C12 BIB #405238

# OLIVE STOW HOUSE

# HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

**Minute Man National Historical Park**
**Concord, Massachusetts**

by

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FINAL DRAFT
February 2003

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Summary

This historic structure report on the Olive Stow House presents the findings of a research project described in a project agreement between Minute Man National Historical Park and the Building Conservation Branch of the Northeast Cultural Resources Center. Phase I of the project focused on the architectural history, ownership, occupancy, and development of the Olive Stow House and property. Of particular interest was the question of whether or not the house had been constructed by April 19, 1775, or at some later date. This study determined that the original (now missing) house on the site had been constructed between 1684 and 1689 by Nathaniel Stow, Olive Stow's father-in-law. It was likely this house that the widow Olive and her two children were occupying in 1775. The old dwelling appears to have been replaced by the existing wood-framed house sometime between 1784 and 1798, based on tax records; a more precise date of "circa 1786" is provided by dendrochronological dating of the attic-framing members. This new house was constructed by Ebenezer Hardy, who married Olive Stow's daughter Sarah circa 1781-82. Olive Stow continued to live with her daughter and son-in-law in this house, along with her disabled son Nathaniel, and 13 grandchildren, until her death in 1811. It is this circa-1786 house that stands today: a survivor of at least two fires, multiple owners, and 20th-century renovations. A concrete-block barn located north of the house replaced an earlier barn in 1945. The house and barn have sat vacant since October 2000, when the National Park Service took possession of the property.

Phase II of the project incorporated the following information into the final draft historic structure report: exterior paint analysis (Appendix B), wallpaper survey (Appendix C), dendrochronology study (Appendix D), architectural drawings (Appendix E), and a conditions assessment (Appendix F). Descriptions of exterior and interior architectural elements, character-defining features, and treatment recommendations have also been included in the final draft report.

## Recommendations

Although the Olive Stow House was constructed after 1775, it nevertheless retains significance as the later 18th-century home of a witness family—Widow Olive Stow and her two children. Its symmetrical styling, with center chimney, was a common house design that endured for many years, both before and after 1775. The house is therefore not incongruous with a historic setting of 1775. It was therefore decided in a meeting with park staff on June 23, 2002, to *restore* the exterior of the house to its original, circa-1786, appearance. Other recommended work includes *stabilizing* the stone foundation, brick chimney, and structural frame; *upgrading* the mechanical and utility systems; and *installing* fire detection and protection systems. Archeological monitoring will be required for any work causing ground disturbance. Archeological investigation of the property may also identify the remains of the missing 17th-century Stow house that was standing in 1775, the barn, and other site features. Finally, corrections to a wayside sign featuring the Olive Stow House on the Battle Road Trail are advised, including renaming the structure as the "Stow-Hardy House."

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*The author gratefully acknowledges the following people for their assistance with this project:*

**Minute Man National Historical Park**

Nancy Nelson, Superintendent
Dan Dattilio, Deputy Superintendent
Terrie Wallace, Curator
Bruce Firth, Facility Manager

**Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center**

Stephen Spaulding, Chief
David Bittermann, Project Manager
Judith Quinn Sullivan, Architectural Conservator
Millan Galland, Historical Architect
Stephen Pisani, Historical Architect
Linda Torrey, Administrative Officer
Pedro Deleon, Exhibits Specialist
Scott McDowell, Woodcrafter
Frank Rivera, Woodcrafter
Jack Szetela, Carpentry Worker
Ramon Ildefonso, Carpentry Worker

**Concord Free Public Library, Special Collections**

Leslie Perrin Wilson, Special Collections Curator
Joyce Woodman, Special Collections Assistant

**Other**

Brian Donahue
Environmental Historian and Director
Environmental Studies Program
Brandeis University

Anne Grady
Consulting Architectural Historian
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

Dan Miles and Michael Worthington
Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory
Mapledurham, South Oxfordshire, UK

# INTRODUCTION

## Project Scope

### Phase I

An incremental historic structure report on the Olive Stow House in Minute Man National Historical Park was the product of an initial "phase-I" study of the house. The scope of the Olive Stow House study, including phase I, was described in a project agreement dated January 30, 2001 (revised February 4, 2002) between the Building Conservation Branch of the Northeast Cultural Resources Center (BCB/NCRC) and Minute Man National Historical Park (MIMA). An excerpt from this project agreement follows:

> Tasks to be Accomplished
>
> Phase I.
> The focus of phase I will be to research the architectural history, ownership, occupancy, and development of the Olive Stow House and property. Of particular interest is the question of whether or not the house existed by April 19, 1775, or if it was constructed at some later date.
>
> Research of the primary and secondary documentation will be carried out in Concord, Cambridge, Waltham, and Dorchester, Massachusetts, at the following institutions: Minute Man National Historical Park, Concord Free Public Library, Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, the Waltham Branch of the National Archives and Records Center (federal census records), and the Massachusetts State Archives (probate records). Consultation with landscape historian Brian Donahue at Brandeis University, who has done extensive research on this and other sites in Concord, will be included. Copies of photographs taken by the Historic American Buildings Survey will also be obtained from the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.
>
> A cursory physical examination will also be made of the Olive Stow House in phase I to verify the antiquity of the house. The existing conditions of the house will be photographically documented using a 35-mm camera and black-and-white film [note: color film was used]. These photographs will be included as illustrations in the draft historic structure report. A meeting at the house will be scheduled with dendrochronology professionals to determine if the Olive Stow House is a good candidate; if so, samples will be taken for dendrochronology study.
>
> Materials analysis will also be carried out in support of the upcoming repair and rehabilitation of the Olive Stow House. This will include analysis of the exterior painted finishes, foundation mortar, and chimney mortar. Recommendations for exterior paint colors and appropriate repointing mortar mixes will be provided.
>
> Note that [phase I of] the historic structure report will not include a conditions assessment, which will need to be completed prior to commencement of rehabilitation work.

The final product will be a draft "Incremental Historic Structure Report" on the Olive Stow House, which will be circulated for review.

**Phase II**

The following work was undertaken during phase II of the Olive Stow House study. Additional paint analysis work was carried out by architectural conservator Barbara Yocum. A dendrochronology study was executed on selected attic framing members by Dan Miles and Michael Worthington of Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory. Architectural drawings documenting existing conditions, including floor plans and elevations, were prepared by historical architect Stephen Pisani. An evaluation of the physical condition of the house was recorded in a conditions-assessment report, prepared by historical architect Millan Galland. Existing non-historic shingle siding was removed from the house by a preservation crew to reveal the original siding materials. Rolls of wallpapers found in the attic, and selected wallpaper samples removed from the walls, were recorded and included in the park's artifact collection for the Olive Stow House. The end product of phase II was a "Draft Final Historic Structure Report" on the Olive Stow House, which also includes descriptions of exterior and interior architectural elements, character-defining features, and treatment recommendations.

## Methodology

**Phase I**

The study of the Olive Stow House commenced with a one-day training collaboration of historical architects, architectural conservators, and preservation specialists, from the BCB/NCRC, held at the house on November 13, 2001. Preliminary documentary research was conducted by architectural conservator Judith Quinn-Sullivan, and a physical examination of the house was conducted by the participants. The general consensus of this meeting of professionals was that although the physical evidence indicates that the house was constructed sometime before 1800, it was unclear whether this had occurred by April 19, 1775. Similarities noted between this house and another in the park, the nearby Joshua Brooks House of circa 1779-81, warranted further study.

