two had died. In 1935, another bed was moved into the bedroom for Willie's father-in-law who lived with the family until 1942.

Willie Gibbons was an important influence on the community and his family. He was a strong Republican in political interest although he did not take part in political activities except to exercise his right to vote.⁷ The isolation of the mountain and the time required to farm did not leave time for the social and political luxuries enjoyed by the "well-to-do" in the nearby valleys and towns. Willie worked hard and taught his family to work. Although a lot of liquor was made at Hensley Settlement, Willie did not drink! He took active interest in providing some education for his children. Along with Sherman Hensley he traveled to the county seat in Pineville, Kentucky, and discussed the need for a

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

school at Hensley Settlement. Before a teacher could be assigned sixteen students and a school building were needed. Students were available, the building was not. Sherman said, " we built a little shack way out on the Brush (mountain) yander that they called the Chimney Rocks . . . "8

Later schools were held in teacher Barney Thompson's home and in two schools constructed at the Settlement. Willie helped establish and construct all of them.

If the term craftsman could be applied to anyone at Hensley Settlement it would be Willie Gibbons. Shortly after moving to the mountain, he built a shop as one of his farm buildings. When he relocated his farm buildings, in 1924, a combination blacksmith-carpenter shop was included. Willie's blacksmith shop was designed more for repairs than making new items although Willie did make some items for the house, such as shovels, dog irons, and pokers.⁹ The shop was available to any of his neighbors who needed to repair their equipment. Since new metal was expensive and difficult to obtain, Willie could often be seen carrying scrap metal he had found on his off-mountain trips. A large box in the shop was full of scrap he may someday find useful. His carpentry skills were more highly developed--and more profitable. He made many of the wooden objects used around the farm and in his house. He helped many of his neighbors build houses and farm buildings. He developed a reputation as a chair maker

⁸ Cox, 30.

⁹ Transcriptions, Hensley Settlement Oral History Tapes, (National Park Service), 830.

and made money selling chairs on and off the mountain. He also developed a reputation as a coffin maker. His coffins were used for many of the early burials at the Settlement and he was often called by people off the mountain to prepare coffins for their family^{ies}. Coffin making was not a source of profit, however; Willie accepted it as a responsibility and never charged anyone.¹⁰

Willie provided for his family by farming. His farm was typical of the developments at Hensley Settlement. He cleared new land as livestock increased or land lost its fertility. The main crop raised was corn because it was the best all purpose grain. It could be served as a vegetable, ground into corn meal, and used as feed for animals. Hay was also an important crop for feeding animals when the deep mountaintop snows came. Corn, hay, and pasture fields required miles of fencing to keep livestock out of crops. Most of the fences were split rail, but hand split palings were used to fence gardens. Both required a lot of work. Animals included a few milk cows, several hogs and sheep, chickens, geese, and a few horses and mules. Mules were kept more often than horses because they worked better and required less pampering. One of the most important parts of the farm was the vegetable garden, because the food grown in the summer would have to last through the winter until the garden could produce again.

Farming was a family affair. Although early morning fogs and winter snows provided moisture for good crops, everyone had to do ^{his} their share of the work. Until marriage divided the family the sons stayed home

¹⁰ Ibid., 1138

and helped with the heavy outside labor. Plowing, haying, hoeing and harvesting gave ample work from early spring until late fall. Nancy and her daughters maintained the house, washed, ironed, cultivated the garden, and preserved food. They prepared breakfast and washed dishes, then joined their men in the fields to work until time to prepare supper. It was a hard life--for old and young, men and women. They went to bed at dusk.

Being nearly self-sufficient, the Gibbons' felt little of the effects of economic fluctuations that had so much impact on urban dwellers between 1910 and 1940. The depression had little effect because Willie's family was already living a depressed lifestyle. Money-making opportunities were sometimes available for the men. Surplus farm produce could be sold to visitors on the mountain or carried into the valley for sale or trade. Willie had his carpentry activities to rely on and his sons were able to get work with other people.¹¹

Willie Gibbons' house was the center of activity for the farm. The bedroom was used by the young males for sleeping. The living room was the real center of activity for most social events and other indoor activity. The kitchen was more than an eating room. Nancy and the girls spent a great deal of time there cooking, ironing, and canning.

Available time for social activity was reduced by the work requirements. Yet the family did find time to socialize. All the families at Hensley were closely related--by marriage and lifestyle. The most popular social activity was simply visiting. There were always people coming to the

¹¹Cox, 13.

mountain for one reason or another. They usually stayed for dinner, and often on Sundays, families would have twenty-five to thirty people at dinner *noon*, *(lunch) time.*¹² Although no established church-developed at the Settlement, infrequent religious meetings were convened at the School House or in someone's home. Preachers of various denominations came to the Settlement. After getting a victrola, listening to religious music on Sundays became a favorite pastime.¹³ Decoration Day, about the third Sunday in June, was the most enjoyable day of the year. The cemetery would be decorated with wild-flowers and homemade *crepe paper* ~~artificial~~ flowers. Several ministers would preach for hours, then people would divide into groups and go to various houses for dinner. Each family *might* ~~may~~ feed 40-100 people from on and off the mountain. Sundays were considered days of rest, days to sit and talk. Only feeding, stacking hay when rain threatened, or other emergency activities were done on Sunday.

Purchase of a battery powered radio in 1939 added interest to Saturday nights.¹⁴ Adults and children alike sat around the new machine listening to the Grand Ole Opry from Nashville. Prior to the purchase of a radio Willie's family visited neighbors on Saturday night to listen to their radio. Also, musicians sometimes got together at someone's home for entertaining anyone interested in listening.

¹²Cox, 52.

¹³Transcriptions, 840.

¹⁴Ibid, 832.

Incident

Willie Gibbons' was the best horse-shoe pitcher on the mountain and Sherman Hensley said Willie delighted in playing cards, but he never played poker or gambled. Residents would sometimes "gather up at someone's house" and play until two or three o'clock in the morning.¹⁵

Children's activities involved school, farmwork, and play. In 1935, the Gibbons family included four young adults - Alkie (age 24), Jess (age 22), Bishop (age 18), and Nathan (age 16). They had out-grown ~~both~~ the school opportunities available at Brush Mountain School and the "dabbing dolls" Willie made ^{for} younger children. They were getting away from games like "Fox and Geese" and "Checkers" although those games still had some interest. Of course farm work was always available, regardless of age. Jess, Nathan, and Bishop were usually in the woods hunting when not working.¹⁶ In addition to entertainment, hunting provided squirrel and rabbit meat - a change in taste from the ¹pork normally eaten. Alkie helped her mother sew and knit socks and gloves. She also enjoyed making things to improve the appearance of the house, such as applique and embroidery of table covers and making window curtains. Willie sometimes felt the "women's touch" was a little too much - the curtains kept out too much light from the single window!¹⁷

¹⁵ Cox, 53.

¹⁶ Conversation by telephone with Jesse Gibbons, November 1978.

¹⁷ Transcriptions, 847.

Alkie, Jess, and Bishop all married between 1935 and 1940.¹⁸ Nathan was the only son still at home. Of course Lige and Josie still lived nearby. The dwindling of children at home was a trend at the Settlement after 1935. Many moved off after marriage because their mates could not accept the isolation of the mountain community. Others left to find jobs in the developing coal industry in the surrounding mountains or to find factory jobs in northern cities.¹⁹ By 1946 the population could no longer support the school Willie had worked for, and Brush Mountain School closed. A year later Willie Gibbons sold his farm and moved to Brownies Creek at the foot of the mountain.²⁰

During the 1940's, park commissions formed by Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia acquired land on Cumberland and Brush Mountains to create Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Hensley Settlement was in the center of the proposed area. Willie and most of his neighbors sold to the commissions and moved off the mountain in the late 1940's. Sherman Hensley was the last to leave--in 1951.

For many years after the residents left the mountain the buildings deteriorated and the farmland grew up in weeds and brush. In 1967-68 the National Park Service reconstructed all of Willie's farm buildings except the Sheep barn. It was reconstructed in 1973. All the buildings of Lige's farm development, except the house, was reconstructed in 1967. The house was restored in 1974.

¹⁸ Conversation by telephone with Jess Gibbons, November 1978.

¹⁹ Cox, 56.

²⁰ Conversation by telephone with Jess Gibbons, November 1978.

PART D

EVIDENCE OF ORIGINAL FURNISHINGS

Although Hensley Settlement began, developed, and died in the Twentieth Century, very little physical evidence remains to accurately ^{describe} ~~describe~~ original household furnishings. The residents had come from an obscure background and had little reason to expect the future to be more luminous. Their thoughts were directed more at preserving memories of one another than at preservation of objects and records for future historians.

The principal resource materials on furnishings of Willie Gibbons' house are park museum records, oral history tapes, handwritten notes, tapes from personal interviews, and archeological finds. Park Historian Lloyd Abelson began collecting materials in 1968. His handwritten notes and floor plan sketches developed from personal interviews with Willie Gibbons' sons, provide a frame-work on which to build further evidence. Museum collection records identify a few original items from Hensley Settlement and from Willie Gibbons' house. Since the lifestyles of all residents were similar, the assumption seems reasonable that these items are representative of what Willie's house would have contained. Eighty-seven reel-to-reel oral history tapes recorded by park historians in 1970 and 1971 provide significant information about furnishings. Of special importance to this study are interviews with Willie Gibbons' sons, Lige and Jess, and his grand-daughter, Dorothy Greene Muncey, who often visited the Gibbons' home on summer vacations. Archeological evidence from trash dumps near the Gibbons' home provide specific

descriptions of a few items that originally belonged to the family. Interviews with Jess Gibbons conducted by Park Historian, Keith Morgan, in 1978 during work for this study provide much of the detailed descriptions available. Jess lived in the house with his family until his marriage in 1939.

Documentation of purchases and ownership is not available. People at Hensley Settlement lived on a cash and barter economy for purchased items. They did not concern themselves with detailed written records of transactions. A man's word and exchange of items bound the arrangement.

Most of ~~the~~ Willie Gibbons' furnishings, especially in the early years of the Settlement, were from local sources. When he moved his family to the mountain in 1904, he took a few of his most prized possessions that could not be made on the mountaintop. Trails were few and rugged. Hillary Wilder, who lived at the foot of the mountain on the Kentucky side, said he recalled the settlers' migration. They carried their goods in wagons and unloaded in front of his father's house. From there, they carried their belongings by sled, mule, and their own shoulders.¹ Needed items were often purchased from neighbors on the mountain or friends in the valleys below. Although such items may have served their purpose to the seller and were being replaced with more modern items, they were still appropriate to the isolated lifestyle of the mountain community. Local craftsmen supplied some of the furnishings. A few beds at Hensley were apparently made by Sam and Riley Powers who lived on Martins Fork of the Cumberland River.²

¹Cox, 10.

²Ibid, 45.

Indent

If needed items could not be acquired on the mountain or from friends in the valley, the Gibbons' had to travel to general merchandise stores off the mountain. Some residents went off the mountain more than others. Sherman Hensley said the men might go off as often as once a week, the women traveled only about every two months, and the children might be 16 or 18 before they ever went to town.³ In later years, access to post offices at Cabbage, Kentucky and Caylor, Virginia, and the availability of mail order catalogs became the distinguishing feature establishing Hensley Settlement as a "modern pioneer" community. Although the Gibbons' home still lacked electricity, telephone, and indoor plumbing, it did begin to see Victrolas, battery radios, and cast iron bedsteads; however, the house still retained much of the atmosphere of self-sufficiency. Willie Gibbons was considered one of the best craftsmen of the Settlement and his home must have reflected his ability. His chairs, tables, and cabinets were well made and functional. The quality of his chairs created some local demand as sales items, but his attempt to make his wife a spinning wheel was less successful. The wheel was so warped the band would not stay in its groove on the wheel rim--the wheel would not work!⁴

As the source and quality of furnishings can give insight into the life of the Gibbons family, so can knowledge of the lifestyle help describe the furnishings used. When the earliest settlers moved to the mountain, they took few things with them. Gilbert Hensley said mattresses, pillow.,

³ Ibid, 13.

⁴ Conversation with Jess Gibbons, April 27, 1978.

quilts, and other soft items were bundled on the backs of horses and mules for the trip; other items, such as beds, were carried on sleds or men's backs.⁵ Furnishings would obviously be damaged during transport. Most of the pieces were old, of simple construction, and easily repaired, so some risk was acceptable. Wooden bedsteads, "coal oil" lamps, and cast iron stoves referred to in later years would have received the best protection. The settlers were anticipating a self-sufficient lifestyle--a lifestyle that required growing and preserving food, spinning and knitting and sewing clothing. These basic life sustaining activities would have required spinning wheels, canning jars and lids, iron cooking pots and kettles, and maybe a sewing machine.

Life was simple and harsh for Willie Gibbons and his neighbors in the early years as they built homes, cleared farm land, and raised their livestock and crops. The land was good and life slowly improved with improvements in the farms. Opportunities also became available for acquiring cash--trapping, working for other people, and for some of the residents, making corn liquor. As availability of money changed so did household furnishings. Willie acquired a "Victrola" record player and a collection of 78 rpm records. His grand-daughter, Dorothy Muncey, remembers listening to Bluegrass, or "hillbilly", and religious music.⁶ A new record player of the type described by residents would cost at least \$50 from Sears, Roebuck & Company mail order catalog in 1927.

⁵ Transcriptions, 714

⁶ Ibid, 838

Jess Gibbons remembers the first radio at the Settlement owned by a neighbor. "We'd go there of a Saturday night, listen at the radio. Went off about twelve o'clock, maybe one o'clock. We'd stay until it went off."⁷ It was a big night. It wasn't long until Willie also had a battery radio. He may have found a bargain buying a used radio, but if it ~~was~~ ^{were} new he would have paid \$25 to \$88 for it. Listening to the radio became a favorite family pastime, especially when the Grand Ole Opry aired on Saturday night. The late 1930's saw another modernization as cast iron bedsteads began to replace a few of the old wooden ones.⁸ As improvements were made other items still remained, so Willie's house became a mix of old and new, crude and fancy.

As seen in Analysis of Historical Occupancy there were six people in the house in the late 1930's--Willie, his wife, Jess, Nathan, Bishop, and Alkie. With a father and three sons in the house, furnishings would have reflected the male influence. One bedroom was used exclusively by the sons and would have contained their clothing and personal items. Guns used for hunting and protection were kept readily available in the living room. The female hand was also apparent, especially in the living room where Alkie and the parents slept. Alkie enjoyed preparing and displaying table covers and window curtains. Willie tolerated such things, but preferred the single living room window bare to let in the light.

Prices in mail order catalogs suggest the Gibbons' family did have more than the basic necessities. Most items were low to moderately priced, however, and not from fashionable shops in town. The Gibbons'

⁷ Ibid, 894.

⁸ Oral history tape with Jess Gibbons, recorded April 27, 1978.

were not fashion conscious. Women's and girl's garments were usually home-made; men's were from local stores in the nearby valleys. They often traded wool for blankets in Cumberland Gap and used extra money from the transaction to purchase cloth at general merchandise stores.⁹ Gloves, socks, and hats could be knitted from wool. Trade Day, a day of community barter, in the valley on the Kentucky and Virginia side of the mountain offered entertainment for the men and a chance for bargains. The resourcefulness of the mountain people is shown by Hillary Wilder, who made twelve to fifteen trades in one day and rode home on the same animal he had first traded away.¹⁰

The Gibbons' were appreciative of the simple life they lived. Mrs. Muncey remembered taking a stack of newspapers to her grandmother for use as wallpaper. ". . . it was just like bringing candy to a baby. This was something very, very special that you just don't get."¹¹ Most settlement residents were not city oriented. One said he was eighteen before he ever got to town. Although he thought it "was big scenery" he was glad to get back on the mountain. As the coal industry developed on the slopes and in the valleys, however, more and more of the younger residents began looking for the cash paying jobs--and began leaving the mountaintop to settle elsewhere.

⁹ Transcriptions, 887.

¹⁰ Ibid, 631.

¹¹ Ibid, 834.

As residents left the mountain they took many items with them. Other materials were discarded or given to relatives left behind. Items that were taken continued to be used until they too needed replacing at which time the old ones were usually discarded in a manner that prevents their retrieval. Jess Gibbons said the last stove from Willie's house was taken off the mountain, but he did not recall what happened to it after that. The sewing machine was also moved off the mountain. A short time later someone got in his father's home and "busted it up."¹²

Several historic items in the park museum collection were identified as original Willie Gibbons household furnishings. A bed (cat. no. 539), dresser (cat. no. 538), table (cat. no. 537), and cabinet (cat. no. 536) were purchased from Alkie Gibbons, Willie's daughter, in 1968. Grant Hensley, Willie Gibbons' closest neighbor at the settlement, sold the park two sitting chairs (cat. nos. 540 and 541) and a chest (cat. no. 915) thought to be from the Gibbons' home. If not original they were probably made by Willie and represent the same type furnishings he made for his own home. An original Willie Gibbons rocker (cat. no. 535) owned later by his son, Frank Gibbons, has also been preserved in the park's collection. Two other items, a fire dog (cat. no. 253) and a wooden spreader (cat. no. 254), found in the vicinity of the Gibbons' house during structure restoration are obviously original items that help provide an accurate description

¹² Oral History Tapes with Jess Gibbons, recorded April 27, 1978.

of household furnishing.¹³

Grant Hensley also provided several items thought to be originals from Hensley Settlement, but not from Willie Gibbons' home. They are original materials from the same period, same location, and same life-style so they are representative of Gibbons' household equipment. A sewing machine (cat. no. 542) is similar to the one destroyed by vandals in the Gibbons' home after leaving the Settlement. A brass bed (cat. no. 543) purchased at White Furniture in Middlesboro in 1928 and an iron bed (cat. no. 544) from Cardwell's in Middlesboro are representative of beds used in the 1930's. Grant Hensley also provided a clock (cat. no. 914) described as similar to the one owned by the Gibbons' family. Two sad irons, (cat. no. 951 and 952) donated by Jess Gibbons are the same type used at Hensley Settlement throughout its history.

DESCRIPTIONS OF ORIGINAL FURNISHINGS: NOTE: All descriptions are from oral history interviews with Jess Gibbons conducted by Keith Morgan at Hensley Settlement, April 27, 1978, unless otherwise foot noted or identified in text.

BEDROOM

BEDS: There were three wooden beds in the bedroom during most of the 1930's, one each for Jess, Nathan, and Bishop. Jess described the beds as cherry colored with a varnished finish. The footboards were approximately three feet high; the headboard a little higher.

¹³Lloyd Abelson, "Field Notes--Hensley Settlement" in park file, October, 1968, 1.

There were no carvings or designs on any of the wooden beds. Springs for each bed were coil type that could be folded in the middle for easy removal. One bed was positioned at the right of the door upon entering the bedroom with the headboard against the right wall. The second was also positioned to the right of the door with the headboard against the wall with a window. The third, the one Jess slept in, was left of the bedroom door with the headboard against the wall with the door. After Mrs. Gibbons' father, Jack Hensley moved in with the family in the mid 1930's, a fourth bed, one of cast iron construction was placed in the room. This bed was also left of the door with the headboard against the left wall at the foot of the third bed. The framework of the iron bed footboard was a single piece of metal curved to create the legs and top by bending in two places to form top corners. Six or seven vertical spokes approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter extended from the floor to the straight horizontal top of the framework where they were attached. ^{a horizontal bar located between the 1. approximately one foot from} The headboard was of the same design, but was taller. The iron bed was painted brown to prevent rust and improve appearance. The areas under the beds were often used to store clothes and shoes in boxes. Although Sam and Riley Powers of Martin's Fork made many of the wooden beds used at Hensley Settlement, Willie's beds were not from the Powers' shop.

BEDSPREADS: A cotton spread purchased at general merchandise stores was placed on top of the "made" bed during the day. Although the spreads were often white or off-white, Mrs. Gibbons tried to keep

a few special ones of solid colors and floral designs.¹⁴

BLANKETS: Heavy wool blankets were used along with quilts to shield against the cold mountain winters. Raw wool was traded for finished blankets at a mill in Cumberland Gap.¹⁵ All blankets were the same color--olive drab. Extra blankets were stored with quilts on a chair near the head of a bed or in a corner.

QUILTS: Some of the heavier quilts were "tacked," but the ladies took pride in their quilting ability and often spent days stitching a pattern into the material. Muslin was sometimes bought for the quilt bottom, but most of the material came from new material scraps left from making clothes and from useable parts of worn-out clothing. Homemade yarn or crochet thread served for "tacking" and roll cotton or fabric scraps for lining.¹⁶ "Wedding ring", "four square", and "crazy patchwork" were some of the designs remembered by Jess Gibbons.