Additional documentary research on the Olive Stow House was undertaken by this author, architectural conservator Barbara Yocum, in February and March 2002. Secondary and primary sources were both examined, including the following. A "Historic Structures Report, Part II: Historical Data Section, Widow Olive Stow House," written in 1973 by Carolee Dane Funk, provided a tremendous amount of information, including the title history of the property and reference to probate records. Funk provided few details on the house itself, however, which she surmised had been built by 1689. Other secondary sources include the writings of Concord historians Lemuel Shattuck, Edward Jarvis, and Ruth Wheeler, A National Park Service report prepared by Joyce Lee Malcolm entitled "The Scene of the Battle, 1775: Historic Grounds Report, Minute Man National Historical Park," was also consulted. Information on the nearby Joshua Brooks House was provided by the "Historic Structures Report: Part I, Historical Data Section" by Arthur L. Sullivan dated March 1963, and a draft "Historic Structure Report" by Maureen Phillips dated December 2000.

Primary source materials were found at various institutions in the Boston area. Copies of selected property deeds are in the library of Minute Man National Historical Park; deeds not in the park files reside in the Middlesex County Registry of Deeds in Cambridge. Tax assessment records for the Town of Concord are available on microfilm at the Concord Free Public Library, as are copies of Concord's 19th-century newspaper the *Yoeman's Gazette*. Federal census records were viewed at the Waltham Branch of the National Archives and Records Center, and are also available on the web site www.ancestry.com. Probate records dating to the 18th and 19th centuries were viewed on microfilm at the Massachusetts State Archives in Dorchester, as were the original record books for the Middlesex County Court of Common Appeals for the years 1821-22. Finally, a book on the genealogy of the Hardy family (who occupied the house circa 1782-1834) was found in the collection of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. Professor and environmental historian Brian Donahue was also most generous in sharing his research findings on the Stow farm, which he had compiled in 1993-94 during the planning for the Battle Road Trail at Minute Man National Historical Park.

A cursory architectural evaluation of the house was also undertaken during phase I of this project. Three site visits were made on April 10, 12, and 17, 2002, during which the building fabric of the house was documented using both written site notes and color photographs. Later accretions of materials were removed from several areas with the assistance of Scott McDowell, a Woodcrafter with the Building Conservation Branch of the Northeast Cultural Resources Center, to expose selected areas of the original exterior siding, the northeast corner post, and the kitchen fireplace. Paint samples were extracted from selected exterior elements, and analysis carried out, for the purpose of determining the original exterior paint colors. Architectural historian Anne Grady of Lexington also visited the house on April 17 to determine the feasibility of obtaining samples from framing members for the purpose of establishing a date of construction using dendrochronology. The house was found to be a good candidate, and samples were taken from selected attic framing members on May 23, 2002, by Dan Miles and Michael Worthington of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory of South Oxfordshire, England.

The findings of the phase-I study were written in an "Incremental Historical Structure Report," dated May 2002. The date assigned to the Olive Stow House, based on the available archival documentation and physical evidence, was "circa 1790s."

**Phase II**

The focus of the phase II study was determined in a meeting with park staff held at the Olive Stow House on June 23, 2002. Attending from Minute Man National Historical Park were Superintendent Nancy Nelson, Deputy Superintendent Dan Dattilio, Curator Terrie Wallace, and Facilities Manager Bruce Firth. Staffers from the Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, included Chief Stephen Spaulding, Project Manager David Bittermann, Historical Architect Millan Galland, and Architectural Conservator Barbara Yocum. It was decided in this meeting to *restore* the exterior of the house to its original 18th-century appearance; *stabilize* the stone foundation, chimney, and structural frame; *upgrade* the mechanical and utility systems; and *install* fire detection and protection systems. No decision was made on the ultimate use of the structure.

Preliminary results of the dendrochronology study, dating the house "circa 1786," were received on July 7, 2002. A summary of the dendrochronolgoy methodology and results may be found in Appendix D of this report.

Measured architectural drawings documenting the existing appearance of the house were prepared by Historical Architect Stephen Pisani in 2002. These are included in Appendix E.

A conditions assessment of the house, documenting its physical condition, was undertaken by Historical Architect Millan Galland in May, June, and July 2002. His conditions-assessment report is summarized in Appendix F.

The existing non-historic shingle siding was removed from the exterior of the house by a preservation crew of the Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, in October 2002. Members of the crew included Exhibits Specialist Pedro Deleon, Woodcrafter Frank Rivera, and Carpentry Workers Jack Szetela and Ramon Ildefonso. Scaffolding was erected on the four sides of the building. The shingles and backing materials (building papers) were removed from the site and discarded. Both the non-historic and the historic building materials that were uncovered were documented by Project Manager David Bittermann and Architectural Conservator Barbara Yocum, using written notes and photographs. The findings of this investigation are incorporated into the body of this "Final Draft Historic Structure Report."

Finally, rolls of circa-1940s-50s wallpapers found in the attic were recorded and samples of the papers were encapsulated in mylar. Samples of wallpapers were also removed from selected rooms of the house, which were separated, labeled, and encapsulated in mylar. Wallpapers found adhered to a piece of original kitchen wainscot that had been reused as an exterior sheathing board circa 1950s were also removed, separated, and encapsulated. The wallpaper rolls were transferred to the park for inclusion in the artifact collection of the Olive Stow House. The encapsulated wallpapers were placed in the wallpaper collection of the Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, in Lowell, Massachusetts. An inventory of the wallpapers is included in Appendix C of this report.

## Administrative Data

The Olive Stow House is located on the Battle Road at 965 Lexington Road, within Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, Massachusetts. The property was conveyed by Hagop Hovagimian to the United States of America in 1975, reserving for himself a 25-year tenancy. The National Park Service took possession on October 30, 2000.

The Olive Stow House is listed in the National Park Service's "List of Classified Structures" (LCS) as number 023166, and structure number 3-120-A. A twentieth-century concrete-block barn, located behind the house, is assigned LCS number 232641, and structure number 3-120-B.

The Historic American Buildings Survey documented the Olive Stow House in February 1963 with four exterior photographs taken by Jack E. Boucher and Cervin Robinson. These exterior views are on file at the Library of Congress (HABS, MASS, 9-

CON, 18-1 through 18-4), and are included as illustrations in this report. No measured drawings of the house have been prepared by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

The National Register of Historic Places includes the Olive Stove House and its "garage" [sic: barn] as contributing structures in a district nomination entitled "Minute Man National Historical Park" (#66000935). The nomination, which was accepted in 1966 and updated in August 2000, identifies the period of significance for the park as encompassing the years circa 1655 to 1959. Two significant dates are also noted: April 19, 1775, the day of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, and September 21, 1959, when Minute Man National Historical Park was created by an act of Congress (Public Law 86-321). The Olive Stow House is described in the nomination as a "Colonial-style house" that was constructed circa 1760.

Previous studies on the Olive Stow House include a "Historic Structure Report" by Carolee Funk, 1973, and one chapter in "The Scene of the Battle, 1775" by Joyce Lee Malcolm, 1985. The *General Management Plan (GMP)* for the park is dated September 1989, with errata dated May 1990. The approved ultimate treatment for the house as noted in the *GMP* is to "restore [the] exterior to 1775 for interpretation; adapt [the] interior for modern purposes." The *GMP* defines the future use of the house as residential. The LCS management category notes that the house "must be preserved and maintained."