SHEETS: Homemade sheets were used on top of feather beds. They were constructed of two pieces of unbleached muslin sewn down the middle—when muslin was available.¹⁷ Otherwise, feed sacks could be sewn together in whatever pattern necessary to create proper sized sheets.

¹⁴ Transcriptions, 854.

¹⁵ Ibid, 887.

¹⁶ Ibid, 855.

¹⁷ Ibid, 847.

MATTRESSES: Unbleached muslin or blue striped bed ticking material sewn into a flat bag a little larger than the bed springs created mattresses that could be filled with fresh hay or corn shucks to create a pad 6"-8" thick. An opening left in the center seam of the bags permitted filling and periodical fluffing of the mattresses.¹⁸

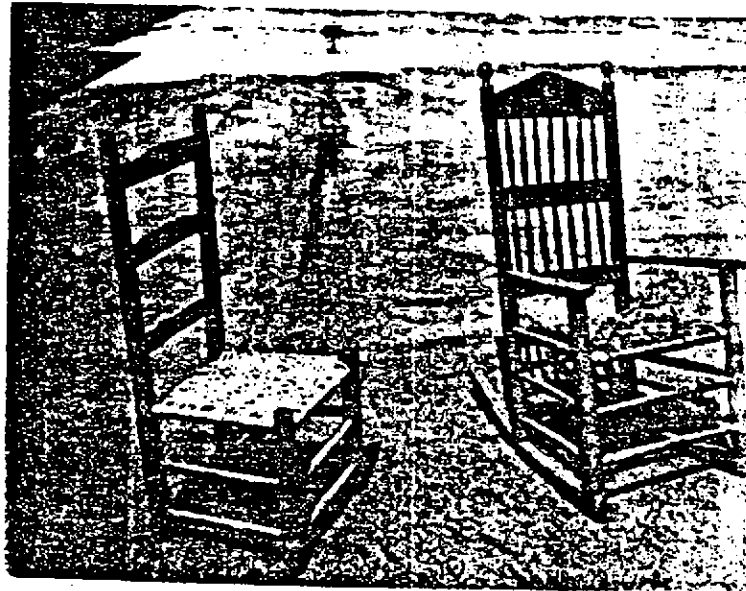
FEATHER BEDS: Soft sleeping surfaces to place on the mattresses were formed the same way as the mattress except filled with chicken, duck, or goose feathers and the opening secured.

PILLOWS: Bags sewn from feather or bed ticking were filled with chicken feathers or goose feathers and sewn securely after filling. The Gibbons' sometimes raised geese just for the feathers. Feathers could also be bought in general merchandise stores. Bolsters of the same type construction were used. Pillows were usually covered with white cases sometimes embroidered with flowers, birds, etc.

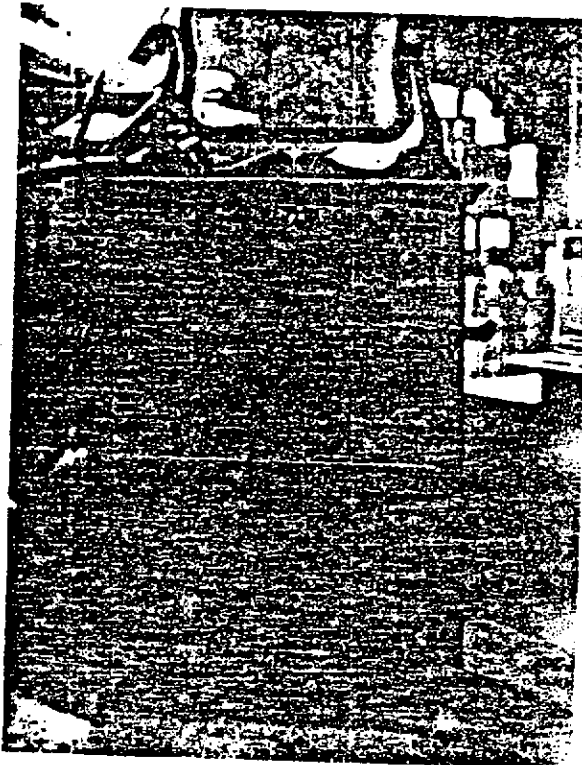
CHAIRS: A ladder back sitting chair made in Willie's carpentry shop was used to store quilts, blankets, and sheets. A description of an original chair from Gibbons' shop (cat. no. 541) explains their construction:

The seat is of woven hickory and the rest of the chair is of oak. The back is 33" high and has three boards for back rests. The top board is 2" x 13" and the middle board 2" x 13", and the bottom is 1-3/4"

¹⁸ Ibid., 853.



CHAIRS (cat. nos. 5110 & 5115)



DRESSER (cat. no. 5110)

x 13". There are two 15" rounded rungs in front and one in back. The legs of the chair are 36½" in back and the front legs are 16" long. This chair shows many faded colors of paint, but shows mainly green. It has a new woven seat. The legs are shaped to form smaller ends at the bases or floor ends.

DRESSER: Historian Lloyd Abelson's note indicate that catalog number 538 is the original dresser from the Gibbons home. It was acquired from Willie's daughter, Alkie, in 1968.¹⁹ A description given by Jess Gibbons from memory closely coincides with the museum description following.

The chest of drawers is covered with cracking brown veneer. It is 30½" wide by 16½" deep. There are four drawers 27½" wide by 13½" deep, which are the lower dresser drawers. The upper drawer waves out to a 15" depth, but the width remains 27½ inches. The drawer handles are spool or knob type. The mirror is 14" x 21" and its standard is 30" x 14" high. The chest is made mostly of walnut. A cover cloth and a "coal oil lamp" was usually kept on top of it.

TRUNK: Jess remembers the trunk being light colored wood with an arched top and metal strips across the top at right angles to the long axis. He thought clothes were ususally kept in it ~~setting~~ at the foot of a bed or maybe in various places. Mrs. Muncey remembers it containing momentos of the past - pictures, dresses, etc. "A

¹⁹Abelson, 2.

child never opened it". "It was just mostly memories that was in that".²⁰

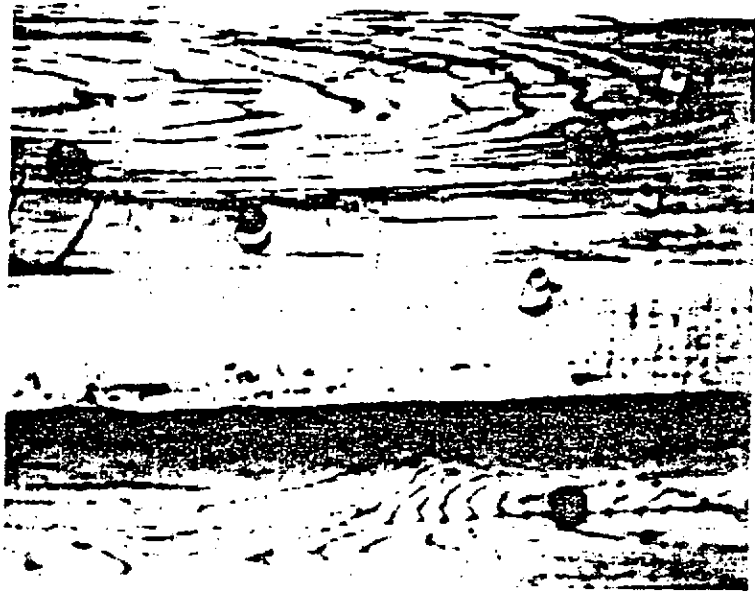
CURTAINS: Curtains were probably made of feed sack material although better material was sometimes used. Bedroom curtains were window length and hung straight without tie backs. No particular color was used. A string stretched between two nails in the interior top window facing was used for hanging. Curtains were in use between 1930-40.

WALLPAPER: Magazine and newspaper pages pasted to log walls and board ceiling with homemade flour and water paste was used in early years. Later a "building paper", a heavy cardboard with smooth colored surface, available from stores in three foot wide rolls was used on the walls. Flour paste was sometimes used to attach it, but most often it was attached with metal disks and tacks or folded cardboard and tacks. The bedroom was covered with blue building paper in 1935-40. Sometimes repairs would be made with magazine or newspaper. Remnants of early papers can still be seen on a few boards in Lige Gibbons' house. Unfortunately, most paper remains were destroyed during restoration.

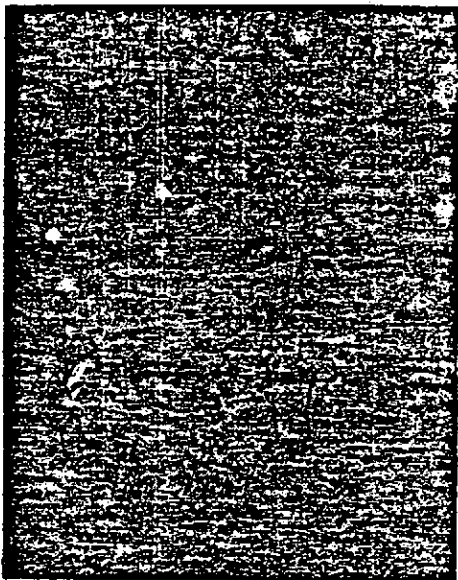
HANGERS: Several large nails and wooden pegs were driven into the wall in various places to hang clothes, especially behind the door.²¹

²⁰ Transcriptions, 848.

²¹ Ibid., 847.



WALDAPPA BEACH ESCAPE



WALDAPPA BEACHES - THE GLASS HOUSE

LAMP: A glass table lamp with crystal glass chimney and brass wick fittings was located on the dresser top and filled with kerosene (coal oil).

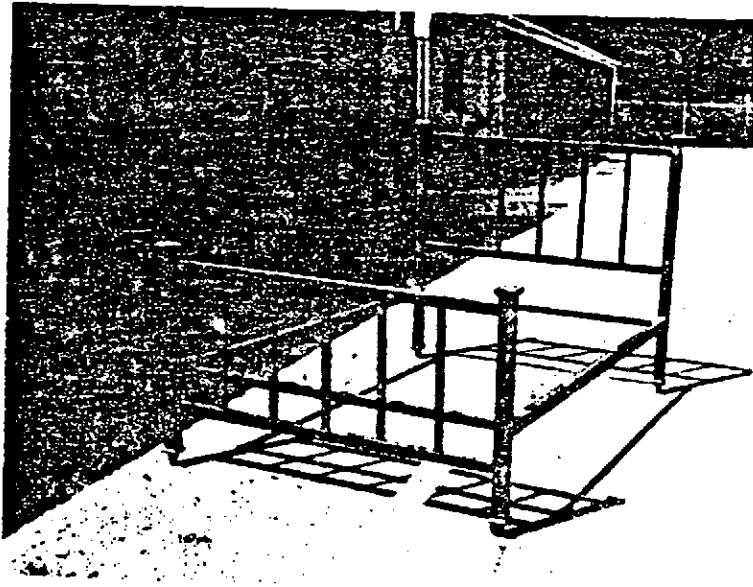
PICTURE: Jess remembers an enlarged framed picture of his mother's brother, who died at 17 or 18 years of age, hanging by the window. In another interview he remembered the picture being in the living room.

TABLE: Jess also thinks there may have been a small table in the bedroom that was moved from place to place and quilts stored on it.

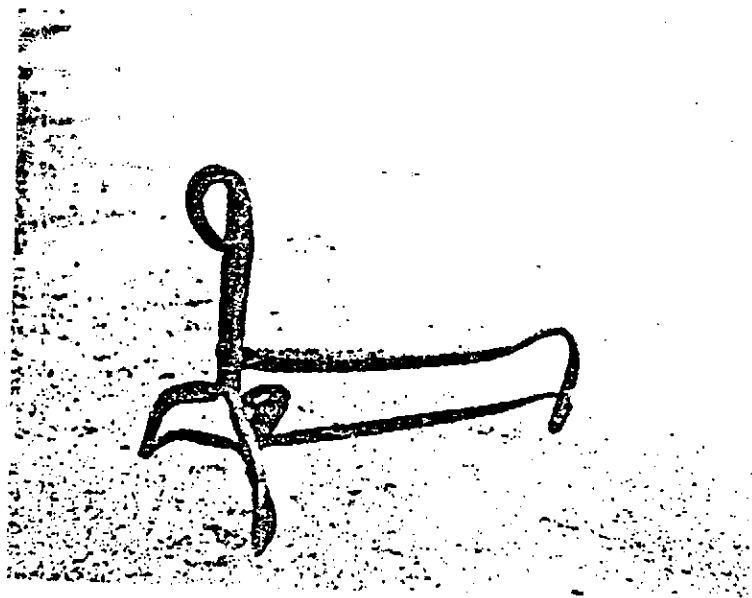
LIVING ROOM:

BEDS: During the 1930's, there were two beds in the living room, both of metal construction. Jess said both beds were very similar-- iron, painted brown, with six or seven one-inch upright bars in the footboard and headboard; the headboard was about 4' high. One of the original beds purchased from Alkie Gibbons is included in the park collection (cat. no. 539) and described as:

The metal bedstead and foot pieces are of metal construction and are painted brown. The head piece is 50" high and 54" across, and the foot piece is 54" across and 34" high. There are two metal pieces 1½" x 1½" or bolsters on both the foot and the head. These are also connected at the head and foot stand bars by 5 metal bars 1" x 1" x 19" long at the foot spaced 7½" apart and at the head 21" long spaced 7½" apart. The corner posts are 2" square metal pieces both on the head and the foot capped by 3" square caps.



350 (cat. no. 532)



FIREDOG (cat. no. 533)

and some were one-piece construction. Forks and spoons were lighter in weight and of thinner construction than modern ones.⁴⁵ Willie made butcher knives by cutting blanks from saw blades and grinding or filing to sharpen. Black walnut handles were attached with rivets. Jess said you could "just about shave with them." Cooking spoons were large aluminum or "zincware." Most large items were stored in the kitchen table drawer.

CANISTERS: One informant said 3 foot lengths of ~~sawed off~~ tree trunks hollowed on the inside and covered with a lid were used to store meal and flour in the corner beside the rear door.⁴⁶ Instead, Jess remembered two metal "lard cans" about 50 pound capacity used for that purpose. Inside ^{the container} was a round sifter 12" in diameter and 4"-5" high made of thin wooden strips and a screen wire bottom. One sifter was used for both containers. Honey was stored in lard cans, crocks, and jars.

BASKETS: Willie made baskets of hickory bark or white oak splits.⁴⁷ Various sizes with rounded bottoms that came "out to a peak" were used in the barn to feed animals and in the kitchen to store eggs.

LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT: Clothes were washed outside except during the winter when the kitchen also became the washroom. Water was heated in a large kettle or round galvanized tub. A washboard with a wood

⁴⁵ Ibid., 1253.

⁴⁶ Ibid., 826.

⁴⁷ Ibid., 1025.

frame and brass or copper scrub surface formed into parallel ridges was used during most of Hensley Settlement history. Museum item # 913 belonged to Lige Gibbons during his life at the Settlement and is the same type used by Willie's family.⁴⁸ The earliest pressing irons used by the Gibbons family were three cornered, cast iron with cast metal handles. They were heated on the stovetop or a flat piece of metal in the fireplace.⁴⁹ In the late 1930's or early 1940's ~~they~~ ^{were added} ~~added~~ a few irons with detachable wooden handles to the collection. Ironing was done on the kitchen table or a board balanced between the table and a nearby chair back. The work surface was padded with a folded quilt and covered with a sheet. Irons were kept on the hearth near the open fireplace when not in use.

BROOMS: The Gibbons' grew broom corn and Willie made their brooms by tying the bristles around a stick with wire to produce a round head. One broom was kept in the kitchen; one in the living room. Another type broom used for scrubbing the floor and sweeping the yard was kept outside. It was made of buckeye using the same technique described on page 449 of Foxfire 3.

⁴⁸Abelson, 4.

⁴⁹Transcriptions, 1257.

PART E

DESCRIPTION OF RECOMMENDED FURNISHINGS

Willie Gibbons and his family lived on their Hensley Settlement property from 1904 until the late 1940's. The house restored by NPS in 1968 was the family home from its construction in 1924 until the Gibbons left the mountain over twenty years later. During that time furnishings dating from before 1900 through 1945 ^{were} ~~was~~ in use. Furnishings were changed as improvements were made in economic status. Wallpaper changed from newspaper to building paper, stoves changed from a small step stove to a large range, and entertainment changed from guitars to victrola to radio. Changes make it difficult to describe furnishings for particular years; however, the residents' economic status developed slowly preventing any mass improvements in a single year. Also, several historic residents are still available to provide reasonably accurate descriptions of both room usage and furnishings, especially during the 1930's.

The house is to be refurnished to the period 1935. The house restored in 1968 was not built until 1924. Therefore, interpretation must be designed to represent a later time. Several important outbuildings of the farmstead were not constructed until after 1930. To provide a unified interpretive program - for the house, other farm structures, and farm operation - that reflects the economic and social status of the family, a date after construction *of* the later buildings should be selected. More important, however, is selection of a date late in the history of the Settlement so the changes and developments in the Gibbons' farm can

be shown by the refurnished house. The period selected for refurnishing the structure was after Hensley Settlement reached its peak and just at the beginning of its decline. By 1935, many of the younger residents were marrying people from the valley, who refused to move to the mountain. Others were seeking jobs in the local coal industry or in northern industrial cities.

Furnishings recommended will portray a simple functional, mountain home of a nearly self-sufficient farm family, the work and social life of the family, and something of the personality of the inhabitants. The furnishings should evoke a feeling of the isolation that made the inhabitants self-sufficient and self-reliant.

Since Willie Gibbons' house is to be operated as part of a living history farm, the furnishings installed must be historically accurate in appearance, but they must also be functional. Many of the items will be used as demonstration tools. Also, items must be capable of withstanding display in a structure that does not have a climate controlled environment. Temperature fluctuations and extremely high humidity are constant conditions. To withstand these conditions furnishings selected should be reproductions or new made items wherever possible to conform with NPS preservation policies. When such items cannot be obtained, original objects from the Gibbons home or similar items from the period represented by the refurnished structure may be installed. Such items should be used for display only.

BEDROOM

When the Gibbons house was restored in 1968, approximately 50% new materials was placed in the structure. Many of the large wall logs and

most of the smaller boards on the walls, roof, and windows were replaced. It is now difficult to identify original materials or to locate evidence of original wall fixtures. All paper wall coverings have been destroyed; the present appearance resembles original construction details more than the physical appearance in 1935.

The 15' x 12' bedroom was located on the north end of the house adjacent to the living room. One window in the north wall and a single door connecting into the living room were the only openings. This room was used as sleeping quarters by two to four sons. From 1932 until 1939, three sons were still at home. After 1935, Nancy's father also occupied the bedroom.

There was no heat source in the bedroom so the living room experienced most family activities, especially during cold weather. During the periods of mild weather, the young men occupying the bedroom spent some time in the room talking and playing indoor games such as checkers, cards, and fox and geese. By 1935, the boys had finished school. Their main interests were farming, hunting, and social activities.

Furnishings selected for the room should reflect the young male influence that the 16 to 22 year old residents gave the room. Items should recreate the appearance of the room in 1935 just before a fourth bed was moved in for the boys' grandfather. Since the room will be accessible to visitors only during the day, furnishings should represent the room's appearance when the young men were working in the fields or hunting. Dress apparel instead of work clothes should be hanging on the wall. A game board should be on the bed as if left in haste. With these furnishings

interpreters will have the opportunity to discuss men's role in the family, the attractions of life off the mountain that had begun drawing the young men away (Walter left in 1932, Jess would leave in 1939), the close family ties that living and working conditions forced upon them, and their efforts to make their own entertainment in an isolated area.

BEDS: Three wooden beds should be placed in the room, one each for the three sons. Few descriptions are available for the original beds. Since the Gibbons' wood beds had been used prior to migrating to Cumberland Mountain in 1904, they should closely match the simple styled ones, #9324 and 9326, advertised in Sears Roebuck 1897 catalog. They should be constructed of native hardwoods and stained in a dark "antiqued" cherry color with varnished finish. There should be minor variations in the design of each, but all must be of smooth finished wood without engravings. Corner posts may be square or round, but should have few if any lathed designs. Footboards should be of smooth solid boards, one half to one inch thick with straight or gently curving top surfaces that extend about thirty inches above the floor. Headboards should be taller versions of the footboard design. A rectangular wood rail 16" from the floor should connect the head and footboards. One bed should be placed in the southwest corner of the room with the head against the south wall. Another should be located in the southeast corner with the head against the south wall. The third should be against the north wall in the northeast corner. Each bed should be fitted with uncovered

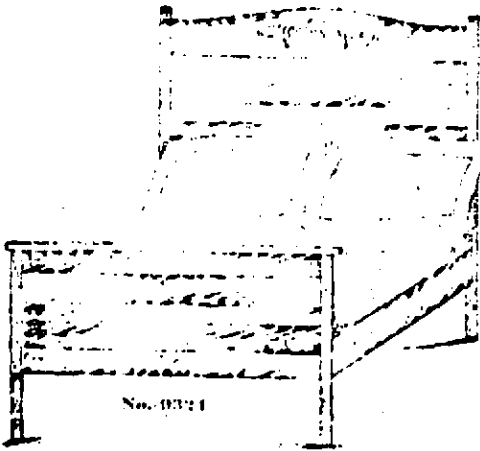
coil springs. Several boxes and at least one pair of "dress shoes" should be positioned under each bed representing that area as a storage space. A blue and white striped denim ticking mattress stuffed with hay should be laid on two beds. The third should have a similar mattress stuffed with shredded corn shucks. All three mattresses should be covered with featherbeds made by filling striped denim mattress bags with chicken or duck feathers. Mrs. Gibbons often kept geese to have feathers for featherbeds and pillows. Nancy and her daughter put fresh shucks and hay in the mattresses at least once a year as part of house cleaning activities. They also made their own sheets to cover featherbeds. Two of the beds should have a sheet made of unbleached muslin. The Gibbons, like most people, slept on a sheet, but not under one. A heavy quilt next to the skin was much warmer, especially during the winters on Cumberland Mountain. A second featherbed was often put on top of sleepers for additional warmth. The third bed should have a single sheet of heavy muslin-like material with printed lettering representing material from "feed sacks." Cloth from containers purchased off the mountain was routinely recycled into sheets, pillowcases, aprons, and dresses. Two of the beds should have feather filled bolsters made of blue and white ticking material covered with solid white cotton pillowcases. Bolsters must extend completely across the width of the bed. Standard size pillows made of the same materials will be placed on the third bed. Two beds should be covered with hand made quilts, one of 100% wool and one of 100 cotton material, made in two traditional patterns

new paragraph

ACCESSORIES -

A \$2.50 Bed for \$1.65.

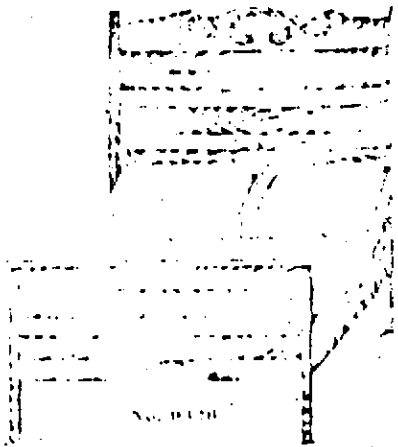
No. 9324. The bed which we illustrate is offered to meet the demand for something very low priced and at the same time a bed that will stand usage and last for many years. We constructed of excellent material. This bed is made up of the best kind of iron rods which are well finished in antique oak, is put together substantially and completely by the best workmen and will give ample service. It is not made of the head and has 4 feet 7 inch slats. We can also furnish it with a mattress, as desired, for an extra charge. The size is 6 feet 6 inches by 3 feet 6 inches. **\$1.65**



No. 9324

Our Special Bargain \$2.10 Bed.

No. 9326. We buy the bed shown in the cut from a manufacturer who has a reputation for the highest quality of his goods, and we offer this article as one that is very desirable. At our factory to you under price \$2.10, a price 10 per cent below what retailers can charge. It is an article made of iron and polished to a high gloss. It is made of the selected best quality iron rods which are very handsomely finished in antique oak. The design is simple, handsome and well finished. The bed is very substantial and strong, and throughout it is well put together and is usually cheap. The height is 4 feet 6 inches, the slats are 4 feet 2 inches and four inches as desired. **\$2.10**



No. 9326

Beds No. 9324 and 9326
Sears, Roebuck, and Company Catalog - 1897

The beds were located in the back of the room, one on each side of the bedroom door, with the headboards against the wall. Willie and his wife slept in the bed at the right of the bedroom doorway; Alkie in the one on the left.²² As in the bedroom, the area under the beds were used for storage.

ACCESSORIES: Bedspreads, quilts, blankets, sheets, feather beds, and mattresses were the same as described in bedroom furnishings.

SEWING MACHINE: Jess remembered "Queen" being the name of the machine. It was a cabinet model, stained brown, with two drawers on each side and a small, long one in the front center. The cabinet sat on iron legs with a treadle suspended between the legs. The lid was hinged to provide cover for the machine concealed inside when not in use and to provide a working surface when open. It was usually kept by the window with ~~a cloth cover~~ and sometimes 2-3 quilts on it. The original was moved off the mountain and later destroyed. A machine owned by Grant Hensley and included in the park collection (cat. no. 542) is described as similar to the original used at Willie's house.²³

TABLE: Most informants remember a small "stand" table in the bedroom, but there is confusion as to its exact appearance. Most agree it was square, between 18" and 30" with four round legs, probably made by

²²Ibid., 847.

²³Abelson, 2.

Willie, and varnished. Jess remembered it being natural wood color with maple legs and oak top, about 3' high with a shelf built in the legs to store books. Some ^{informants} remembered ^{the table being covered with} a fancy cloth with embroidery. ^{Others remembered} ~~or oilcloth left over from tablecloth~~, generally white or plaid, on it.²⁴ A table lamp, like that described in bedroom furnishings, sat on the table. A small Victrola or radio sometimes sat on it, also.

RECORD PLAYER: Willie had two players, both referred to as Victrola, although evidence is not available to support use of that trade name. The earliest one was a portable named "Edison" used until 1939. It sat on the "stand" table described above. The wooden cabinet finished in light oak had small doors in front that pushed in "like ventilators" to let the sound out from the speaker. A hand crank on the right side powered the unit. A flat-topped lid with sloping sides raised on hinges and a small metal bar to give access to the turntable and arm. It only played 78 rpm records. About the time Jess got married (1939) the small player was replaced with a floor-cabinet model by Jess's brother. It was three feet tall, thirty inches long and eighteen to twenty inches wide. As with the small one, the lid raised to reveal the turntable. Shelves in the cabinet covered with front doors were used to store records. Wood cutouts on the sides backed with red burlap-like material vented the speakers.

RECORDS: Records were kept in table shelves or in a box on the floor beside the player. Country, bluegrass, and religious were the favorite

²⁴ Transcriptions, 838.

music types. Dave Makin, Roy Acuff, The Carter Family were popular artists; "Old Joe Clarke" and "Sally Goodin" were favorite songs.

RADIO: A small battery-powered radio replaced the "Victrola" on the stand table after 1939.²⁵

CLOCK: An eight~~y~~-day cabinet clock sat on a small wall shelf beside the window over the stand table. It was thirteen to sixteen inches tall and seven to eight inches wide with a glass door that opened ^{for} by winding. The brown-stained wood cabinet had flower-like carvings around the top above the door. A gold-colored round pendulum weight, approximately three inches in diameter, was attached to a threaded vertical spindle inside the cabinet door. Adjusting the weight up or down changed the speed of operation. The clock face was white with black numerals. The glass in the door was decorated with vine designs on each side and a flower design across the top. Chimes struck one time on the half hour and gave the hour count each hour. A clock owned by Gilbert Hensley (cat. no. 914) at the Settlement was described as similar to the one owned by Willie.²⁶

SPINNING WHEEL: Jess said, "On back it sets low, sets on angle, big posts that comes up and shaft through top that wheel works on. Big wheel, probably four feet in diameter. Spokes on wheel. They made hickory band to go round spokes. Trench in band for belt--and they

²⁵ Ibid., 832.

²⁶ Abelson, 4.

have what they call a head."²⁷ He later said it was natural wood finish without caryed designs. The three legs, wheel spokes, and wheel support posts were maple, the bench poplar, and the wheel band hickory. It was probably made by Sam Powers. It was stored in the smokehouse and used in the living room by the fire and window until use was discontinued a few years before Jess married in 1939.

CARDS: This 9" x 5" pair of tools with steel brushes used to prepare wool for spinning had been purchased at a general merchandise store. When not in use, they were stored in a box in the house.

GUNS: Two guns were kept in the room. A 12-gauge Remington single shot shotgun with an external side hammer was kept on a gunrack over the front door. A Winchester single-shot .22 caliber rifle with a one-piece stock was kept on a rack on the wall above the bed a few feet left of the front door. Ammunition for the weapons was stored in a hunting pouch hanging on the gunrack behind the door.

GUNRACK: Two forked tree limbs spaced about two feet apart and nailed to the wall held the guns and ammunition pouch.

WALL DECORATIONS: Although informants do not remember much about decorative items in the room, Jess said they probably had a big calendar with different pictures on each month's page and maybe one or two smaller calendars. He did not remember any mirrors, but did

²⁷ Transcriptions, 1275.

state there was maybe "a picture over there with two or three big horses on it."²⁸ He also thought the picture of his uncle described in bedroom furnishings may have been on the wall to the left of the bedroom doorway.

WALLPAPER: Same as described in bedroom furnishings; blue building paper. Ceilings not papered with building paper, but had been papered with newspaper and magazines in earlier years, mostly for insulation.

CURTAINS: Single windows had a thin ~~type~~ material hung on a string. Dorothy Muncey remembers ecru colored, lacy-like material being used at one time. Curtains were apparently Alkie's idea.²⁹

LAMP: Same as described in bedroom furnishings. It was described as an inverted bowl-like base that narrowed to a stem in the middle for carrying before flaring out to form the "coal oil" container with its burner and globe brackets.³⁰ It was located on a table beside the "Victrola." When not in use, it might be moved to the mantle.³¹

BIBLE: The mantel over the fireplace was bare except for "maybe a little bunch of flowers or something and the family Bible."³¹

²⁸ Ibid., 1270

²⁹ Ibid., 847.

³⁰ Ibid., 1270.

³¹ Ibid., 1272.

The Bible, eight or nine inches square and two inches thick, was bound in imitation leather, either brown or black. In addition to the text, it had a few pictures and a Family Records section.

CHAIRS: Willie made chairs, so his house was undoubtedly well supplied.

A ladder back sitting chair owned by Grant Hensley (cat. no. 540) thought to be made by Willie³² is described:

The seat is made of woven hickory and the chair of hickory. The back is 38" high and has three boards for back rests. The top board is 2½" x 15", the middle board 2" x 14" and the bottom one is 1-¾" x 14". There are two 15" rounded rungs on each side measuring 13" long. The legs of the chair are 38" long in back and 16" long in front. This chair was originally painted brown, but has badly faded. It has a new woven hickory seat. The legs are shaped to form smaller ends at the bases or floor ends.

There were also two rocking chairs in the living room, one each for Willie and his wife. Jess thought the chairs were made of maple posts, oak arm-rests, and hickory rungs and woven hickory-bark seats.

An original rocking chair (cat. no. 535) acquired from Willie's son³³ Frank, is described as:

This rocker has a high back, armrests, and wicker seat. The back has 14 round slats. The woven seat measures 18 inches by 21 inches and the high back 46" by 17" across. The rockers are 34" long and the armrests are 18" long by 2" wide at the widest. The back posts are

³²Abelson, 2.

³³Ibid., 2.

46" long while the front posts are 19". There are two 18½" long rungs in the front of the chair, two 14" rungs in each side and one 18½" rung in the back. The rocker is painted gold, which hides the wood, but the rocker appears to be made of oak and maple.

FIREPLACE ACCESSORIES: Willie made his own shovels, pokers, and firedogs. Pokers and shovels had 2½' handles. A set of firedogs found at Willie's house in 1958 (cat. no. 253) are hand forged, 13" high with a loop fashioned in the top of the posts, and a 15½" bridge to support the logs. A round iron rod fastened into the back of the chimney extended into the top of the fireplace where it couldn't be seen. An "S" shaped hook was placed on the rod to suspend cooking pots over the fire. No other tools (bucket, woodbox, etc.) were kept in the house. Before dark, boys carried wood for the night and stacked it on the front porch where it would be accessible.

POTS: Although cooking utensils were not normally stored in the room, they would sometimes be brought in to cook over the fireplace to avoid keeping two fires going in two separate rooms.

POPCORN POPPER: Although Jess described a popper of screen wire on a long handle that could be purchased at general merchandise stores for 15 cents, he also remembered a homemade type. It was a four pound syrup or lard bucket with small nail holes punched around the side and bottom. A big hole was made near the top and a 3' stick placed through the hole and a nail driven through the other side of the bucket into the end of the stick.

QUILTING FRAMES: Homemade frames consisting of four 1" x 2" x 9' wooden bars, were suspended from the ceiling with cords attached to staples in the ceiling. The string was rolled around the frame when not in use so the frames were suspended close to the ceiling. Wooden pegs in holes along the bar adjusted the size of the frame.³⁴

← PANTRY: This room, used to store food, had 2' wide shelves around the walls. Canned and dried fruits and vegetables in quart and half gallon jars were kept on the shelves. During cold weather, apples and potatoes were stored there to prevent freezing. Ball Mason Jars, clear and green glass, with one-piece zinc caps with porcelain liners and rubber rings were used. After emptying, the jars were cleaned, lids replaced and stored in one corner of the room until ready to fill again.

← STOREROOM: This small room saw many uses. Mrs. Muncey remembers Willie keeping harnesses and saddles there when mending them. She also remembered sheep shears hanging by the door, a leather punch, a shoe last with different size tops, and a corn sheller.³⁵ Lige's daughter said she remembered her grandfather keeping a motherless lamb in there one winter until ~~it~~^{the lamb} was strong enough to survive on its own.³⁶

³⁴ Transcriptions, 833.

³⁵ Ibid., 831.

³⁶ Conversation with Lige Gibbons and family at Hensley Settlement, June 22, 1978.

KITCHEN

WALLPAPER: Jess stated the kitchen was still papered with catalog paper when he married in the 1930's. He did not recall the ceiling being papered. Another statement was made that the kitchen had brown building paper.³⁷

STOVE: Most informants remember three stoves used at different times. The first was a small "step-stove" of cast iron with four caps on top, a door on each side to add wood, and a larger oven door on the side. It did not have a front door, water reservoir, or heat gauge. It was so low it had to be placed on wooden blocks. The step stove was replaced in the 1920's with a larger step stove with 6 top caps, a front oven door, and a door to the firebox on the left side. It did not have a gauge or reservoir, but it did have 12" legs, so the heightening blocks could be eliminated. It was used in the 1930's until replaced with a range about the time Jess got married. The range was cast iron with white enamel on a front oven door and the two doors of a warming closet that attached to the stove back and extended above the cooking surface. The warming closet door hinged at the bottom; the oven door had a handle that lifted to open and pushed down to close. A panel inside the oven divided it into a top and bottom baking area. A damper on the back helped regulate heat. Wood could be put in the top caps or a small door on the left side. The stove may have had "Eagle" name on it. It was moved off the mountain when the family left the Settlement.

³⁷ Transcriptions, 1248.

STOVE ACCESSORIES: A 30" square wood box sat under a small cooking table. A small shovel and rake were kept near the stove for ash removal.

TABLES: A small cook table with hewed legs and rough board top covered with oilcloth sat in the right corner beside the back door. A water bucket, churn, crocks, etc., were kept on it. A homemade kitchen table about 6' long sat adjacent to the single window. Willie had rounded the legs on his workshop lathe and built the top of smoothed planks about 6" wide. A table described as the original kitchen table was acquired from Alkie Gibbons (cat. no. 537).³⁸

This table is unpainted except for the legs which are a faded blue. The table top is 30 inches from the floor. The top is made of four 1" x 9" boards each of which is 71" long. The legs are four 2½" boards 29" long, the insides of the legs are rounded. The top and legs are held together by two 1" x 4" boards 55" long and two 32" long 1" x 4" boards. The shorter boards are for the ends of the table and are shaped for ornaments sake. These boards are nailed to the table legs and to the top of the table fastening it together.

The table was always covered with oilcloth having various designs-- sometimes solid blue or white, sometimes flowered, sometimes calico-like. When the cloth was replaced, better parts of the old one was salvaged to cover the cook table.³⁹ A homemade bench the same length as the

³⁸Abelson, 3.

³⁹Transcriptions, 826.

table sat between the table and the wall.

CABINET: The original cabinet acquired from Alkie Gibbons and now included in the park collection (cat. no. 536) is described as:

This cabinet is painted green on the outside and white in the interior. It is 6'3" tall and 36" wide. It has four doors, the top ones measure 38" long x 17" wide, and the bottom doors are 33" x 17". The inside of the cabinet has 6 shelves, 11" deep by 35" long spaced 9" apart. The bottom compartment is 11" deep by 16" high by 35" long. There are knob handles on the doors. The jam is 17½" from either side of the cabinet and has two wooden fasteners for securing.

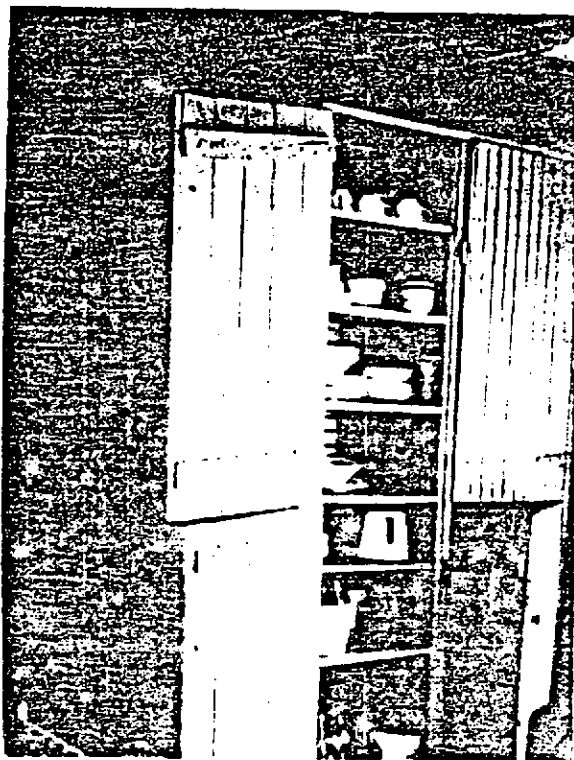
Paint chips indicate it was painted several times; some informants remember it being white, others remember black. It was constructed from material left from school house improvements and positioned in the northeast corner of the room.

CABINET ACCESSORIES: Dishes, bowls, plates, and a little box with knives and forks were stored in the cabinet. Spices and herbs were kept in small jars; sugar, salt, soda were also kept there.

CHURN: When Jess was a boy the house had a cedar churn. In the late 1920's it was replaced with a round white crockware churn. At least one churn, about three gallon size, was used at all times and stored in the spring house except when brought in for table use. A crock similar to the churn was used to pickle small quantities of vegetables; a 16-20 gallon wooden barrel was used as a larger pickling container. Pickling containers were stored behind the front door.



TABLE (cat. no. 525)



TABLET (cat. no. 526)

CHAIRS: Same as ladder backed chairs described above. Several sat around the front and ends of the eating table.

LAMP: Same as table lamps described above; kept on one of the two tables.

BUCKET AND DIPPER: A zinc water bucket with enameled or "graniteware" dipper was located on the cook table. Gourd dippers had been used in early years at the Settlement and continued in use at the Spring House.⁴⁰

DISHPANS: Dishpans of graniteware were kept in the bottom of the cabinet or on nails in the wall behind the stove. Two dishpans of different sizes were used. They were shaped smaller at the bottom than top and had a loop handle on each side.⁴¹ Aluminum pans were not used until after 1940.

COOKING UTENSILS: Most utensils were cast iron items purchased from general merchandise stores. The wall left of the fireplace was nearly covered with skillets and cookers. Many were a gray color called "zincware" by Willie's wife. Lids were cast iron or of the same material as the cookers. Some had bails; some had handles. Large iron kettles, 6-7 gallon, were used to heat water for clothes washing and ^{for} canning.⁴²

⁴⁰ Ibid., 595.

⁴¹ Ibid., 1251.

⁴² Ibid., 1258.

Most cooking kettles were taller than wide and used in the open fireplace. At least four skillets of various sizes were available. Two thin square or rectangular metal bread pans--one 12" x 18", one smaller--and metal pie pans with smooth and scalloped edges were used.

COFFEE POTS: A small coffee pot and a larger one holding nine cups were kept on the stove or the cook table. They were round, tall pots sloping steadily from the bottom to top and constructed of the same gray "graniteware" as dishpans. Coffee and water were mixed in the pot and boiled without internal apparatus. A thin metal teakettle with enameled surface was also kept on the stove.