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## Introduction

The most compelling research question regarding the Olive Stow House is its date of construction, or more specifically, whether or not the house existed at the time of the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. The general consensus of previous studies has been that the house predates 1775. Carolee Funk noted in her "Historic Structures Report" of 1973 that local tradition had the house standing before 1775, with Concord historian Ruth Wheeler postulating a construction date in the early 18th century. Historical Architect Orville C. Carroll described the house as having been built "about 1765" in a "Classified Structure Field Inventory Report" dated April 4, 1984. Joyce Malcolm more generally observed that "the old Stow house survives" in her 1984 historic grounds report "The Scene of the Battle, 1775." More recent writings have assigned a date of "circa 1760," including the park's *General Management Plan* of 1989-90, the 1994 "Survey of Historical & Architectural Resources [of] Concord, MA," by Anne Forbes, and the National Park Service's "List of Classified Structures." Only one outbuilding survives today: a concrete-block garage constructed in 1945.

The Olive Stow House is located on the north side of Lexington Road (Route 2A) in the East Quarter of Concord, approximately ½ mile east of Meriam's Corner. The "East Quarter" was so-named in 1653, when the town was divided into three parts (or "quarters") so as to facilitate the distribution of new lands in what was called the "second division." Lexington Road is one of Concord's ancient roads, dating to the 17th century. The road has been known by many names over the years, as evidenced by property deeds, maps, tax records, and other documents. It was called the "Bay Way," "County road," or "Country road" in the 17th and 18th centuries; and the "Great County (or Country) road," "Lexington & Boston road," and the "road leading from Concord to Boston" in the 19th century. The road was officially declared a state road in 1898, and was officially named "Lexington Road" in 1899. It is also designated "Route 2A" today.

The "Olive Stow House" is named for the Widow Olive Stow who occupied the property on April 19, 1775. Olive Stow, the recent widow of Joseph Stow, was then in residence with her two children Sarah (age 14) and Nathaniel (age 13). Olive lived in close proximity to her family home to the west, then occupied by her unmarried brother Farwell Jones. Whether Olive and her children were then living in the existing house, or in an earlier house on the property, is the focus of this historic structure report.

## Nathaniel Stow: 1684-1724

One of the earliest owners of record of the property that would become the houselot of the Olive Stow House was Nathaniel Stow (1621-84). Nathaniel was born in Norfolk, England, and emigrated sometime before 1640 to Concord, Massachusetts, with his family, headed by father Thomas Stow. Nathaniel appears to have spent the remainder of his life in Concord, marrying Martha Metcalf on August 20, 1662, and dying on May 30, 1684.[1] Nathaniel's homestead was located in town near the Mill Brook[2] and was left upon his death

[1] Genealogical information on the Stow family of Concord was obtained from the web site www.ancestry.com.

[2] Nathaniel Stow had purchased this house, houselot, and other parcels of land from the widow

to his widow and his son Ebenezer. To his namesake Nathaniel, then age 21, were bequeathed several unimproved fields of upland, meadow, and pasture, with no identified buildings thereon.[3] The land that later became the houselot was likely the tract described in the probate record as:

> Five acres of meadow and all the upland in the Brickilne field from Francis Fletcher's line with two acres that I bought of Sargent Rice.[4]

Nathaniel appears to have constructed a house on his property by 1689, based on a property deed of that date describing an east adjacent lot of land purchased from Thomas Woolly. The conveyance, which was signed on October 10, 1689, described the parcel as:

> . . . four acres of land commonly called Swamp be it more or less lying and being in the East Quarter of the Town of Concord near the said **Nathaniel Stow's house** [bold added] and is bounded on the west southwest by the County roadway and on the south southeast by the land of Jershom Brooks and on the north northwest on the land of Nathaniel Stow . . . .

Nathaniel Stow (Jr.) married Ruth Meriam[5] of Concord the following year, on December 3, 1690. Together they had twelve children between 1691 and 1713.[6] Nathaniel continued to acquire real estate in Concord during this period, including his late father's homestead near the Mill Brook with its dwelling house, barn, and 15 acres of upland and meadow.[7] Nathaniel purchased this property from his brother Ebenezer in 1704. He later sold it to his second son Joseph in 1719, reserving for himself and his family the use of a room on the Sabbath Day.[8] Nathaniel's wife Ruth died at the age of 48 on July 14, 1718. He next married Lydia Wheeler, the widow of Timothy Wheeler, on April 21, 1720.

No detailed descriptions of Nathaniel Stow's dwelling house are known to exist, although early road surveys provide general descriptions of the houselot and its surrounds. The houselot was situated in the area known as the brick kiln field on the north side of the County (or Country) road, called Lexington Road today, approximately 1 ½ miles northeast of the center of town. A survey undertaken in 1715-16 for the purpose of widening the road

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Lidiah Fletcher around 1656, legal conveyance of which was later recorded in 1681 in the Concord Town Records. (Vol. I, Part II, pp. 305A-307B, hand-written notes of which are on file in the library of Minute Man National Historical Park.)

[3] Carolee Funk, "Widow Olive Stow House Historic Structures Report," 1973, pp. 2-3; original reference is to the probate of Nathaniel Stow (Sr.), probate # 21771 (Vol. VI, pp. 236-238).

[4] Nathaniel Stow probate #21771 (1684), a hand-written transcription of which is on file in the library of Minute Man National Historical Park. The conveyance of 2 acres in the Brick Kiln Field from Richard Rice to Nathaniel Stow (Sr.) is recorded in Deed Book 25, p. 346.

[5] Ruth Meriam was a cousin of Joseph Meriam who constructed the existing Meriam House at Meriam's Corner circa 1705.

[6] The children born to Nathaniel and Ruth Stow in Concord were John (Sept. 8, 1691), Joseph (Feb. 19, 1692), Samuel (Nov. 27, 1694), Nathaniel (Jan. 21, 1696), Thomas (Feb. 25, 1698), Benjamin (Feb. 28, 1700), Ruth (Jan. 25, 1702-03), Jonathan (Oct. 21, 1705), Mary (Sept 6, 1707), Sarah (Apr. 10, 1710), Simon (Apr. 11, 1712), and Timothy (Feb. 16, 1713). (*Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1635-1850.*)

[7] Deed Book 14, p. 291 (1704).

[8] Book 26, p. 135. The house was located about ½ mile from the Meeting House.

noted a fence and gate bordering the property along the road, and a stone wall separating the Stow property from eastern abutter Daniel Brooks.[9] A new lane was later laid out on the west side of Nathaniel Stow's property to access the land behind the house referred to as the brick kiln island. A survey undertaken in 1720 described the placement of the lane as follows:

> Begins at the Country road, and at the southeast corner of John Jones house lot, running partly north across on the most easterly side of said lot next [to] Nathanael [sic] Stows . . . and then it runs straight forward across Nathanael [sic] Stows lot . . . .[10]

Additional information on the property is provided by probate documents executed following the death of Nathaniel Stow at the age of 61 on November 12, 1724.[11] An inventory of the estate included a 10-acre houselot with a house and barn, along with other parcels of land in Concord and Lincoln. That this was the house constructed by Nathaniel between 1684 and 1689 seems likely, given a petition by five of the surviving children to divide the estate into three settlements, including "ye old Homstead [sic]." Three rooms only are specifically mentioned in the inventory of the interior furnishings made on February 7, 1725: an "east chamber," a "west chamber," and an "east rear room." Cooking utensils and a "farm table" were most likely located in the kitchen, although this room was not specifically noted. The complete furnishings inventory, with original spelling preserved, is transcribed below:

> One bed and [bolster] and under bed and furniture in the east end chamber
> One box in the east cha..ber
> One table in do chamber
> One press to hange close in do chamber
> The bed and beding in the east rear room
> One bed in the west chamber
> One iron pott
> One grate iron kittle
> One little iron kittle
> Two iron trammels
> One musket
> One carbine
> One farm table
> Sixteen pewter plates
> Five pewter dishes
> One brass kittle
> One [?] & two great pots and one tankard
> One skillet and one little skillet
> One brass candle stick
> One warming pan
> One little plain chest
> One wooling and one lining wheel

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[9] Funk, "Historic Structures Report," 1973, p. 6; original reference is to the Concord Town Records, Vol. I, Part II, p. 360a.

[10] Funk, "Historic Structures Report," 1973, p. 5; original quote is from the Concord Town Records, Vol. I, Part II, p. 362b.

[11] Nathaniel Stow Probate #21772, Massachusetts State Archives.

All the books[12]

Livestock belonging to Nathaniel Stow's estate was also inventoried on February 7, 1725, some no doubt housed in the barn. These included "six oxen and one yearling steer, six cows, four heifers and four calves, one old horse, one old mare, six fating swine, [and] seventeen sheep."[13]

The property of Nathaniel Stow's estate was divided into three parts and distributed to sons Joseph, Thomas, and Benjamin. Sons Samuel and Nathaniel were given cash settlements.[14] To Joseph was bequeathed "the houselot with all the buildings," appraised at 175 pounds and described as:

> . . . partly meadow and upland ten acres: bounded south partly on the County road leading to Lexington and partly on the lands of John Stow deceased: west and north on the highway to Brick kiln Island: east partly on lands of Dan'l Brooks Junr and partly on the lands of John Stow aforesaid.[15]

Joseph was also apportioned six acres of meadow in brick kiln island, 11 acres of plow and woodland in brick kiln island, 9 acres of plow and pasture land in Brick kiln field, and 15 acres of woodland in chestnut field. In addition, he was allowed 10 pounds "for his living with, and labour for his father after he was of age, out of his father's estate,"[16] suggesting that he had been in residence at the homestead by 1724.

## Joseph Stow: 1724-72

Joseph Stow was the second son of Nathaniel and Ruth Stow, born in Concord on February 19, 1692. Joseph married Elizabeth Woolly on July 16, 1719. The young couple likely resided during the early years of their marriage in the old Stow homestead near Mill Brook, which Joseph had purchased in March 1719 from his father Nathaniel.[17] Four children were born to Joseph and Elizabeth between the years 1720 and 1726, none of whom survived beyond the age of five.[18] The family appears to have relocated to the home of Joseph's father Nathaniel by 1724, selling the Mill Brook property in 1726 to Eleazar Melvin.[19] The year 1724 was also one of great sorrow for Joseph Stow's family, losing to death their first child and only son on May 4, Joseph's eldest brother John on May 17, and Joseph's father Nathaniel on November 12.

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[12] *Ibid.*

[13] *Ibid.*

[14] Eldest son John had predeceased his father by several months in 1724.

[15] Nathaniel Stow Probate #21772, Massachusetts State Archives.

[16] Nathaniel Stow Probate #21772, note dated July 11, 1726.

[17] Deed Book 26, p. 135, Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.

[18] The children of Joseph and Elizabeth Stow were Joseph (b. April 14, 1720, d. May 4, 1724), Hannah (b. July 10, 1722, d. Oct. 20, 1727); Joseph (b. Sept. 12, 1724, d. Oct. 20, 1727), and John (b. Mar. 14, 1726-27, d. Sept. 22, 1730).

[19] Deed Book 25, p. 499, Middlesex County Registry of Deeds; and note in Nathaniel Stow's probate #21772, allowing Joseph 10 pounds for "his living with, and labour for his father after he was of age."

Joseph inherited his father Nathaniel's "old Homstead" following his death in 1724, including a 10-acre houselot, house, and barn.[20] It was here that Joseph is believed to have lived the remainder of his life. All four Stow children had died by September 22, 1730, leaving only Joseph and his wife Elizabeth. While other family members may have lived with the couple, no documentation of this survives. Elizabeth Woolly, wife of Joseph, died on January 23, 1757, at the age of 73, according to the records of the Concord Burying Grounds.[21]

Joseph Stow next married Olive Jones, the daughter of his west adjacent neighbors John and Anna Jones, on June 14, 1759. Joseph was then 67 years of age, and Olive 34 years. Together they had two children: Sarah, born June 10, 1760, and Nathaniel, born March 28, 1762.

Joseph Stow's farm appears to have been a modest one, as suggested by information provided by the tax-assessment records. The appraised value of his real estate for the years 1728 to 1767 did not change appreciably during this period, being £36 in 1728, £33 from 1743 to 1747, £35 in 1749 and 1750, £40 from 1751 to 1760, £39 from 1761 to 1766, and £36 in 1767.[22] Livestock on the farm over the years included 1 horse, 2-4 cows, 0-2 oxen, and 1-2 swine. Joseph appears to have retained some of his father's sheep as late as 1728-29, but no sheep were counted in the years thereafter. Detailed accounts for the years 1749, 1761, and 1771 recorded the Stow farm as having 1 dwelling house (barns were not noted), an orchard of ½ to 1 acre that produced between 3 and 7 barrels of cider a year, 3 or 4 acres of tillage land that produced rye and Indian corn, 5 to 12 acres of mowing land that produced between 2 to 6 tons of hay, 9 or 10 acres of pasture that supported the cows, and 5 or 7 acres of meadow land. Joseph also earned a small income from the town by teaching school during the winter months.[23]

Joseph Stow died in 1772 at the age of 80, leaving his wife Olive Stow and two young children, Sarah and Nathaniel. An inventory and appraisal of Joseph's estate described a dwelling house and barn valued at £26 S13 P4, and a 10-acre houselot valued at £60. Also listed were lots in the chestnut field, the brick kiln field, and the [brick kiln] island.[24] Household furnishings listed in the inventory included three beds, similar to the earlier inventory of 1725. A transcription of those furnishings follows:

Bed & furniture
Second do [ditto]
3rd do
Best table cloth
Second do
3rd do
Fourth do

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[20] Nathaniel Stow Probate #21772.
[21] *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths*, p. 433.
[22] Tax records for the Town of Concord are on microfilm at the Concord Free Public Library. Tax-appraisal books for East Concord are missing for the years 1724-27, 1733-42, 1752-54, 1762, and 1768-70.
[23] Funk, "Historic Structures Report," 1973, p. 6. Although Funk cites the "Concord Town Records," she does not note the dates when Joseph Stow taught school.
[24] Joseph Stow Probate #21765, Massachusetts State Archives.