COFFEE MILL: The Gibbons' mill was 12" high and 9"-10" square with a wooden base and metal top with crank lever described by Jess as "similar" to the one now on display at the house.

TABLE ACCESSORIES: Informants remembered tin and glass salt and pepper shakers. Quantities of salt was stored in a crock in the cabinet; soda was stored in cans in the cabinet. Glasses were clear, smooth glass with straight sides; also a lot of stem glasses were used. Early dishes were crockware, either blue or off-white.⁴³ Crockery bowls, dishes, pitchers, and plates of different sizes were used. A few fancier plates had flower designs. Silverware was inexpensive; older items had a pewter appearance. A few items had bone handles,⁴⁴ some had black wooden handles

⁴³Ibid., 602.

⁴⁴Ibid., 596.

with tacked instead of stitched quilting. Such quilts were often used as bedspreads in the Gibbons home, probably more often in the boys' room than elsewhere. To show other styles of bed covering, however, the third bed should have an olive drab wool blanket covered with a thin off-white cotton spread.

QUILTS AND BLANKETS: Heavy wool blankets and homemade quilts were used by the Gibbons family. In addition to the ones in use, several extra blankets and quilts were available for visitors. Since most public visitation to the furnished structure will occur during the summer, 4 to 5 quilts and 2 to 3 blankets should be folded and stored on a ladder back chair against the wall near the dresser. All blankets should be olive drab. Quilts should include various traditional patterns, including Wedding Ring and Crazy Quilt, and different construction techniques to illustrate quilts described in Part D. Although Willie sometimes laid out the pattern to be used, quilting was a "woman's job." Nancy and her daughters enjoyed producing quilts that were attractive. Whether done hurriedly or patiently quilting was a human activity representing friendship, family, home, and love. Even in self-sufficient homes like those at Hensley Settlement the skill and love that went into quilts created a high degree of artistry.

CHAIR: One ladderback chair of unfinished wood or with antiqued paint finish and woven hickory bark seat should be ~~cloth or placed in a small dish near the lamp to indicate male occupancy.~~

positioned against the wall near one of the beds. Quilts and blankets not used on the beds will be stacked on the chair seat. Construction details should match the description of the original chair (catalog number 541) made by Willie.

Dresser - In the northwest corner ~~and~~ against the north wall ^A plain "Chiffonier" dresser with mirror should be set. It should be inexpensive ~~A~~ construction ~~and~~ closely patterned after catalog number 538, ~~in design~~. The recommended dresser may be painted with antiqued paint to resemble black walnut. The framework is straight with rounded front corners and solid sides with rectangular panels. The item should be approximately 30" wide and 16" deep with five full width drawers, ~~six~~ six to seven inches deep, ^{each} with two mushroom turned knobs and ^{one wooden} ~~carved wooden~~ keyhole surround^{carved} in a foliage pattern. The top should have rounded front corners. The mirror, mounted in a wood swing frame, should be attached to the back of the dresser by two patterned posts.

Accessories - The top of the dresser should be covered with a rectangular broadcloth scarf. The edge may have a crocheted border and the ends may have simple floral embroidery. A footed glass table lamp with smooth crystal chimney and brass wick fittings designed for kerosene should be placed near the center of the dresser. The glass chimney should be slightly soiled with soot to indicate recent use. A few small items (pocket knife, Jews Harp, comb) might be arranged haphazardly on the cloth or placed in a small dish near the lamp to indicate male occupancy.

TRUNK: A closed trunk should be located at the foot of the bed near the west wall. It should be of light colored wood, although some darkening of the wood due to age and use may be appropriate, and should have metal strips across the top and metal reinforcements at the edges. Although the trunk was originally used for storage, refurnishing its interior is not recommended. Children were not permitted to open it; adults seldom did. Willie Gibbons' grandchild said, "It was mostly memories that was in that". The mystery should be maintained and interpreted.

WALLPAPER: All four walls should be covered with a medium blue cardboard paper three feet wide. Original building paper was available in 250 or 500 square foot rolls. If cardboard of that type is not available, other cardboard may be used, but should be installed as three foot widths. Edges should be overlapped approximately one inch and the paper attached with thin metal disks and small-head tacks or one inch cardboard squares and carpet tacks (^{see} Part D). Random tacks may be added to support the paper against the walls.

WALL FIXTURES: The single window should be covered with window length, hand sewn curtains of lightweight, light colored cotton material. A single string of heavy twine stretched between two nails attached to the top window facing should be used to hang two curtain panels. Size of the window opening can be controlled by sliding the panels along the string rather than using ties at the window edges. Near the window a large framed picture of Nancy's brother was located. Since a photograph of that person is not available, installation

of a picture in that area is not recommended; however, efforts should be made to locate a suitable picture for future installation. If one is installed, it should be mounted in a wide frame antiqued with dark cherry or walnut finish. Several wooden pegs or metal spikes 3 to 6 inches long and spaced 18 to 24 inches apart should be driven into the wall behind the door. Clothing, primarily for young adult males, should be hung on the pegs. Two pairs of bib overalls, two workshirts, a lightweight denim jacket and a few pairs of dress clothes should be included.

ESTIMATES

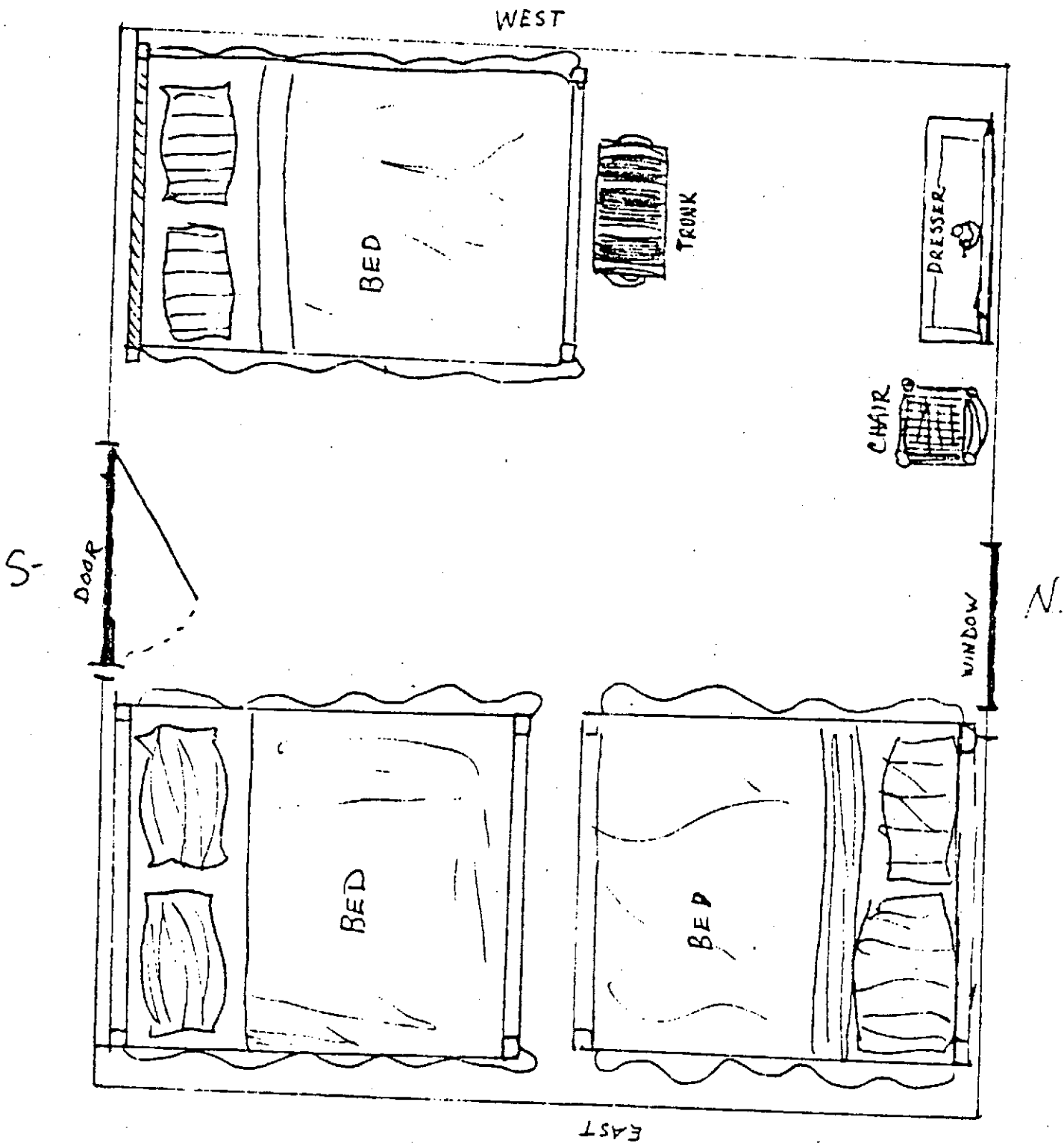
| ITEM | SOURCE | COST |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Bed, wood (3) | Custom Furniture Shop | 1500.00 |
| Coil Springs (3) | Antique Dealer | 50.00 |
| Checker Game (1) | Department Store | 2.00 |
| Fox Geese Game (1) | Demonstration Product | 1.00 |
| Shoes, Dress (3) | Shoe Store | 75.00 |
| Shoes, Work (1) | Shoe Store | 25.00 |
| Mattress, Hay (2) | Local Crafts Person | 10.00 |
| Mattress, Shuck (1) | Local Crafts Person | 50.00 |
| Featherbed (3) | Local Crafts Person | 200.00 |
| Sheets (3) | Local Crafts Person | 15.00 |
| Bolsters (2) | Local Crafts Person | 40.00 |
| Pillows (2) | Local Crafts Person | 20.00 |
| Quilts (6) | Local Crafts Person | 500.00 |
| Bed Spread (1) | Local Crafts Person | 10.00 |
| Blankets (3) | Army-Navy Stores | 75.00 |
| Chair (1) | Local Crafts Person | 30.00 |
| Dresser/w/mirror (1) | Custom Furniture Shop | 750.00 |
| Dresser Scarf (1) | Local Crafts Person | 10.00 |
| Table Lamp (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Pocket Knife (1) | Department Store | 10.00 |
| Jews Harp (1) | Local Music Store | 2.00 |
| Comb (1) | Department Store | 1.00 |

ESTIMATES

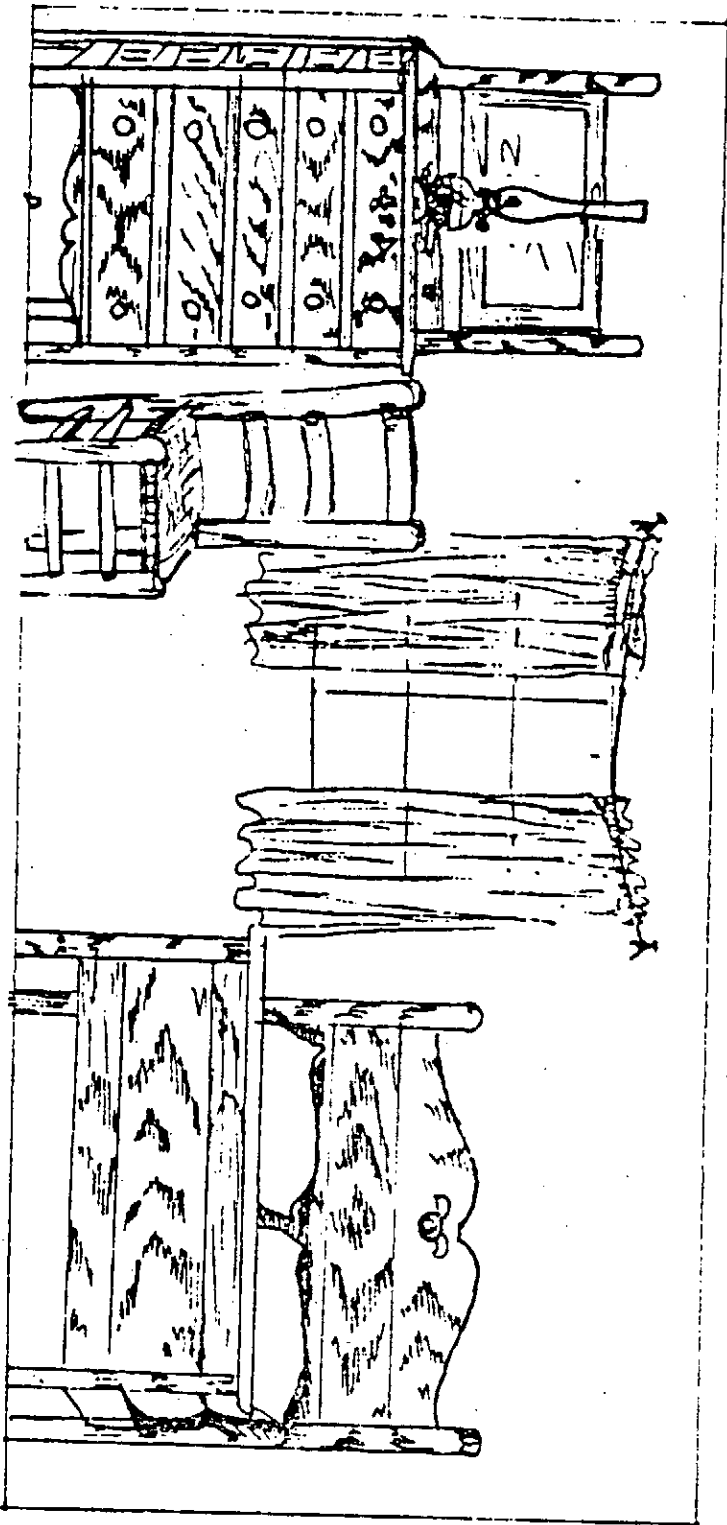
(continued)

| ITEM | SOURCE | COST |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Trunk (1) | Custom Furniture Shop | 250.00 |
| Wallpaper 500 sq. ft. | Department Store | 100.00 |
| Curtains (1) | Local Crafts Person | 10.00 |
| Clothes | Custom seamstress | 190.00 |

BED ROOM

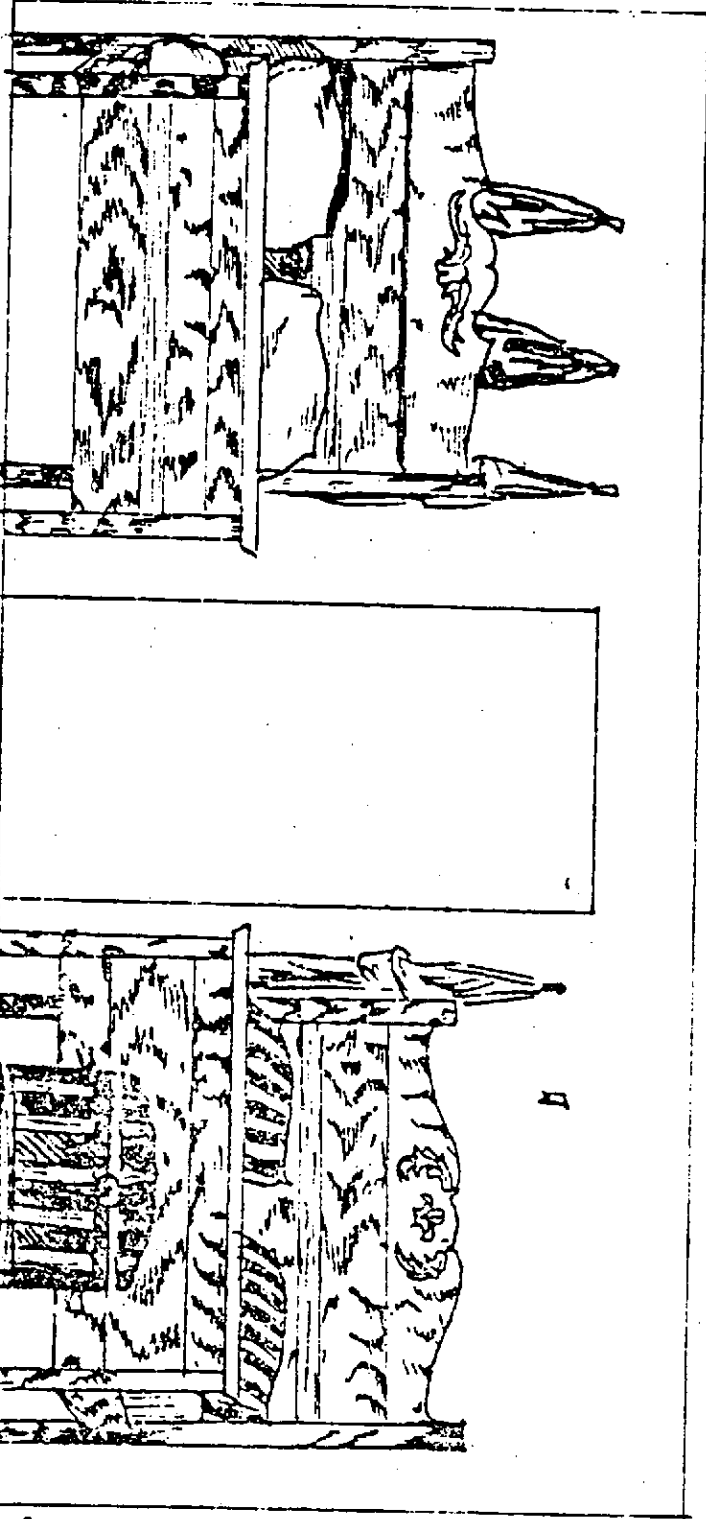


NW CORNER



NORTH WALL

NE CORNER



SE
CORNER

SW
CORNER

SOUTH WALL

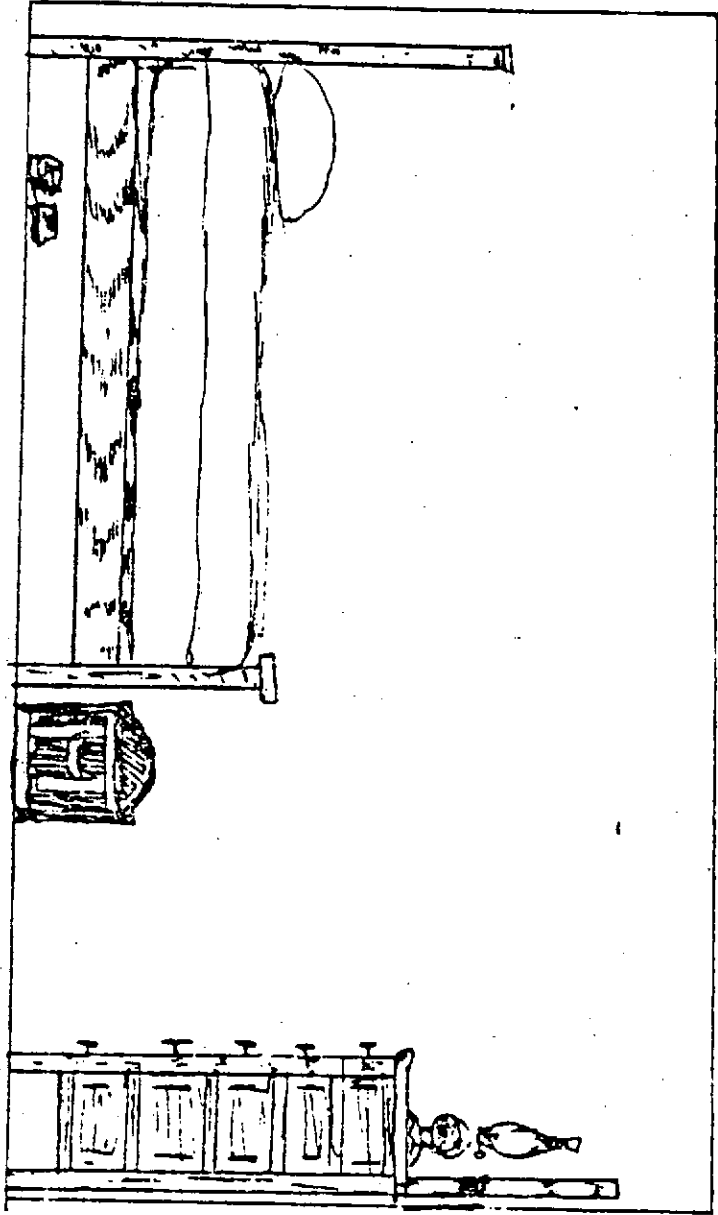
15' 2 1/2"