Three course pillow cases
One pair cotton sheets
One large linnen sheet
Second linnen do
One cotton do
Seven diaper towels
Case of draws
Chest of draws
Old trunk
Have dozen joiner chairs
Round table
Looking glass
Old desk
Old chest
Powder horn & bullets
Gun
Silver ferrel
Small table
Five old chairs
Andirons
Trammel tong & tosting iron
Six pewter platters & twelve plates & some old pewter
Six ratte pans
Tea kettle
Iron pot & kettle
Knives & forks
Letwork tub
Brass kettle
Linnen wheel
Dictionary
Old books
Bowfat and firniture
Silver porringer[25]

Other miscellaneous items relating to the farm included:

Sixteen bushels of grain
Sider
Old casks
Old press
Old plough
Staple and ring, chaves and pin, and horse tacking
Two old chains
Saddle
Old cart
One sythe two axes and shave
Best cow
Second do.[26]

[25] *Ibid.*
[26] *Ibid.*

It seems unlikely that the house constructed by Joseph's father Nathaniel between 1684 and 1689, and later inherited by Joseph, had been substantially enlarged or improved during Joseph's tenure circa 1724 to 1772. Joseph's immediate family was comparatively small, with no more than three young children living at home at any one time. The probate inventory of 1772 is also suggestive that few changes had occurred since 1725, when Joseph inherited his family's "old homstead." The house was furnished with three beds in both 1725 and 1772, as noted in the inventories for those years. Several of the other furnishings were described as "old" by 1772, such as a desk, chest, some pewter, books, casks, a press, and a plough. Finally, no appreciable rise was recorded in the tax appraisals of Joseph Stow's real estate, as would be expected had he built a new house or substantially improved an old one.[27]

## Widow Olive Stow: 1772 – Circa 1782

Joseph Stow's wife Olive continued to occupy the Stow house with her two children Sarah (age 12) and Nathaniel (age 10) following the death of her husband in 1772. The close proximity of Olive's family to the west was no doubt a contributing factor in her ability to remain as a single woman raising two small children. Olive and her brother John Jones were appointed as joint guardians of the children in 1772,[28] although it was a younger brother Farwell who lived next door. The estate was eventually divided into equal thirds, shared by Olive, Sarah, and Nathaniel.

Widow Olive Stow and her children may have been witness to the flight of the British regulars and their American pursuers on April 19, 1775, their house being located on the road leading from Concord to Lexington. Olive Stow was then 50, her daughter Sarah 14, and son Nathaniel 13. Following a bloody encounter at Meriam's Corner about ½-mile to the west, the Minute Men were described as having

> sought [their] own place and opportunity to attack and annoy the enemy from behind trees, rocks, fences, and buildings, as seemed most convenient. . . .[29]

Olive Stow's house, barn, trees, walls, and/or fences may have provided such shelter on this historic day, although no accounts specifically detailing the Stow property are known.

It is unlikely that Olive Stow undertook any major improvements or rebuilding of her house during the roughly 10-year period that she occupied it with her two children. Brother Farwell Jones most likely oversaw the management of the farm, which included a modest assemblage of livestock during the years 1772-1782: 1 horse, 0-2 oxen, 0-3 cows, 0-2 swine, and no sheep.[30] Olive Stow never remarried. She died in Concord in 1811 at the age of 87.

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[27] The appraised value of Joseph Stow's real estate remained steady at £40 from 1751 to 1760, later dropping to £39 from 1761 to 1766, and to £36 in 1767.

[28] Joseph Stow Probate #21765.

[29] Excerpt of a letter written March 10, 1825, by Reverend Edmund Foster, who was a Minute Man with the Reading Company. The letter was published in 1827 in Ezra Ripley's *A History of the Fight at Concord* (Concord: Allen & Atwill, 1827), pp. 32-33.

[30] Tax records for the Town of Concord, 1772-82.

## Ebenezer Hardy: Circa 1782-1826

Ebenezer Hardy was born in Billerica, Massachusetts, on October 17, 1761. He was the son of Ebenezer and Susanna Hardy of Bradford, Massachusetts, who had relocated to Tewksbury by 1749, and to Billerica by 1758. It is not known exactly when or why Ebenezer Hardy (Jr.) moved to Concord, Massachusetts. The earliest known record of his presence in Concord is in 1780, when he served for three months in the Revolutionary War. Concord historian Lemuel Shattuck noted that the town hired eight men in 1779-80, including Ebenezer Hardy, "for 3 months to Rhode Island for 90 bushels of corn each."[31] Details of Hardy's service are provided in the records of the Revolutionary War as follows:

> Hardy, Ebenezer. Private, Capt. Zaccheus Wright's co.; Col. Cyprian Howe's regt.; enlisted July 27, 1780; discharged Oct. 30, 1780; service 3 mos. 8 days, including 4 days (72 miles) travel home; company raised for 3 months. Roll sworn to in Suffolk Co.[32]

Ebenezer Hardy married Sarah Stow, the daughter of Olive Stow, around 1781-82.[33] The couple lived in the Stow house with Sarah's mother Olive and brother Nathaniel. Ebenezer and Sarah had thirteen children, born between the years 1782 and circa 1805.[34] Olive Stow never remarried and lived with her daughter and son-in-law for the remainder of her life.[35] Sarah's brother Nathaniel was *declared non compos mentis* at the age of 20 and appointed a guardian in 1782,[36] with Ebenezer Hardy and Olive Stow serving as legal providers.[37] The household headed by Ebenezer was therefore a large one, consisting of nine family members in 1790, 12 in 1800 and 1810, and 11 in 1820, as recorded by the Federal Census for those years.

Ebenezer Hardy was remembered in 1876, 50 years after his death, as "a farmer in the East Quarter, 1 mile from the village."[38] He was also described as "an irritable man of

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[31] Lemeul Shattuck, *A History of the Town of Concord*, 1835, p. 259.

[32] *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, p. 273.

[33] No record of the marriage of Ebenezer Hardy and Sarah Stow has been found. A date of circa 1781-82 is based on the birth of their first child on Aug. 26, 1782.

[34] Joseph (b. Aug. 26, 1782), was followed by Sarah (b. May 25, 1784), Isaac (b. April 10, 1786), Ebenezer (b. March 23, 1788), Elizabeth (also called "Betsy," b. March 16, 1790), Polly (b. February 6, 1792), Lucy (b. April 2, 1794), Charlotte (b. May 7, 1796), Jonathan (b. 1798), Sumner (b. 1800), Emerson (b. Oct. 13, 1803), Abigail (b. after 1803), and Lydia (b. after 1803). Nine of the 13 children are recorded in *Hardy and Hardie Past and Present*, 1935, p. 478. The other four children are listed in probate record #10342 of Sarah Hardy, who died Mar. 4, 1835.)

[35] Olive Stow died in Concord in 1811 at the age of 87.

[36] Funk, "Historic Structure Report," 1973, p. 11; original reference is to Nathaniel Stow's probate #21778. The legal guardian was Timothy Jones, Olive Stow's nephew and Nathaniel Stow's cousin.

[37] "Historic Structure Report," 1973, pp. 10-11; original reference is to the Concord Town Archives, Box 3, 1782.

[38] Edward Jarvis, *Traditions & Reminiscences of Concord, Massachusetts, 1779-1878* (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press), p. 101. Property deeds described Ebenezer Hardy as a "yoeman."

1784 by the Town of Concord for £10,[43] as compared with the dwelling of his neighbor Amos Meriam (the Meriam House) that was then assessed for £60.[44] This had changed by October 1798, when the Direct Tax of Massachusetts recorded Ebenezer Hardy as having one dwelling and 40 perches of land (approximately ¼ acre) valued at $600.00, while Ephraim Meriam's house (the Meriam House) and 20 perches of land were valued at $450.00.[45] Another detailed accounting, this one taken by the Town of Concord in October 1801, noted Ebenezer Hardy as having 1½ dwelling houses and one barn: the full house valued at $360.00, the half house at $50.00, and the barn at $100.00.[46] Ephraim Meriam's house was then valued at $450.00. There can be little doubt, therefore, that some significant enlargement or other improvement had been made to Ebenezer's main house sometime between 1784 and 1798.

Ebenezer Hardy died in Concord at the age of 65 on August 10, 1826. No probate documents were executed for Ebenezer, most likely because he left no significant property. Nor was an obituary written to mark his passing in Concord's local newspaper, the *Yoeman's Gazette*.

## Isaac Hardy: 1826-34

Isaac Hardy was the third child and second son of Sarah and Ebenezer Hardy, born April 10, 1786. Isaac was 40 years of age at the time of his father's death in 1826, and had recently wed Betsy Draper of Concord. In addition to Isaac and Betsy, the Hardy household in 1826 likely consisted of Isaac's mother Sarah Hardy (66), his uncle Nathaniel Stow (64), and his siblings Elizabeth/Betsy (36), Polly (32), Sumner (26), Lydia (?), and Abigail (?). Elizabeth left the following year, marrying Otis Friar in 1827. Abigail followed in 1829, marrying William Cook of Boston in 1829. Children born to Isaac and Betsy in Concord were Lydia Olive in 1826, Sarah Susanna in 1828, and John in 1833.

Ownership of the Hardy houselot and dwelling in 1826 was jointly shared by Isaac's mother Sarah Hardy and his uncle Nathaniel Stow. Sarah had 1/3 interest, and Nathaniel 2/3 interest, 1/3 of which had been inherited from his mother Olive upon her death in 1811. Nathaniel remained *non compos mentis*, however, requiring a lifetime of guardianship and custodial care. He received a new court-appointed guardian, Nathan Brooks, who undertook an inventory and appraisal of Nathaniel's property in April 1827, as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Two undivided thirds of: | |
| Island lot (29 acres) | $269.34 |
| Brick kiln lot (4 acres) | 133.34 |

[43] There are no similar listings in the tax records for Olive, Sarah, or Nathaniel Stow.

[44] The Meriam House in 1784 was the same approximate size as the existing Olive Stow House. (Barbara Yocum, *Meriam House Historic Structure Report (Draft)*, 1994.)

[45] The 1798 Direct Tax of Massachusetts was described as a "General list of all Dwelling houses, which, with the out houses, appurtenant thereto, and the lots, on which the same are erected, not exceeding two acres in any case, were owned, possessed or occupied on the 1st day of October, 1798 . . . exceeding in value the sum of $100.00."

[46] The "full" house was the existing Olive Stow House. The "half" house was the western half of an in-town dwelling that had been purchased by Ebenezer Hardy from the widow Keturah Durant in 1794 for £16 S10 (Deed Book 125, p. 400). Previous researchers have confused this property, the boundaries of which go through the center chimney, with the Olive Stow House.

| | |
|---|---|
| 10 acres of meadow | 200.00 |
| House lot (2[?] acres) | 100.00 |
| House, barn & other buildings | 433.34 |
| 8 acres in Lincoln | 100.00 |
| 2 acres in Lincoln | 20.00 |
| | $1,256.02[47] |

A portion of Nathaniel Stow's real estate was sold at auction the following year to finance his expenses, including a debt of $841.00 owed to nephew Isaac Hardy for boarding his uncle from 1821 to February 1828, and for other miscellaneous expenses, amounting to $936.00. A notice of the auction was published in October 1828, describing the property as "two thirds of the farm, called Hardy Farm, situated in the east part of Concord, on the road from Concord to Boston."[48] The auction was held at the dwelling house of Isaac Hardy, presumably on the Hardy Farm, on November 5, 1828. Isaac Hardy was high bidder for the property at $700.00, a detailed description of which is provided by the deed as follows:

> Two undivided third parts of the following described land and buildings situated in the easterly part of said Concord bounded beginning at the southwest corner of the premises by the road leading from Concord to Boston, thence running northerly by the lane on land late of Farwell Jones and the brick kiln lot, thence turning and running easterly by said lane to land of Capt Nehemiah Flint, thence turning and running southerly on land of said Flint and land of Asa Brooks and land of said Isaac to the road first mentioned, thence westerly on said [road] to the bound first mentioned, containing about twelve acres more or less with a dwelling house barn and out houses on the same.[49]

Isaac Hardy later used this property, along with two other parcels, as collateral for a mortgage of $800.00, which he obtained the following year (in 1829) from Benjamin Draper of Boxborough.[50] Isaac reclaimed this property after repaying the loan, with interest, within two years.

The household headed by Isaac Hardy in 1830 appears to have been a full one, based on the federal census for that year. Fifteen people were then in residence, including five male adults and four female adults over the age of twenty, one male child less than five years old, and five female children less than ten years old. A Concord directory for that same year lists Isaac Hardy as a farmer living on the Boston Road, along with his two brothers Emerson Hardy and Sumner Hardy whose professions were listed as "labourer."[51] The information provided by both the census and the directory suggests that Isaac's household then consisted of himself, his wife Betsy, their three young daughters, Isaac's mother Sarah Hardy, his uncle Nathaniel Stow, his married brother Emerson with his wife and children, and Isaac's unmarried siblings Sumner and Lydia.

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[47] Nathaniel Stow probate #21779.
[48] *Ibid.*
[49] Deed Book 334, p. 182, signed Nov. 5, 1828.
[50] Deed Book 289, p. 84, signed Mar. 1, 1829.
[51] "Concord Directory containing the names of the legal voters and householders in town with their occupations, offices, etc., for the year 1830." Special Collections, Concord Free Public Library.

The house was first recorded on a "Plan of the Town of Concord Mass." surveyed by John G. Hales in 1830 (fig. 1). Its location on the north side of Lexington & Boston Road was designated by a small square labeled "J.M. Walkup." John Walkup purchased the Hardy farm in 1835, suggesting that the plan had been annotated with names about that time.

Nathaniel Stow, Isaac Hardy's uncle, died in December 1831 at the age of 69. The remainder of Nathaniel's property that had not been sold in 1828 was auctioned at the dwelling house of Isaac Hardy on June 2, 1832. Isaac's dwelling was then described as being located "near" the real estate to be sold, which included the four-acre brick kiln lot, and the 29-acre island lot situated about ½ mile east of the brick kiln lot. Isaac Hardy was once again high bidder at $326.67, acquiring Nathaniel's 2/3rds interest in the two lots.

Isaac had repaid his earlier loan of $800.00 from Benjamin Draper by 1832, and again used his 2/3 interest in his houselot property ("with a dwelling house, barn and out houses on the same"), together with his two new parcels of land, to secure a mortgage for $430.00 from Nathan Brooks. This loan also appears to have been repaid in a timely manner.

Isaac and Sarah Hardy's combined interests in the Hardy Farm were finally sold on August 9, 1834, to Nathaniel Rice and Ephriam Meriam of Concord for the total sum of $2,100.00. Isaac appears to have been leasing a five-acre parcel east of the Hardy houselot to someone named "Bryant" by this time, as suggested in Isaac's deed of conveyance as follows:

> Two undivided third parts of the following [five] pieces of land situated in the easterly part of said Concord viz. **[1]** two undivided third parts of one piece containing about fifteen acres bounded beginning at the county road at the southwest corner of the piece thence running northerly and easterly by the lane to land of Nehemiah Flint thence southerly on land of said Flint and land of Asa Brooks to said road or *Bryant lot* thence on said road and Bryant lot to the bound first mentioned with the buildings thereon. **[2]** One piece called the brick kiln lot of four acres bounded easterly on said lane southerly on the Wright farm westerly and northerly on land of said Nathaniel Rice and said Wright land. **[3]** One piece of about 29 acres called the Island bounded southerly on land of Nehemiah Flint and Cyrus Smith easterly on land late of John Walls and on land of William Hartwell northerly on land of Cyrus Smith and westerly on land of said Wright farm . . . **[4]** Also the whole of the pirce hill lot of fifteen acres situated in Lincoln . . . **[5]** Also the whole of *the Bryant lot* bounded southerly by the county road and on other sides by land of said Isaac & Sarah Hardy containing about five acres.[52]

It is not known where the family moved following the sale of the Hardy homestead. Isaac's mother Sarah died less than a year later on, March 4, 1835, at the age of 74, and was laid to rest in the Concord burial ground. Sarah's son Isaac appears to have preceded her in death, based on a list of heirs in the estate file that notes Isaac Hardy as deceased.[53]

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[52] Isaac Hardy to Rice and Meriam, Deed Book 334, p. 184, signed Aug. 9, 1834. Sarah Hardy's conveyance to Rice and Meriam is recorded in Deed Book 334, p. 185, also signed Aug. 9, 1834.