SOUTH, EAST
SOUTH WALL

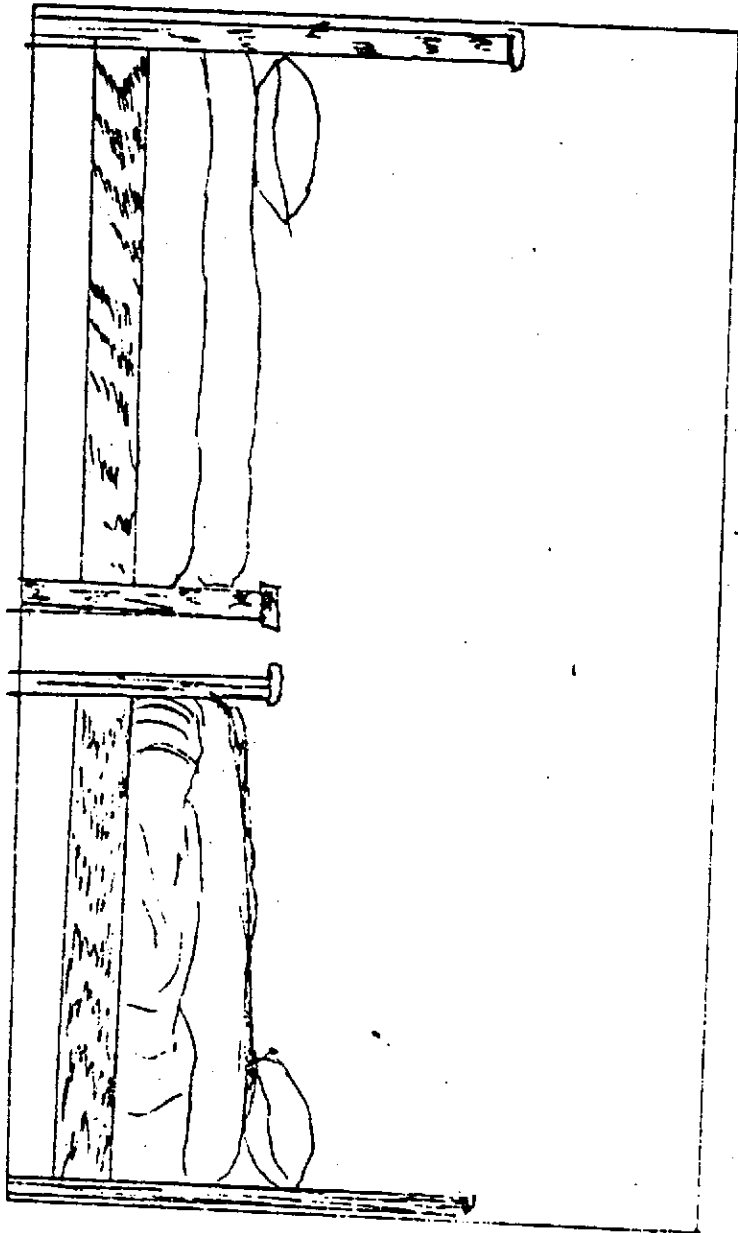
CORNERS - HEADS OF GEOSON SOUTH WALL

BED ROOM
WEST WALL

WEST WALL



EAST WALL



LIVING ROOM

The 15' x 15' living room was near the center of the three room house adjacent to the bedroom on the north and the kitchen on the south. A door in the east wall near the southeast corner of the room opened onto the porch providing the only exterior access. In addition to the interior door through the north wall to the bedroom, two interior doors in the south wall provided access to a pantry on the left and a storeroom on the right of a centered stone fireplace. One window in the west wall near the southwest corner was the only source of natural light. A mantel was centered on the wall above the fireplace.

Many of the wall logs, floor puncheons, and fireplace stones are original fabric. Evidence of original wall coverings and accessories was destroyed during reconstruction in 1968.

The living room in pioneer homes sheltered most of the family's indoor activities. The Gibbons' living room was much more than a social room in which to welcome guests. It was also used as a bedroom for Willie, Nancy, and their daughter. The large stone fireplace that opened into the kitchen and living room was the only source of heat in the house. During cold weather the family congregated near the fireplace to talk or play games. A lot of winter cooking was done in the living room fireplace, especially when preparing foods that required hours of cooking, to eliminate the need for a second fire in the kitchen. The need to conserve energy sources was very obvious when you had to chop your own wood supply! Nancy's quilting, knitting, and embroidery and the entire family's indoor entertainment centered in the living room. Willie delighted in playing cards;

children often played checkers and Fox and Geese. After getting record players and a battery radio, listening to music became a favorite pasttime on Sundays and evenings, especially Saturday night. On those occasions the entire family might be found around the fireplace or radio listening to music and popping corn or roasting chestnuts.

Furnishings selected will communicate a feeling of togetherness that illustrates close family ties and balances the strictly male influence of the bedroom. Items should represent the room as it appeared in the mid 1930's. At that time Willie and Nancy still shared the room with Alkie, a young adult preparing for marriage. Since most visitation will occur on summer days between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. the furnishings should portray the rooms appearance when residents were outside. Furnishings should project a feeling of love and care that the residents had for the room. This was the room the women lived in and where they welcomed guests. Curtains, bedspreads, and quilts should be more artistically designed than those in the boys' bedroom to show the ladies influence. Beds should be neatly made and covered with a finely stitched quilt, embroidered pillow cases, and a colorful spread. The fireplace should have a few implements to illustrate the rooms use for cooking in addition to its use as living and sleeping quarters. Furnishings should emphasize the living room as the center of the family's social life with special attention directed to the radio or record player.

BEDS: Two metal beds should be placed in the room, one on each side of the bedroom door, with the headboards against the north wall. There should be minor variations in the design of each, but they should be simple in construction with high headboards and low

footboards. Bedsteads should have six or seven vertical bars attached to two horizontal bars extending between two upright posts. Bars and posts may be square or round hollow tubing or solid cast iron. New made items should be installed if possible (similar to cat. no. 539); however, antique bedsteads can be used if they are maintained to prevent chemical and mechanical deterioration. Bedsteads should be painted dark brown. Each should be fitted with uncovered coil springs.

ACCESSORIES: Each bed should have a straw filled mattress, featherbed, unbleached muslin sheet, and two pillows like those described in bedroom furnishings. Since the bedroom should reflect the ladies influence and they would have made the area as pleasing as possible for themselves and their guests, the pillow cases should be white or pastel cotton with embroidered floral or animal designs bordering the open end. Each bed should be covered with a handmade quilt of traditional design. To contrast the simple "tack-stitch" construction technique used on the bedroom accessories the living room quilts should be hand-stitched--one with a simple block pattern, the other with a complicated design. The bed with the block stitch quilt should be covered with a pastel cotton bedspread with crocheted border. Several boxes should be positioned under each bed to illustrate the necessity of using all available space in small Appalachian homes. A pair of young women's dress shoes should be placed under the bed in the northwest corner

that was used by Alkie. Pairs of dress shoes for a man and a woman should be placed under the bed used by Willie and Nancy.

SEWING MACHINE: A cabinet model, treadle sewing machine with four drawers and hand-lift, drop head top similar to the one on page 203 of Sears, Roebuck and Company 1927 catalog should be placed against the west wall near the window. Attempts should be made to locate a reproduction machine closely matching the original object (see Evidence of Original Furnishings) so the machine can be used in demonstrations without conflict with NPS non-consumptive policies. Until a reproduction is available an antique item may be displayed if properly protected. Since Nancy and Alkie made most of their clothes, mended clothes for the entire family, and made their own curtains, furniture covers and bedding, the sewing machine would have been used year round. The machine should be displayed in its working position as if the seamstress' work was interrupted by another task that called her away.

ACCESSORIES: The small center shelf in the sewing machine cabinet should contain a spare shuttle and several bobbins filled with 100% cotton thread of various colors. One of the four drawers should contain several spools of 100% cotton thread on wooden spools. Modern end labels that may be identified as non-historic should be removed. The second drawer should contain needles and pins on cardboard and in a cushion, a box of safety pins, scissors, and thimbles. Scraps of cloth to be used for mending should be in one drawer. Bits of ric-rac braid, lace, a cloth measuring tape, and a box of buttons should be in the other. ^{Two and four eyed} Buttons with two

~~and four eyes~~ of various sizes, material (pearl, vegetable ivory, wood, bone), and design (fisheye, ring, cup) should be included. Summer would have witnessed more repair than manufacture since the women spent so much time in the fields and preserving foods. To add lifelike realism and to represent the woman's influence in this room, a partially completed dress of 100% cotton material should be laid on the sewing surface. A pair of worn overalls with a newly installed patch should be draped over the back of a chair positioned in front of the machine.

RECORD PLAYER: A table top record player with a wooden cabinet should be located on a small table against the west wall between the sewing machine and bed. Lack of humidity controls will require installation of a new made cabinet patterned after the description in Part D and the model picture on Page 690 of Sears, Roebuck and Company 1927 catalog. The cabinet should have natural light oak finish with a hand crank on the right side. Overall size should not exceed 20 inches wide, 16 inches high, and 22 inches deep. The lid should be hinged so it can be raised to reveal a 12 inch felt covered turntable and tone arm. The record player was the main source of family entertainment, especially on Saturday evenings and Sundays, until Willie acquired a battery radio after 1938.

TABLE: The record player should be placed on a small table, approximately 24 inches wide, 36 inches long, and 30 inches high. The four legs should be round maple with a slight taper toward the floor. The top should be smooth oak with rounded corners.

A shelf built between the legs was used to store books when the children were young. Later, records for the record player was stacked on the shelf. The entire table should have a clear varnished finish over the natural wood.

ACCESSORIES: In addition to the record player cabinet, a white cotton cloth with floral embroidery on each end and crocheted border all around should be draped over the table. The table was near Alkie's bed and she "delighted" in creating attractive furnishings according to her brother Jess. A table lamp like the one described in bedroom furnishing recommendations should be placed on the cloth beside the record player. The shelf should have fifteen to twenty 78 rpm records stacked on it. Records should be primarily country and spiritual favorites of the period from 1930-35 to reflect the cultural interest of the family.

CLOCK: A cabinet clock similar to those on page 460 of Sears, Roebuck and Company 1897 catalog should be placed on a small shelf attached to the wall above the record player table. Jess Gibbons' detailed description of the original clock (See Part D) will enable the park staff to acquire a suitable new-made item from the many traditional designs now being reproduced.

CHAIRS: Two rocking chairs and two ladder back sitting chairs should be located near the fireplace. The sitting chairs should match catalog number 540 in design and construction techniques (See Part D). In addition to the one near the sewing machine a

chair should be placed near the foot of a bed where it would be ready for hanging clothes as residents prepared for bed. Rocking chairs should be patterned after the original Gibbons' chair, catalog number 535. Chairs, especially sitting chairs, would be shuffled between the living room and kitchen to provide needed accommodations for visitors. "Bring the chairs" was a often heard phrase in the Gibbons kitchen at mealtime.

GUNS: Hunting firearms were an important part of a subsistence lifestyle. Hunting was a favorite pastime of the young Gibbons men. A single shot breech loading, 12 gauge shotgun should be located above the front door. The pistol grip stock and short foregrip should be walnut with a small area of engraved checkering on the pistol grip and forestock. The shotgun should be a reproduction of a 1900 firearm similar to Interarms Ross overload hammer gun. A new made single shot .22 caliber rifle with a one piece walnut stock similar to Winchester's Model 02 on page 506 of Sear 1927 catalog should be located on the east wall between the front door and the northeast corner.

ACCESSORIES: Both firearms should be mounted on gunracks made of forked tree limbs nailed into the wall. A canvas or leather hunting pouch approximately 12 inches square with shoulder strap should be suspended from the gunrack holding the rifle. Wooden blocks of proper size to represent boxes of .22 caliber and 12 gauge ammunition should be placed in historically accurate reproduced containers and stored in the hunting bag.

FIREPLACE: The fireplace and its accoutrements represent an important part of family life. While its main function was creating warmth it also became a light source, a cooking fire, and an instrument to bind the family ties since everyone was attracted to its warmth. A shovel and poker of hand forged construction should be leaned against the fireplace stones on one side of the hearth. A set of hand forged firedogs should be placed inside the fireplace and a few ashes and partially burned logs laid on them. A iron rod approximately 1/2 inch in diameter should be fitted into the stones at the top rear of the fireplace so it extends sixteen inches into the fire area. An "S" shaped iron hook should be suspended from the rod. It was on such a hook that Nancy hung her pots when cooking in the living room. A popcorn popper like the homemade one described by Jess Gibbons (see Part D) should be leaned against the fireplace stones opposite the firetools. Although a purchased popper would also be appropriate the homemade one is more desirable to emphasize the resourcefulness of subsistence farmers.

WALLPAPER: The same paper used on the bedroom walls is recommended for the living room. The ceiling should be papered with reproductions of magazines, catalogs, and local newspaper pages from the period 1933-35. Ceiling paper should be applied with a paste made of flour and water as was done historically.

WALL FIXTURES: A large calendar dated between 1933-35 should be hung on a nail in the west wall

near the clock. A wall calendar with a page for each month that can be flipped to the back should be selected so the same calendar can be used more than one year. Attempts should be made to locate an accurate reproduction; several are now available from many companies. One of Alkie's efforts to improve the appearance of the living room was to place curtains on the window. Curtains selected for refurnishing should be higher quality than those in the boys' room. They might be ecru colored, lacy-like material like those remembered by Willie's granddaughter. Fine quality muslin, curtain Voile, or Marquissette material may be used. Curtains can be hung in the same fashion ^{as the bedroom curtains. Handmade quilting} consisting of four bars $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, one inch thick, and 7 to 10 feet long should be suspended on hemp cords from four staples in the ceiling. When not in use the frames may be elevated to near the ceiling by rolling the cords around the frames.

MANTEL ACCESSORIES: A small clay vase containing several handmade crepe paper flowers should be located near the center of the mantel. A Bible matching the description in Part D should be located on the end of the mantel near the window. Although Mrs. Gibbons couldn't read, Willie did read the Bible and it was available for anyone else in the family.

ESTIMATES

| ITEM | SOURCE | COST |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Bed, Iron (2) | Antique or Metal Craftsman | 500.00 |
| Springs, Coil (2) | Antique Dealer | 50.00 |
| Mattress, Hay (2) | Local Crafts Person | 10.00 |
| Featherbed (2) | Local Crafts Person | 150.00 |
| Sheets (2) | Local Crafts Person | 10.00 |
| Pillows (2) | Local Crafts Person | 20.00 |
| Quilt (2) | Local Crafts Person | 600.00 |
| Bed Spread (1) | Local Crafts Person | 40.00 |
| Shoes, Dress (3) | Shoe Store | 75.00 |
| Sewing Machine (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Accessories (1) | Department Store | 45.00 |
| Record Player (1) | Custom Furniture Shop | 300.00 |
| Table (1) | Demonstration Product | 25.00 |
| Table Scarf (1) | Local Crafts Person | 10.00 |
| Table Lamp (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Records, 78 rpm (15) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Clock (1) | Furniture Store | 100.00 |
| Chairs, Sitting (2) | Local Crafts Person | 75.00 |
| Chairs, Rocking (2) | Local Crafts Person | 100.00 |
| Shotgun (1) | Interarms Ross | 150.00 |
| Rifle (1) | Gun Dealer | 150.00 |
| Gunrack (2) | Demonstration Product | 5.00 |

ESTIMATES

(continued)

| ITEM | | SOURCE | COST |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Hunting Pouch | (1) | Local Crafts Person | 10.00 |
| Ammunition Boxes | (2) | HFC Photocopy Product | 40.00 |
| Fireplace Tools | (1 set) | Metal Craftsman | 50.00 |
| Popcorn Popper | (1) | Demonstration Product | 5.00 |
| Wallpaper | (700 sq. ft.) | Department Store | 140.00 |
| Calendar | (1) | | 3.00 |
| Curtains | (1) | Local Crafts Person | 30.00 |
| Quilt Frames | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Vase | (1) | Middlesboro Dish Barn | 3.00 |
| Flowers | (6) | Local Crafts Person | 6.00 |
| <u>Bible</u> | (1) | Book Store | 50.00 |

PANTRY

The 4' 9" by 5' 5" pantry was located adjacent to the southeast corner of the living room between the fireplace and the front door. Several wooden shelves on each wall extended approximately two feet into the room. There was no direct heat source into the room, but its proximity to the fireplace wall kept the room reasonably warm during the winter. Therefore, its purpose was food storage.

The pantry shelves should be filled with quart and half gallon jars. Several antique jars may be included, but most should be new ones that can be used in demonstrations. New-made zinc, one piece lids with ceramic inserts and rubber rings should be placed on all jars. The shelves on the left should be partly filled with empty jars. Shelves on the right should be nearly full of jars containing food including green beans, tomatoes, corn, molasses, apples, pickles, etc.

STOREROOM

The 5' x 6' room adjacent to the west side of the fireplace should be refurnished as a storeroom. During inclement weather Willie's favorite indoor work area was beside the window. Unfinished work and tools were often stored in the room. Pieces of non-historic leather harness needing mending should be hung on the wall and a leather punch laid nearby. Antiqued sheep shears of recent manufacture might be hung on a nail near the door. An iron shoe last stand and various ^{last} sizes as illustrated on page 207 of Sears 1897 catalog should be in a wooden

box near the door. As new lasts are probably not available a historic item may be used but should be protected with microcrystalline wax and used for display only. A hand operated corn sheller similar to those illustrated on page 1062 of Sears 1927 catalog should be placed in the box with the shoe lasts. A reproduction spinning wheel and wool cards should be stored in the center of the room when not being demonstrated in the living room.

The "Economical" Cobbler.

No. 31532 The Economical Cobbler contains all the tools necessary for shoe repairing, is cheap, good, and a great time and money saver.

CONTENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Iron Stand for Tools. | 1 Sewing Awl, Hair Pe. |
| 1 Last for Men's Shoes. | 1 Sewing Awl. |
| 1 Last for Men's Boots. | 1 Business Awl Handle. |
| 1 Last for Children's shoes. | 1 Business Awl. |
| 1 Shoemaker's Hammer. | 1 Paper Hammer. |
| 1 Shoemaker's Knife. | 1 Paper Hammer. |
| 1 Pattern for Awl Handle. | 1 Paper Hammer. |
| 1 Peg Awl. | 1 Wire for Peg Awl Handle. |
| | 1 Copy Instructions for Hair Sewing. |

Securely packed in wooden box with hinged lid.

WEIGHT, 14 LBS. Per Set, \$0.98.

Special discount on 1 dozen lots.

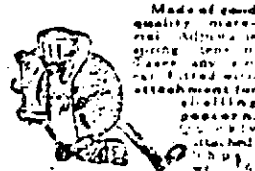


Adjustable Corn Sheller

Complete with roller, guide, shoe, butter, and tipping attachment. For removing the outer glaze at ends when shelling and corn. Adjustable spring tension. Takes all size ears. Shipped from our store, Oct. 22 '26.

72N14131 \$1.90

Mustier Corn Sheller



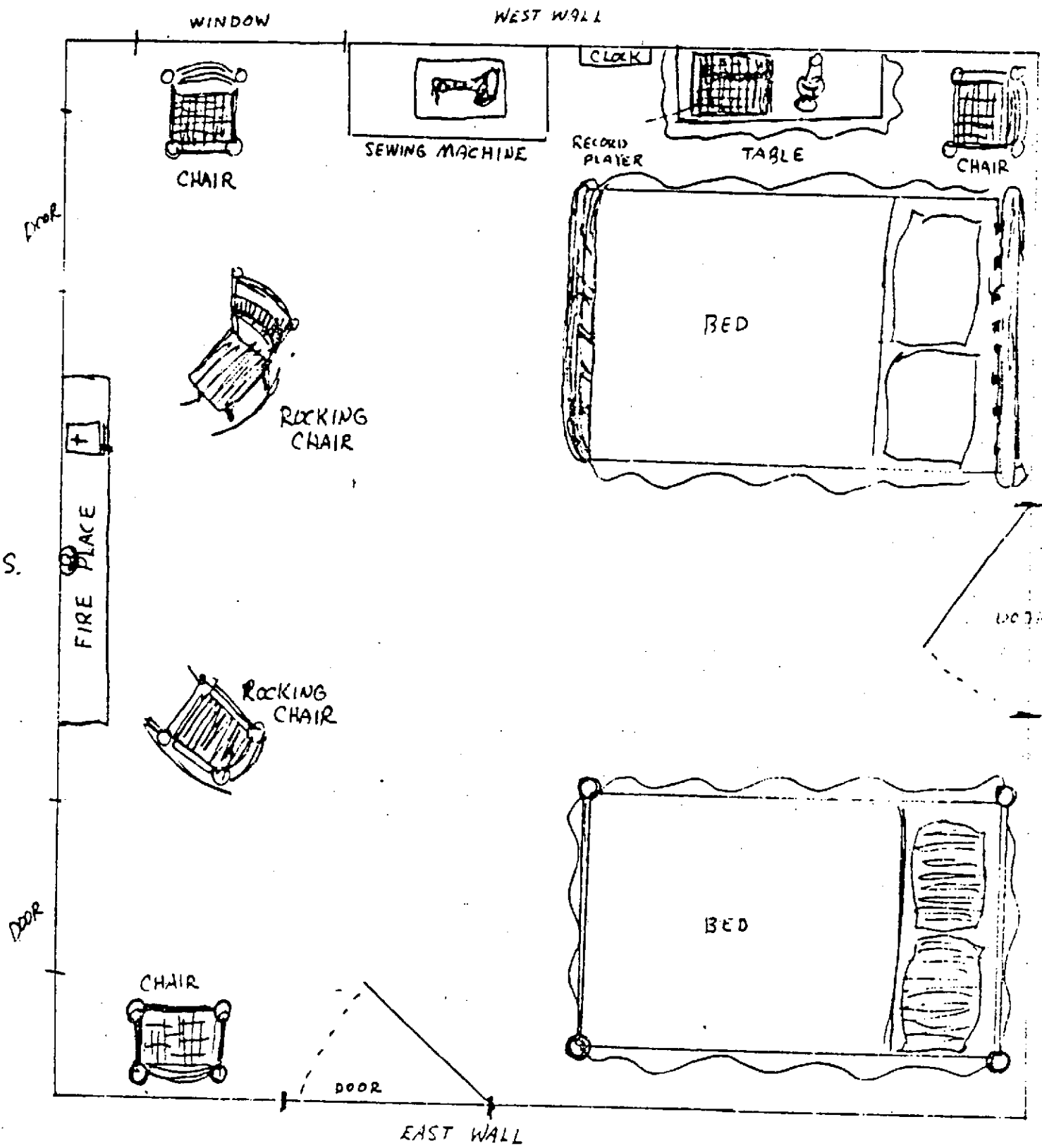
Made of good quality material. Adjustable spring tension. Takes any size ear. Fixed wire attachment for shelling peaches, etc. Shipped from our store.

72N14149 \$1.35

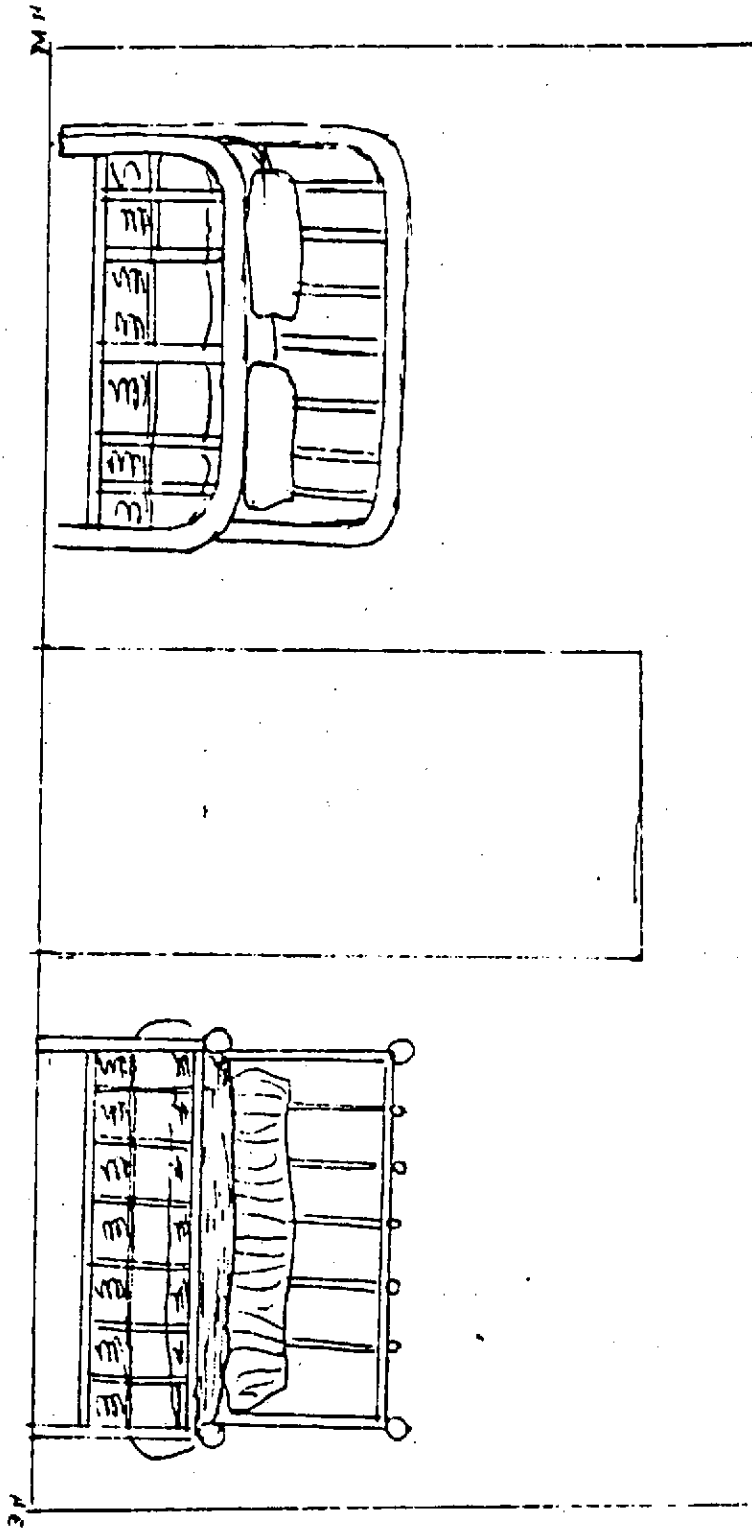
ESTIMATES

| ITEM | SOURCE | COST |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Jars, Antique (6) | Antique Dealer | 30.00 |
| Jars, Half Gallon (36) | Farm Supply Store | 20.00 |
| Jars, Quart (36) | Farm Supply Store | 15.00 |
| Bridle (1) | Farm Supply Store | 30.00 |
| Leather Punch (1) | Demonstration Project | 1.00 |
| Sheep Shears (1) | Local Hardware Store | 10.00 |
| Shoe Last Set (1) | Antique Dealer | 25.00 |
| Corn Sheller (1) | Local Hardware Store | 40.00 |
| Spinning Wheel (1) | Local Crafts Person | 150.00 |
| Wool Cards, Set (1) | Local Hardware Store | 15.00 |

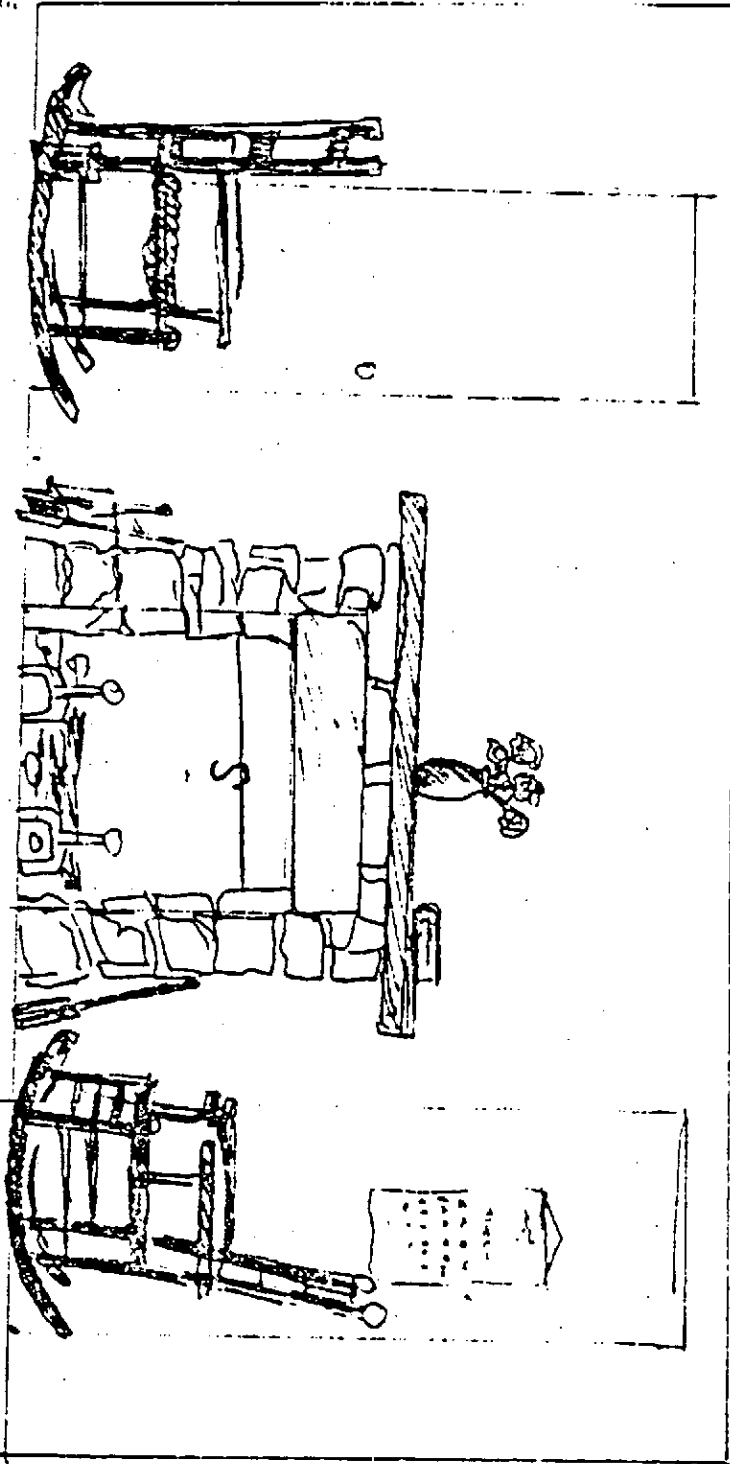
LIVING ROOM



LIVING ROOM NORTH WALL



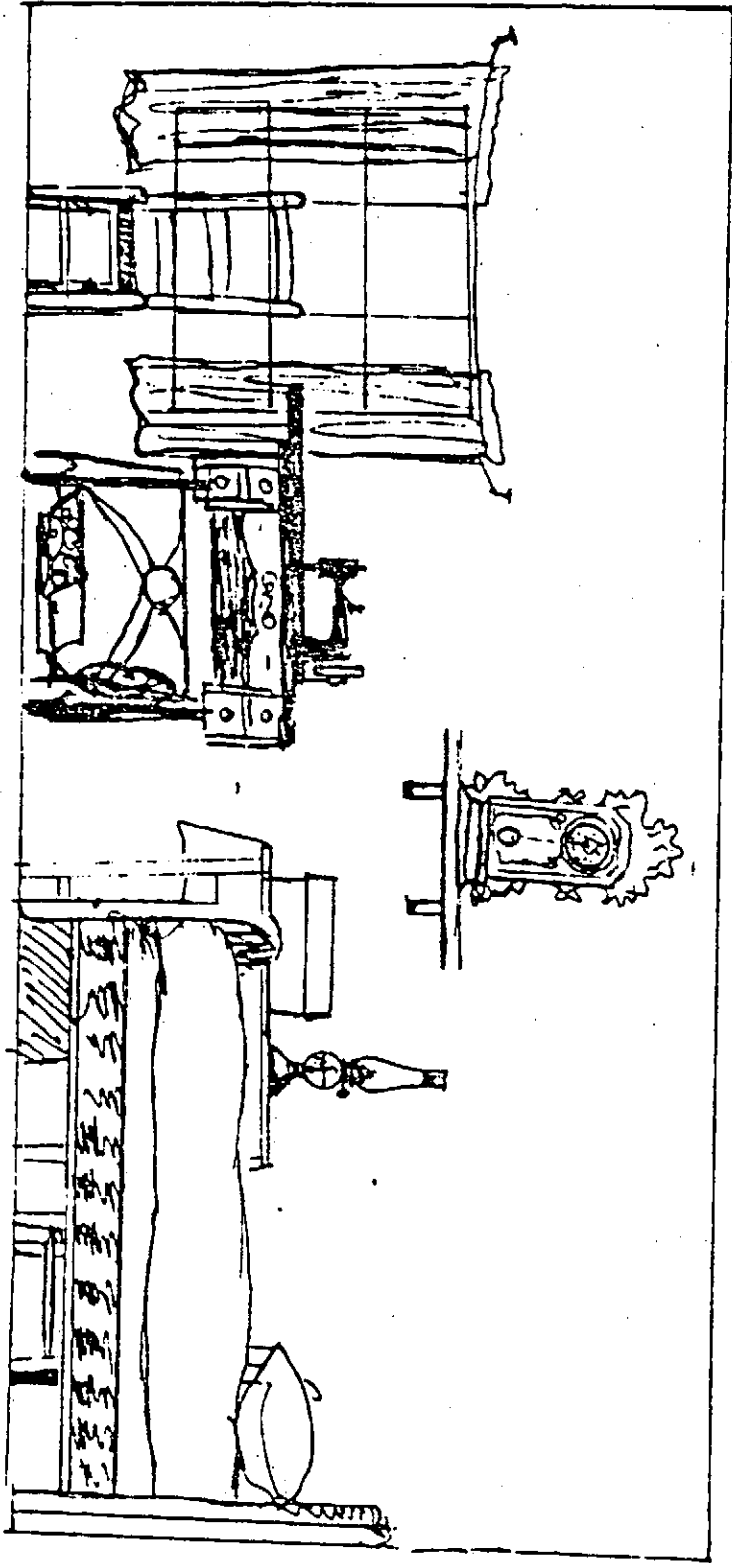
JE



LIVING ROOM

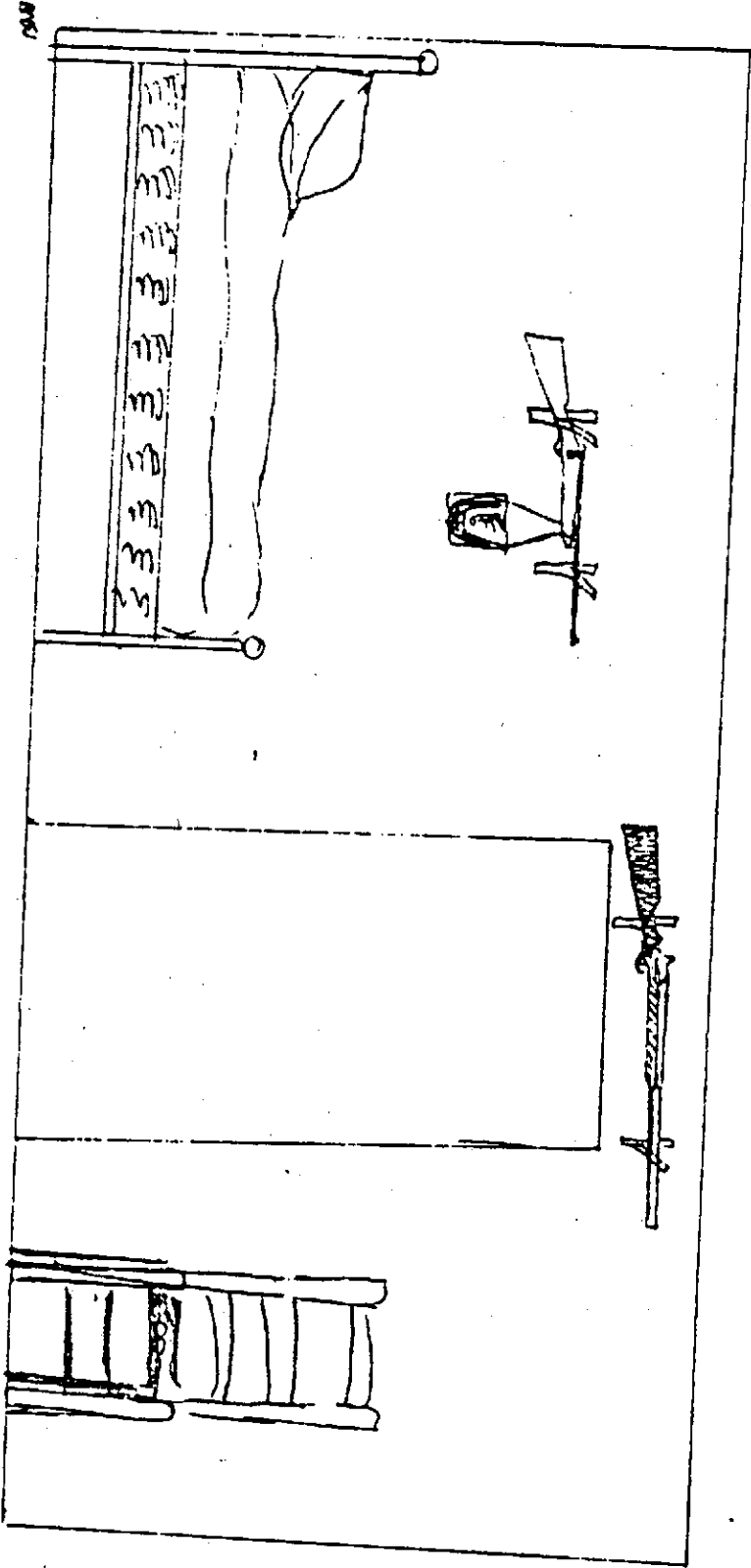
SOUTH WALL

300



LIVING ROOM WEST WALL

LIVINGROOM EAST WALL



SE

KITCHEN

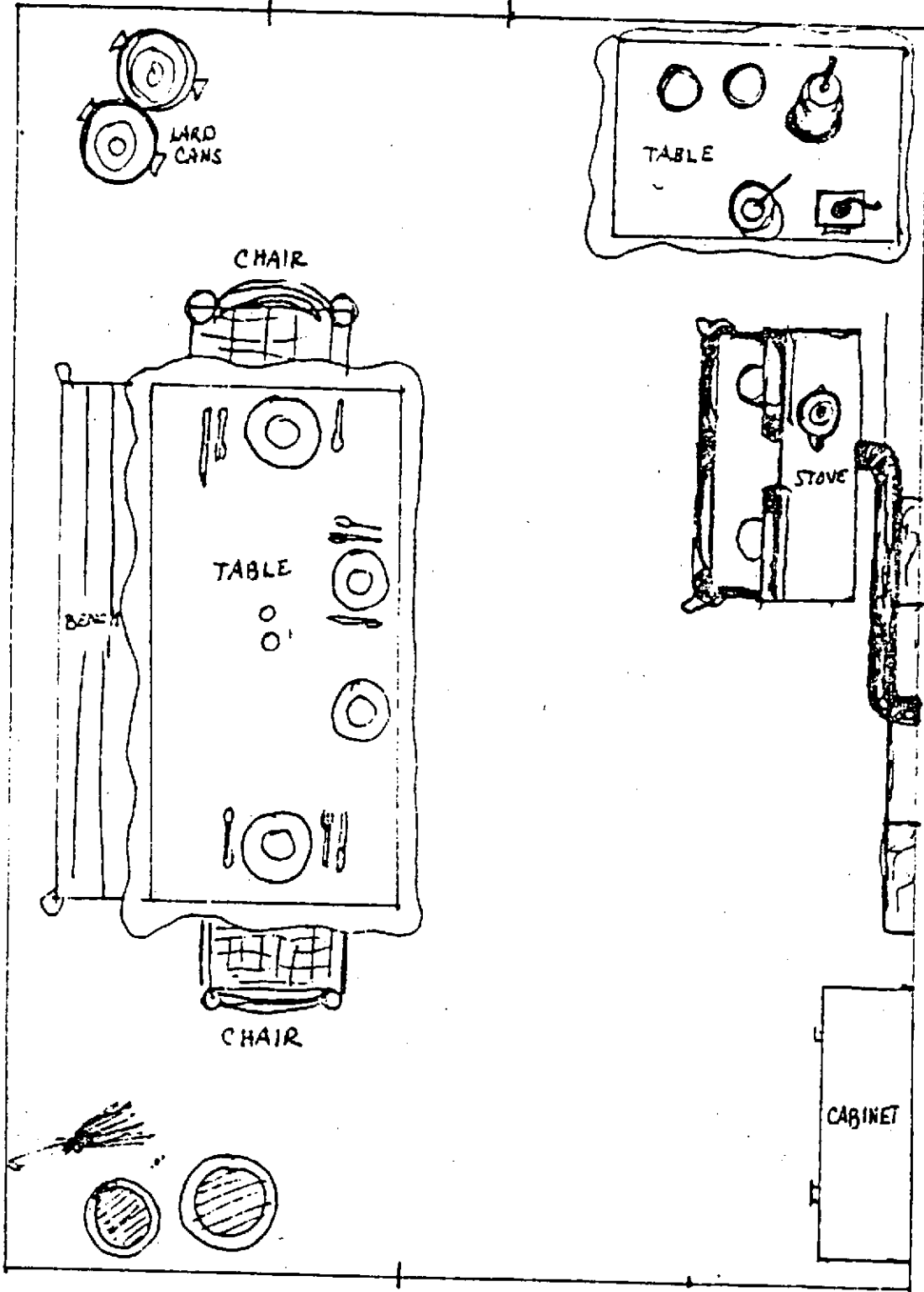
The southernmost room was used as a kitchen/dining area. This 12' x 14' room had one door in the east wall that opened onto a front porch, one door in the west wall, and a window in the south wall.