[53] Nathan Brooks Family Papers, 1717-1899: Sarah Hardy Estate, Box 10, Folder 6. Nathan

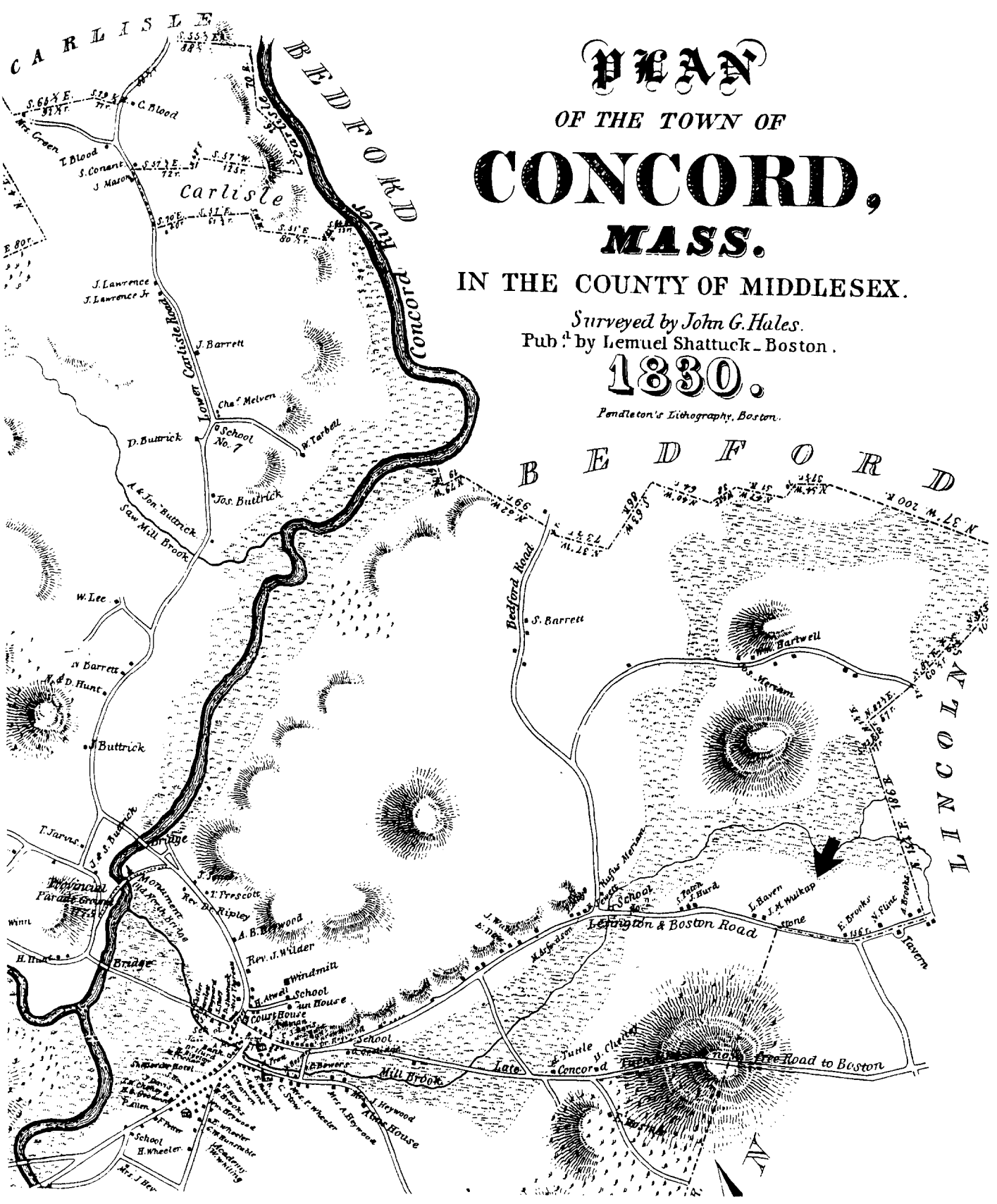


**Figure 1.** Detail of the 1830 "Plan of the Town of Concord, Mass." Surveyed by John G. Hales. Note that the map appears to have been annotated with names of residents around 1835. Arrow (added) points to the Olive Stow House, then occupied by J.M. Walkup.

## Ephraim Meriam and Nathaniel Rice: 1834-35

Ephraim Meriam was a Concord businessman who accumulated a sizable wealth during his lifetime, in part by speculating in real estate. It is likely that his joint purchase of the Hardy farm with Nathaniel Rice on August 9, 1935, was one such venture.[54] They held the property for less than six months, selling it the following year to newlywed John M. Walkup.

## John M. Walkup: 1835-38

John Maynard Walkup of Concord, yoeman, purchased the former Hardy farm from Nathaniel Rice and Ephraim Meriam on January 26, 1835, for $2,400.00. Walkup was a young man of 23 who had recently married Lydia C. Haynes of Sudbury on February 22, 1834.[55] The farm included the 20-acre houselot "with dwelling house, barn, & outhouses on the same," in addition to the 4-acre brick kiln lot, the 29-acre island lot, and the 15-acre Hill lot in Lincoln. Rice and Meriam held a mortgage on the property for $2,500, which was to be paid, with interest, within eight months.[56]

John and Lydia did not remain in their new home for long, selling it only three years later in 1838. Two daughters were born to them during this time: Margaret in 1836, and Ellen in 1838. The Walkups moved to Framingham, Massachusetts, where their two sons John and Nathan were born in 1845 and 1849.[57]

## Charles Bartlett: 1838-41

Charles Bartlett of Dorchester, Massachusetts, purchased a portion of the former Hardy farm from John M. Walkup of Concord, yoeman, on April 10, 1838. The conveyance included two parcels: the 20-acre houselot on the County road, and what was then described as the 39-acre island lot. The sales price for the property was $1,600.00, and was subject to a mortgage held by Samuel Hoar.[58] Charles Bartlett may have lived on the farm, since his residence was noted to be Concord by 1841. He held the property for three years only, selling it to Lewis P. Bartlett in 1841.

## Lewis P. Bartlett: 1841-62

Lewis P. Bartlett of Cambridge purchased three parcels in Concord from Charles Bartlett of Concord on May 1, 1841. These included the 20-acre houselot on the County road, the 39-acre Island lot, and a five-acre parcel that had been formerly owned by Ebenezer Hardy. The sales price was $3,000.00, and included a mortgage of $800.00 held by Ephraim Meriam.[59] Charles Bartlett also appears to have assumed a mortgage, on which Lewis

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[54] Yocum, "Meriam House Historic Structure Report, 1994, pp. 51-52. Ephraim Meriam was also the owner of the Meriam House at Meriam's Corner in Concord from 1822 until 1834.
[55] *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1635-1850.*
[56] Deed Book 340, p. 11, signed Jan. 26, 1835.
[57] Information obtained from www.ancestry.com.
[58] Deed Book 371, p. 442, signed April 10, 1838.
[59] Deed Book 406, p. 80, signed May 1, 1841.