The kitchen retained much of its original fabric when restored in 1968, but many small components had to be replaced. All evidence of former wallpapers has been destroyed. Many fireplace stones are original including an especially interesting one with a corner worn smooth from Nancy's countless times sharpening butcher knives by rubbing them against the stone.

Although a kitchen's main use is normally the preparation of food, Willie's kitchen served many functions, including ironing, washing clothes in winter, and canning. Preserved meat was sometimes stored in the loft above the room. The unusual back door did not have a porch or steps leading to the ground. Its apparent function was to let in light and to create a convenient opening for feeding chickens, sweeping out dirt, and disposing of food scraps rather than providing access for people. The kitchen was Nancy's room more than anyones. Although at mealtime Willie as head of the household sat at the end of the table in the choicest location near the "high door," Nancy sat next to him near the stove where she could oversee the table activities and serve her family. Children had no designated seating arrangement, but normally occupied a bench between the table and the south wall. There was always plenty food and Nancy prided herself on setting a good table for family and visitors. When entertaining company, as on Decoration Day, when

WEST WALL

DOOR



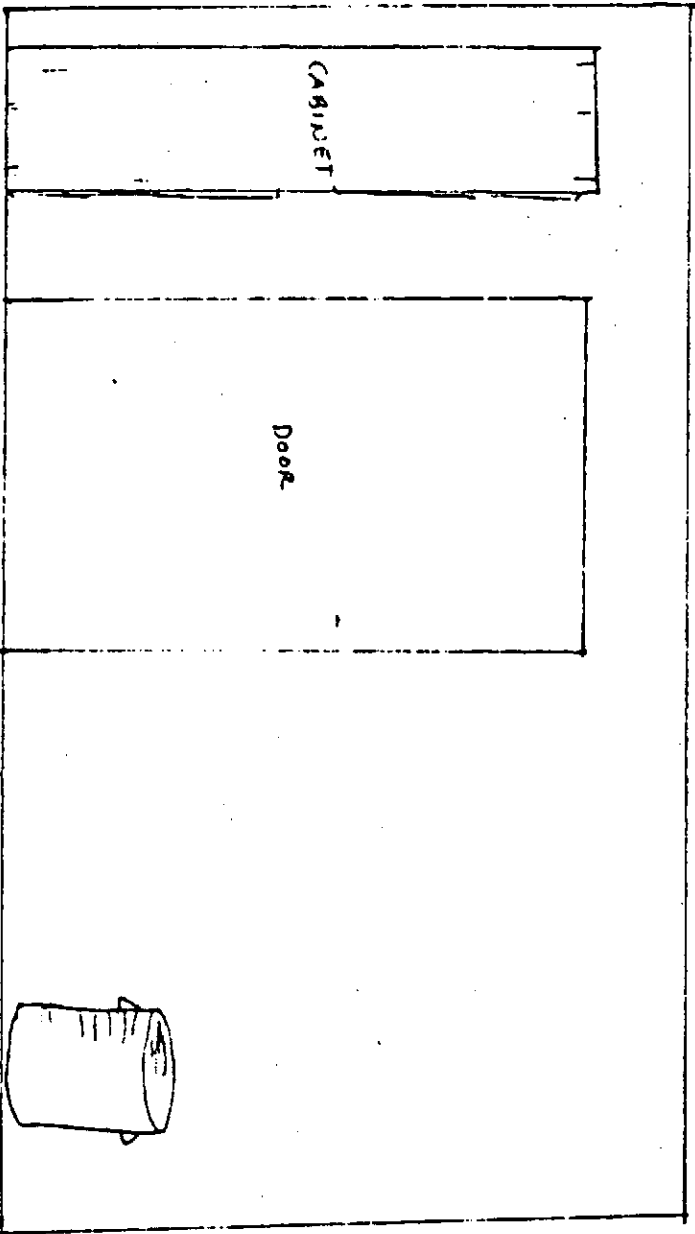
KITCHEN

SOUTH WALL

NORTH WALL

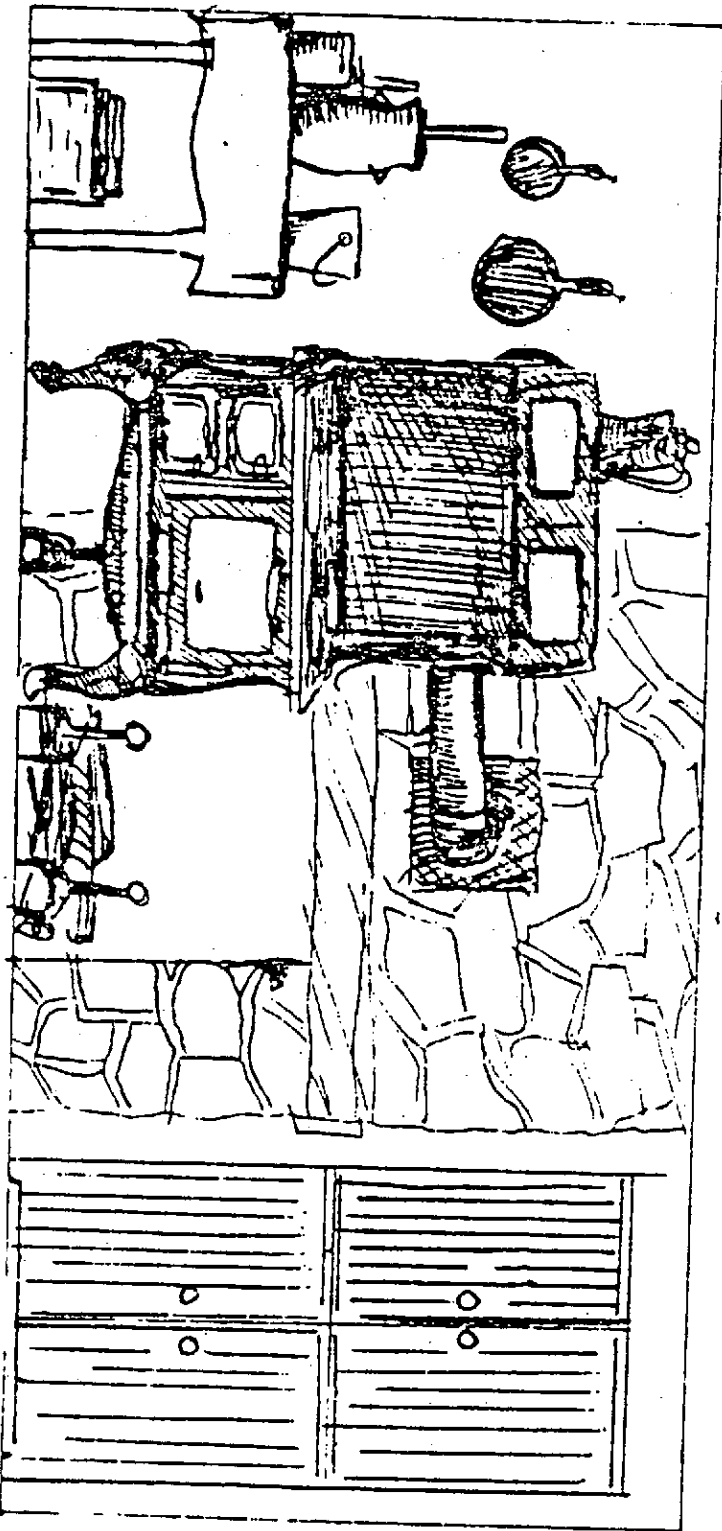
DOOR

EAST WALL



EAST WALL
KITCHEN

MM

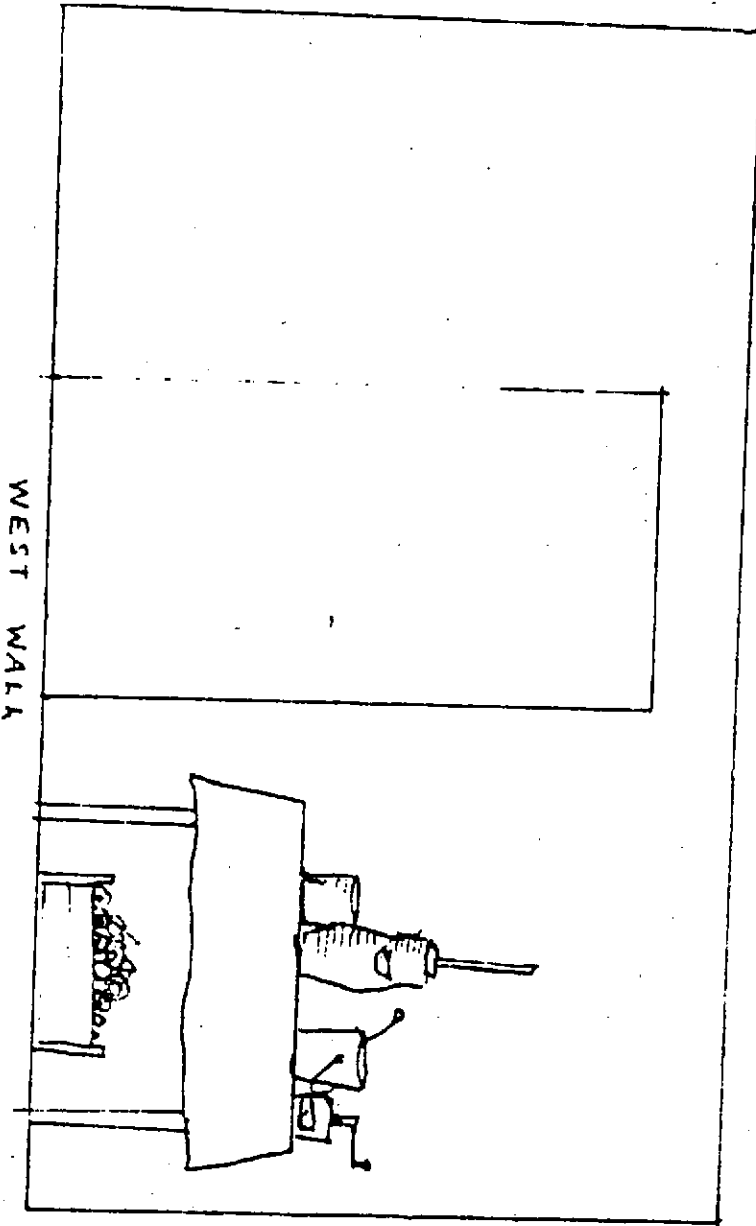


NORTH WALL

MM

ETCHING V

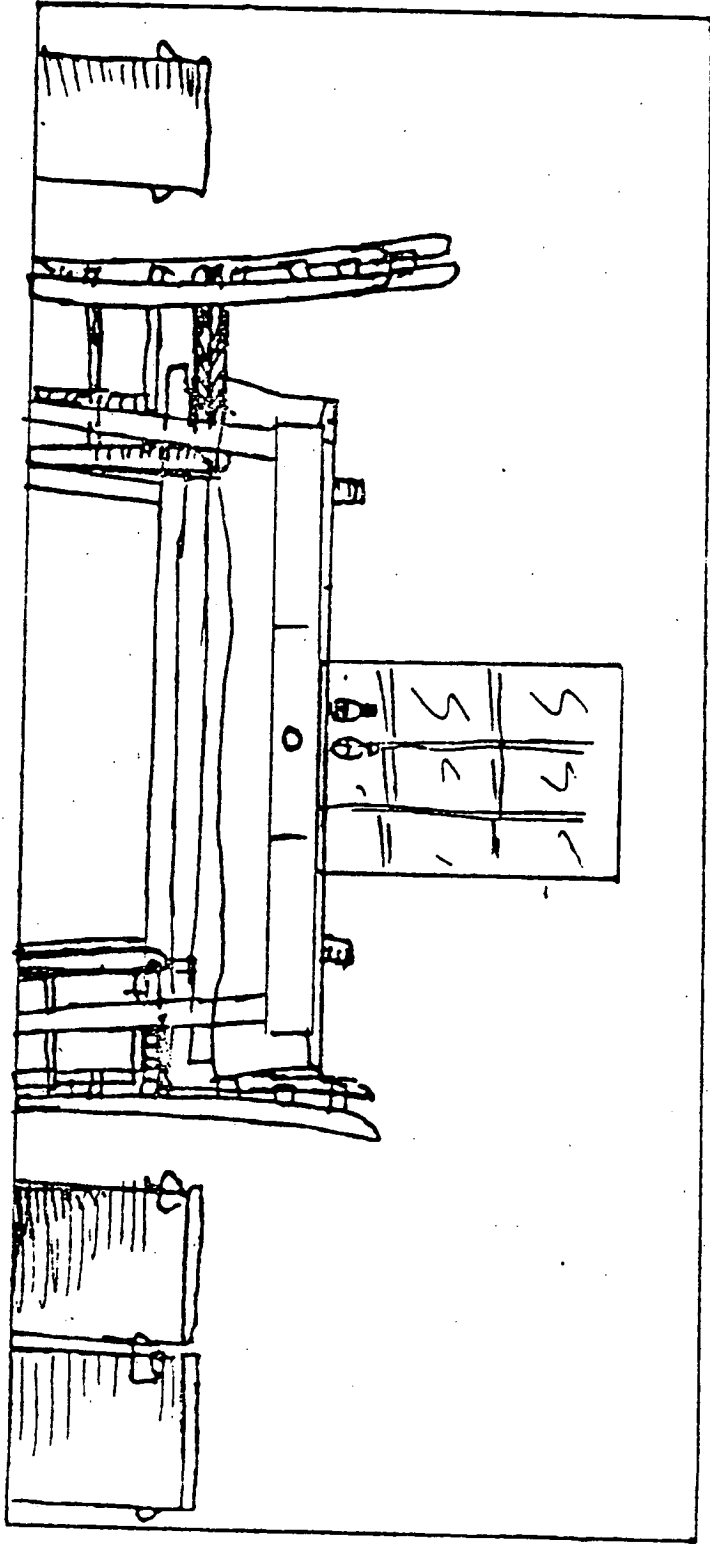
SW



WEST WALL

NW

SOUTH WALL



35-40 people may eat with Willie's family, adults ate first and children, respectfully, but impatiently, awaited their turn. As with most mountain women the best compliment Nancy could receive was to see her guests eat with a hearty appetite.

Furnishings selected for the kitchen should reflect the woman's influence to contrast the male atmosphere of the bedroom and family influence in the living room. A daytime appearance portraying the room between meals when the women might be working in the fields or momentarily away from their household chores should be achieved. Cooking utensils might be stored but several dishes should be centered on the table and covered with a cloth to represent a traditional method of storing "left-overs". An ironing board should be displayed at one end of the kitchen table as if the activity was interrupted. With these furnishings an interpreter can discuss the role of women in isolated self-sufficient environments or rearrange furnishings to conduct demonstration activities.

STOVE: A reproduction coal/wood burning stove similar to the one described by Jess Gibbons as being installed in the 1930's should be positioned in the original location slightly left of the open fireplace. It can be cast iron with enameled doors on both oven and warming closet. Several appropriate stoves are being manufactured. The one selected should be sturdy enough to withstand the mountain environment and demonstration use. The stove was probably the most important feature in the kitchen with Nancy and Alkie spending several hours a day working around it. A stove similar to Cumberland General Stores cook stove number 4700 with warming

closet number 4701 should be selected.

ACCESSORIES: Several cooking utensils should be placed on the stove to create a realistic scene. A small, gray graniteware coffee pot of traditional design should be placed on one end of the stove top. The coffee pot is a very important item; all members of the Gibbons family drank coffee, including children. Several tin pie pans with smooth and scalloped edges can be placed in the warming closet and two thin metal rectangular breadpans may be stored in the oven. Corn bread and biscuits baked in such pans were favorite foods of the family. One or two large cast iron kettles with lids may be store on top of the stove near the coffee pot. All cooking utensils should be used before placed on display to create an accurate historic appearance. A "T" soot scraper and metal fire shovel like those sold by Cumberland General Store should be leaned against the fireplace behind the stove.

WALL FIXTURES: Several cast iron skillets of various sizes and a few cookers should be hung on nails driven into the left wall behind the stove. Cookers may be cast iron, but attempts should be made to locate gray graniteware cookers with matching lids like those described in Part D.

WALLPAPER: The walls of the kitchen should be papered with newspaper and/or catalog pages. Paper can be applied as directed in living room recommendations. Reproductions of Sears, Roebuck catalogs for years prior to 1935 would be appropriate. Such reproductions are available commercially. Reproductions of local

newspapers and regional magazines should be custom ordered from printing firms and used along with catalog pages. Papering with catalog and newspaper was prevalent especially in the Settlements early years. As part of spring house cleaning Nancy would patch soiled areas of wallpaper with catalog or newspaper. It was an activity entered eagerly because Nancy wanted a fresh ^eclean environment for her family after they had spent a long winter in the enclosed rooms trying to shut out the cold winds.

WOOD BOX: A constant chore for the young men of the family was filling the wood box so Nancy and Alkie could prepare meals and heat the kitchen. A wooden box approximately 30 inches square should be placed under a small cook table near the stove. Several sticks of wood approximately 12 inches long and 2-3 inches in diameter should be placed in the box for transfer to the stove when fires are built.

COOK TABLE: A small homemade table with four hewed legs and board top should be placed in the northwest corner of the room to be used as a storage table for the many kitchen items needed near the stove. Such a table was indispensable to all pioneer cooks. The table would have been more utilitarian than decorative and the new one can be of more rustic construction than most other pieces of furniture.

ACCESSORIES: The cook table will be covered with an oilcloth that extends approximately eight inches below the table edge. The cloth

4700A

COOK STOVE

4700A

Durable cast iron construction assures years and years of service. Plain black finish. Heavy cast iron cooking surface and oven give steady, even temperatures for hours and hours. Damper and draft control lets you maintain just the right cooking temperature.

Specifications

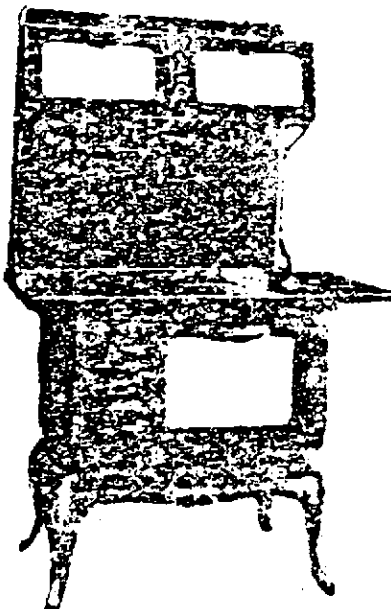
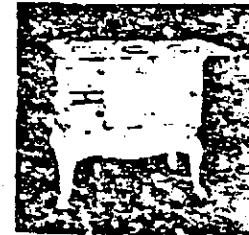
Oven size - 15 1/4 x 11 inches
Top Size - 35 1/2 x 21 1/2 inches
Height to cooking top - 29 1/2 in.
Covers - Four French - 5 1/2 x 5 1/2 in.
Collar - 7 inches.



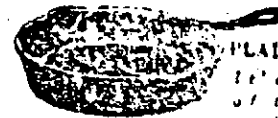
Without Warming Closet
Shipping wt. 256 lbs.
4700 \$149.95

Warming Closet - for above
Shipping wt. 39 lbs.
4701 \$64.95

4700-A Together \$199.95



SKILLETS



PLAIN FINISH PRE-SEASONED

It's hard to describe
of the English language
without the word 'SKILLET'
isn't it?

| No. | Diameter | Depth | Ship. Wt. | Price |
|------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 0310 | 6-5/8 | 1-3/8 | 3 1/2 | \$2.09 |
| 0311 | 8-1/8 | 1-11/16 | 4 1/2 | \$3.46 |
| 4153 | 9-3/8 | 1-3/4 | 5 1/2 | \$3.53 |
| 0312 | 10-1/8 | 2 | 6 | \$3.89 |
| 0313 | 10-3/8 | 2 | 6 1/2 | \$4.12 |
| 4154 | 11-5/8 | 2-1/8 | 8 1/2 | \$6.82 |
| 4042 | 13-5/8 | 2 3/16 | 9 1/2 | \$16.35 |
| 4155 | 15 | 2-3/8 | 12 | \$13.52 |

0276



0195

0195

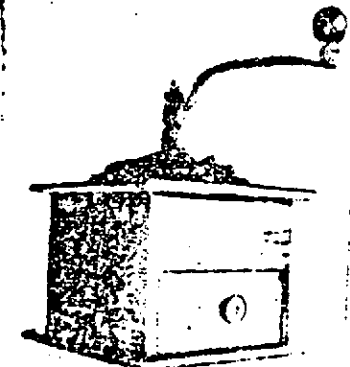


ROUND BOTTOM POT

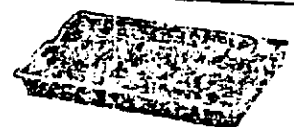
WITH LEGS & COVER

Capacity, 3/4 Quarts; Shipping weight 17 Pounds.

0322 \$13.68



Solid substantially built mill. Varnished wood box. Iron parts satin black. Double lock out regulator. Adjustable Grinders. Ship. wt. 6 lbs. Box 5 1/2 x 5 1/2 in. Bottom 7 x 7 in. Inside Weight 5 1/2 lb.
No. 4307 \$15.50



BISCUIT PANS

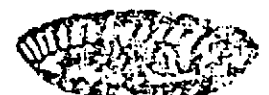
30 gauge steel. Top edge wired; corners folded over smoothly. Coated with special rust-proof preparation. Size 9 1/2 x 1 1/2 in. Ship. wt. 1 lb.
4241 \$1.29



BRACED BOTTOM SIEVE

16 mesh. Seamless wide flat bottom reinforced with heavy cross wires. Size 12 1/2 dia. x 2 1/2 in. Shipping weight 2 lbs.

4241 \$1.82



SCALLOPED PIE PLATE

Plain 16 T. 4 1/2 in. dia. sold by dozen only. Size 9 1/2 in. x 1 1/2 in. Shipping wt. 3 lbs.

4242 \$2.70

can be solid white or may have a check or floral pattern similar to materials available from Sears, Roebuck 1927 catalog, page 196. When replacing covers on a large table Nancy salvaged usable portions of old oilcloth to cover the cook table. A water bucket of gray graniteware or zinc and an enameled or graniteware dipper should be located near the front of the table. A three gallon white crockware churn with homemade wooden dasher and lid can be located near the water bucket. Two or three crock pickle jars of various sizes and a large graniteware coffee pot, larger than the one on the stove, would be appropriate near the back of the table. A wood encased hand operated coffee mill with a top-mounted lever like those offered by Cumberland General Store should be located in an easily accessible position. Although the Gibbons' did not purchase green coffee beans in the 1930's, coffee was still a favorite drink and a mill for grinding commercially roasted beans was a necessity. The coffee mill exterior should be antiqued and a few coffee beans ground periodically to lend fragrance to the room. One of Willie's crafts was making baskets of hickory bark or white oak splits for use in the house and barns. An oak split basket large enough to hold two dozen eggs should be located near the back of the table with several realistically designed artificial eggs. A kerosene table lamp like those described for bedroom and living room furnishings will complete the table accessories.

KITCHEN TABLE: A homemade, rectangular table approximately 6 feet long and 3 feet wide should

be placed near the south wall. The four legs should be rounded on the inside and fastened to the table top by 1" x 4" boards that form a rectangular frame around the outside top of the legs. The table top should be made of four 1" boards approximately nine inches wide so its edges slightly overhang the framework. The legs should have a slight taper toward the floor. The kitchen table was a multipurpose table used for eating, washing dishes, conducting canning activities and ironing clothes. The table top should be unfinished wood although linseed oil may be applied to protect it from humidity. The legs may be natural wood with linseed oil or painted finish. A center drawer should be on the side facing the stove to store large cooking spoons, forks, spatulas, etc.

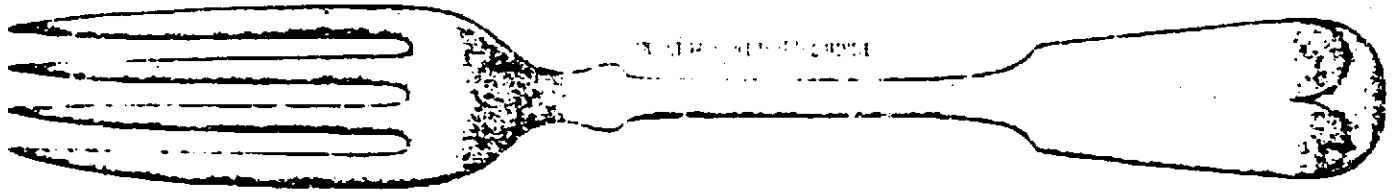
ACCESSORIES: The table should be covered with one of the oilcloth styles described for the cook table, but the kitchen tablecloth should appear newer and have a contrasting design, since the cook table used recycled tablecloths. A set of clear or opaque glass salt and pepper shakers with metal tops should be located near the center of the table. Several dishes and bowls covered with plates or saucers can be positioned on the table to represent Nancy's method of storing left-over food. These latter accessories should be covered with a muslin or printed cotton cloth as if to protect the food from contaminants. Inside the drawer should be graniteware or wood handled cooking tools including three tin forks, 2 large stirring spoons, large cake turner.

BENCH: A handmade bench the same length as the kitchen table will be located against the south wall between the table and the window. The seat portion should be a single hewed beam with a planed top approximately one foot wide. Hewed legs fitted into the seat bottom and a back rest of narrow boards attached to vertical posts provide supports. The bench should be smooth, but unfinished wood. It will be concealed by the table except when pulled out for use during mealtime. In the Gibbons family, as in most early Appalachian mountain families, children were taught to respect their elders. Seating arrangements at the Gibbons table illustrated this social attitude.

CABINET: Between the east doorway and the stone fireplace a homemade kitchen cabinet should be fitted against the north wall. The original cabinet was made by Willie from materials left from construction of the schoolhouse. Rather than display the original item now in the park collection an exact reproduction should be acquired. (See description in Part D.). Paint chips indicate the original cabinet was painted different colors at various times in its history. Appropriate colors for the reproduction are white, black, and various shades of green. The cabinet was used by Mrs. Gibbons to store dishes, eating utensils, glasses, dishpans, and herbs and spices.

ACCESSORIES: The items stored in the cabinet will not usually be visible, but should be historically accurate so interpreters can open the cabinet and discuss its

function. The top section should be furnished with glasses, dinnerware sets, and vegetable dishes. Dinnerware sets must be simple, inexpensive materials in keeping with the lifestyles at Hensley Settlement. Solid-white sets of Semiporcelain (American) with plain or embossed edges could include dinner plates, teacups and saucers, sauce bowls, and vegetable dishes. Some dinnerware may be decorated with Gold Band, Apple Blossum, or other simple floral designs. The Gibbons' kitchen had few fancy furnishings. Replacements for broken dishes often did not match earlier acquisitions. Glasses should be clear, smooth glass with straight sides. Some stemware water goblets of smooth or fluted glass may be included. Pages 915-926 in Sears 1927 catalog should be used in selecting dinnerware. A small box located on the bottom shelf of the top section will hold flatware including table knives, teaspoons, tablespoons, and forks. Many pieces of tableware transported to the mountain, in 1904 would have continued in use in the 1930's; many other items would have been acquired. Items selected for refurnishing should closely match the Plain Tipped Pattern Alaska Silverware in Sears 1897 catalog or the Nickel Silver and Alaska Silverware in Plain Pattern or Prudence Pattern as advertised in Sears 1927 catalog. A butcher knife with 8-10 inch blade and two piece wood handle secured with rivets should be located on the top shelf out of reach of children. A handmade, or "Old Hickory", knife should be acquired. A small box containing patent medicines, liniments, and cough syrup in glass or tin containers



Our Famous 48-Piece White Set

Look—Less Than 50 Pieces

Will give maximum service since it is made of pure, non-porous semi-porcelain, tested for strength and durability. Attractively ornamented around edges, and it will easily match additional pieces at a very low price. It is the only set of this kind in the world. **38x2818—48-Piece Assortment of White Semi-Porcelain Dinnerware.** Weight, packed for shipment, 35 pounds.

You will never tire of this practical and artistic pure white dinnerware. A most remarkable value since it comprises 48 of the most beautiful pieces used: 12 dinner plates, 12 saucer dishes, 12 tea cups, 12 tea saucers. 48 pieces in all for only \$3.95.

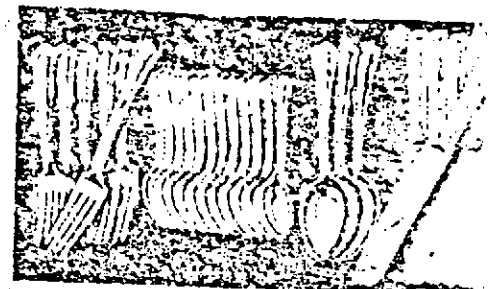
\$3.95



28-Piece Apple Blossom and Gold Dinner Set
 Decoration of delicate tea color florals with a small pink rose on a blue background, in the center. Large bands of pink apple blossoms with green foliage surround from each end of the service. Each piece is trimmed with light gold. Made of American semi-porcelain in a unusual shape. Set consists of:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 4 Tea Cups | 1 Sugar Bowl |
| 4 Tea Saucers | 12 Spoons |
| 4 Dinner Plates | 1 1/2-Pt. Cream Pitcher |
| 4 Saucer Dishes | 1 1/2-Pt. Maltifier |

Weight, packed, 17 pounds.
38x2818—28-Piece set \$4.60



Our 27-Piece Special
 Alaska Silverware

We have prepared a special set for the Western States listed directly above which is complete in every respect but without the use of the handle. It consists of 27 pieces: 12 knives, 12 teaspoons and 3 tablespoons as shown in weight pounds.

38x1370—Special Set 27 Pieces Alaska Silverware \$4.75

may be placed on the top shelf. Doctors were not readily available; Nancy relied on patent medicines and her own ingenuity with herbs to cure her family of minor ailments. Dishpans, pitchers, large mixing bowls, crockware, and less frequently used small items could be stored in the lower cabinet. Two sizes of graniteware dishpans with loop handles on opposite edges and sides sloping to a narrow bottom should be selected. Large mixing bowls may be stacked at one end. Glazed earthenware bowls, either white with a blue horizontal band or yellow with white bands on the exterior surface midway between the base and lip, are appropriate. At least one earthenware pitcher and several small tin cans or crock containers with salt, soda, sugar, and herbs may be placed in the bottom section. New containers with reproduced wrappers should be used for some items. Spices and herbs should be stored in cloth bags to add fragrance to the room so visitors can involve all their senses for a realistic experience. A small wooden container with "Blueing" for washing clothes might also be included.

CONTAINERS: With a large family of hardy eaters, Nancy always maintained huge amounts of food. In addition to canned fruits and vegetables stored in the pantry, several large containers were located at various places in the kitchen. A 10 gallon crock or a 15-20 gallon wood barrel should be set in the southeast corner behind the door for use as a pickling container. Pickled beans, corn, cucumbers, and kraut were prepared in large containers before transferring to quart and half gallon jars. Two metal

"lard cans" with flat lids and drop wire handles with 25-50 pound capacity should be located in the southwest corner. One should be filled with flour; the other with corn meal. A 12 inch diameter sieve with 4" wooden wall frame and wire screen bottom reinforced with heavy cross wires should be placed in one of the canisters. Mrs. Gibbons used one sifter for both meal and flour.

CHAIRS: Two ladder back sitting chairs like those described for the living room should be set at the ends of the kitchen table. Additional chairs if needed at mealtime, were brought from other rooms.

IRONING BOARD: A one inch board 12 inches wide and 4 feet long should be balanced between the west end of the kitchen table and a ladder back chair near the west wall to represent the ironing surface used by the Gibbons women. An old quilt folded around the board and wrapped in a white sheet may be used to pad the work surface. Nancy and Alkie ironed shirts, dress pants, pillow slips, and dresses using irons heated on the kitchen stove.

ACCESSORIES: A few items of apparel waiting to be ironed should be lying across the chair supporting the board. Several ironed items may be folded and neatly stacked on the end of the table near the board. Three pressing irons (one on the board, two sitting flat on the stove corner nearest the ironing board) should complete the accessories for the ironing board.

BROOMS: A handmade broom fashioned by tying broom

corn around a one inch diameter stick about four feet long should be leaning in one corner of the kitchen. The broom head must be round instead of flat. A second broom used for scrubbing floors and sweeping bare earth yards should be sitting on the porch near the kitchen door. It can be made of a single buckeye bolt and constructed as described in Foxfire 3.

ESTIMATES

| ITEM | | SOURCE | COST |
|--------------------|-----|-----------------------|-------|
| Stove | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Soot Scraper | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Fire Shovel | (1) | Local Hardware Store | 3.00 |
| Pie and Bread Pans | (6) | Local Hardware Store | 3.00 |
| Kettles and Lids | (2) | Local Hardware Store | 30.00 |
| Skillet | (4) | Local Hardware Store | 25.00 |
| Sauce Pan | (3) | Local Hardware Store | 12.00 |
| Wood Box | (1) | Demonstration Product | 5.00 |
| Table, Cook | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Table, Kitchen | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Oilcloth | (2) | Department Store | 15.00 |
| Bucket with Dipper | (1) | Local Hardware Store | 7.00 |
| Churn/Dasher | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Crock Pickle Jars | (5) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Coffee Mill | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Basket | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Lamp | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Salt/Pepper Shaker | (1) | Department Store | 2.00 |
| Bench | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Cabinet | (1) | Demonstration Product | 30.00 |
| Glasses | (8) | Department Store | 10.00 |
| Dinnerware sets | (2) | Glass Barn | 40.00 |

ESTIMATES

(continued)

| ITEM | | SOURCE | COST |
|------------------|-----|-----------------------|-------|
| Vegetable Dishes | (3) | Glass Barn | 6.00 |
| Box | (2) | Department Store | 4.00 |
| Silverware Set | (1) | | 25.00 |
| Medicine Bottles | (4) | Antique Dealer | 10.00 |
| Butcher Knife | (1) | Local Crafts Person | 10.00 |
| Dishpan | (2) | Local Hardware Store | 8.00 |
| Pitcher | (1) | Park Inventory | 0 |
| Mixing Bowls | (4) | Glass Barn | 8.00 |
| Tin Cans | (4) | Local Hardware Store | 10.00 |
| "Blueing" Bottle | (1) | Local Hardware Store | 2.00 |
| Containers | (3) | Farm Supply Store | 40.00 |
| Sifter | (1) | Demonstration Product | 10.00 |
| Chairs | (2) | Local Crafts Person | 50.00 |
| Ironing Board | (1) | Demonstration Product | 20.00 |
| Clothing | (6) | Custom Seamstress | 60.00 |
| Pressing Irons | (3) | Local Hardware Store | 30.00 |
| Brooms | (2) | Local Crafts Person | 20.00 |

PART F

INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, PROTECTION

Most furnishings proposed for Willie Gibbons' house are simple reproductions that can be replaced if necessary; however, the cost of replacement and the desire to prohibit damage requires the same effort and thought at the time of installation that is required of historic objects.

Although the Operating Plan, Part B, proposes a barrier to prohibit entry into the bedroom, illegal entry may occur when interpreters are not on duty and a few precautions should be taken. The glass table lamp should be filled with a non-flammable liquid instead of kerosene. The pocket knife proposed for the reproduction dresser top will be fastened with fine wire looped around the knife and through the two small holes drilled in the dresser top and secured underneath.

Visitors must be permitted into the living room to see the boy's bedroom. The possibility for theft or damage of items is limited by the small number of visitors permitted in the room at one time; however, several precautions should be taken to further protect furnishings. Visitors should never be given entry unless accompanied by an employee. If an antique sewing machine is installed, the internal mechanism should be well oiled with a high quality sewing machine oil to retard rust. The drive cord will be removed from the machine head so accidental movement of the treadle will not activate the mechanism. While talking to visitors, the interpreter will maintain visual contact with the machine

to prevent theft or damage to the machine and its many accessories. The table lamp should be filled with a non-flammable liquid and secured to the table top with fine wire looped around the lamp base and fastened through two small holes drilled in the table. The clock should also be secured to its shelf by fine wire through holes in the shelf and the rear base of the clock cabinet to prevent it from being accidentally pulled from its position. Both guns should be secured to their mounts by fine steel wire to make theft difficult. As guns are highly prized and potentially lethal weapons, the breech of each should be welded to prevent their use if stolen.

Visitors will be permitted in the kitchen only when the interpreter on duty is inside to closely supervise visitor activities. At all other times a rustic barrier will be fitted in the doorway; the entire room can be seen from the front porch. The kerosene lamp should be filled with non-flammable liquid and positioned near the center of the cook table where it cannot be overturned easily. The butcher knife should be placed out of reach of children, secured with fine steel wire, and left unsharpened. Other pointed kitchen implements will be stored in the cabinet with doors closed except when the interpreter is within arms reach of the cabinet. Bottles representing medicine will be filled with appropriately colored water and stored in the closed cabinet near the butcher knife.

Temperature and humidity controls are impractical due to historic construction techniques and lack of electrical service in the historic district. Valuable items will be removed from display and placed in

climate controlled storage during winter when visitation declines. Other items will be encased with waterproof sheeting during the winter to reduce excessive humidity. Reproductions are recommended to eliminate damage to historic objects. Light levels are very low in all rooms and special window sunscreens are not recommended. The reproduction curtains will be closed when the building is not open for visitation to further restrict light levels.

Maintenance activities will be conducted according to schedules in the Park's Historic Resources Management Plan. The Park Historian has attended Curatorial Methods training; at least one of the two Farmer Demonstrators should attend training in historic preservation maintenance for log structures and household furniture. A simple maintenance schedule based on the HRMP Schedule follows:

Specific Treatment - wood objects

- A. Objects requiring reglueing should be cleaned of old glue and new Franklin Liquid Hide Glue applied. After clamping surfaces together, excess glue is removed from the finish with a cloth dampened in water. Follow up with a dry cloth.
- B. Furniture with finished surfaces are dusted with soft, lint-free cloth and soft bristle brush. To remove dirt and wax, wipe with a clean cloth dampened with turpentine or mineral spirits. Follow up with a clean, dry cloth. If necessary, follow with a second cleaning using mild soap (Ivory or Lux) and water to make light suds on damp cloth. Follow with clean, dry cloth. If

surface is worn or cracked, use only the turpentine or mineral spirits.

- C. Minor scratches in the surface of finished objects may be touched up with commercial oil colors thinned with turpentine or mineral spirits and applied with small artist brushes.
- D. Cleaned finishes are coated with "Butcher's Wax", a paste wax applied by hand with soft cloth and buffed with soft clean cloth.

Specific Treatment - Paper Objects.

- A. Minor accumulations of dirt are removed from unprinted surfaces using "Opaline" powered eraser and gentle finger pressure. Area is then dusted with a fine camel hair brush or air brush.
- B. Minor repairs to torn edges are made by glueing the reverse surface. Primary paste with a consistency of light cream is used (Supplied by Harper's Ferry) to attach long-fibered Japanese paper across the tear. Use soft artist brushes to even out surfaces.

Specific Treatment - Hensley Reproductions

- A. Reproduction and new-made items displayed are described in this plan because they are treated similarly to historic items.
- B. Leather items are treated at least three times annually with Neats Foot Oil according to

commercial manufacturers' recommendations. Items used for display only are coated with British Museum Leather Dressing applied by soft cotton cloth.

- C. Ferrous metal tools used in demonstrations are treated with a light coat of thin oil (3 in 1 oil or light motor oil) at least three times annually, or as needed to prevent rust.
- D. Ferrous cooking utensils are coated with fresh animal lard, a historic technique, three times annually to prevent rust.
- E. Metal stoves are treated three times annually with commercial black stove polish applied to external cast iron surfaces and pipes by hand using soft cloth pads.
- F. All tools are inventoried in October.
- G. All new and reproduced objects used to depict historic activities are inspected before and after each period of use. Objects on exhibit are inspected monthly for rust and other signs of deterioration. Objects are dusted weekly with a soft cotton cloth.