Bartlett defaulted in 1844. Lewis Bartlett retained ownership of the property, however, until 1862. Who actually lived in the house during this time is difficult to ascertain. Historian Carolee Funk surmised that Charles Bartlett remained in the house as the tenant of Lewis Bartlett until around 1848, since Charles Bartlett continued to pay taxes on the property until that time.[60] Lewis Bartlett may have moved to his Concord farm by 1852, since "L. Bartlett" is shown on the "Map of the Town of Concord" for that year (fig. 2). Bartlett had moved to West Cambridge by December 1862, however, when he sold the property to Joseph Breck.

## Joseph Breck: 1862-63

The same three parcels purchased in 1841 by Lewis P. Bartlett were sold by Bartlett to Joseph Breck of Chelsea for $2,000.00 on December 1, 1862. Breck held the property for a few months only, selling it the following year. Breck did not relocate to Concord, suggesting that this was a real estate investment.[61]

## George Clark 2nd: 1863-64

George Clark 2nd of Chelsea purchased Joseph Breck's three parcels land in Concord on March 30, 1863. The sales price was $2,800; a mortgage of !,600.00 was assumed by Joseph Breck.[62] Clark appears to have relocated to Concord and likely inhabited the dwelling house on the houselot parcel. He did not remain for long, however, selling the property after only one year.

## Wright Smith: 1864-72

Wright Smith of Concord purchased the same three parcels of land from George Clark 2nd, also of Concord, on April 14, 1864, for $2,800.[63] He acquired a mortgage from Henry Potter of Cambridge on April 1, 1870, which was held by Jere Abbott of Boston by 1884.[64] The dwelling house and its owner were described in later years as "the old house of Wright Smith—a curious curmudgeon . . . ."[65]

## Joseph A. McArthur: 1872-73

Joseph A. McArthur of Concord purchased the single 20-acre parcel "with the buildings thereon" in east Concord from Wright Smith of Concord on January 1, 1872, for

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[60] Funk, "Historic Structures Report," 1973, pp. 13 & 14.
[61] Deed Book 896, p. 485, signed Dec. 1, 1862.
[62] Deed Book 904, p. 165, signed March 30, 1863.
[63] Deed Book 924, p. 165, signed April 14, 1864.
[64] Mortgage Book 111, p. 119.
[65] Quote from John Shepherd Keyes, "Builders and Owners or Occupants in Concord," 1885, excerpted and inserted on pp. 124-124a of the "Houses and People in Concord, 1810-20," by Edward Jarvis, typescript and edited by Adams Tolman, 1915.

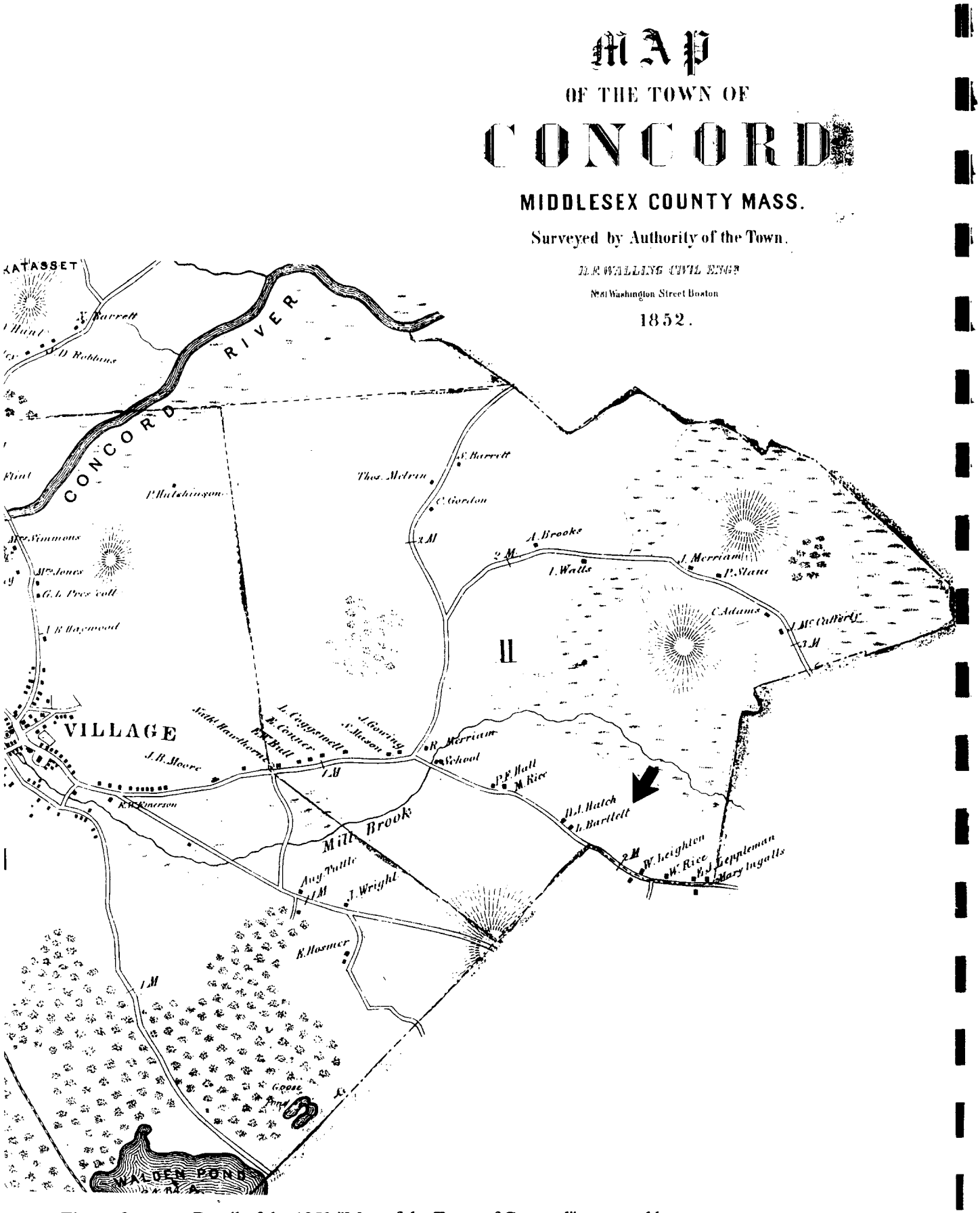


**Figure 2.** Detail of the 1852 "Map of the Town of Concord" surveyed by H.F. Walling, showing the residence L. Bartlett (arrow added).

$3,600.00.[66] McArthur funded his purchase with two mortgages: one from Betsy Smith of Concord for $1,200, the other from Henry Potter for $1,600.00, which included the following clause:

> The crops to be raised upon said premises are to be included in this mortgage until the same is paid and all the manure made upon the premises is to be expended upon the same.[67]

McArthur died shortly after his acquisition, leaving an insolvent estate with debts. Wright Smith, former owner and creditor to McArthur, was appointed administrator of the estate. A probate inventory of the estate listed the "homestead farm & buildings, 20 acres," valued at $3,500, but subject to mortgages of $3,900.[68] The property was sold at public auction, a newspaper notice of which described:

> The Farm of the late Joseph A. McArthur, consisting of about 20 acres of good tillage land, with a house & two barns on the same.[69]

The auction was held on April 14, 1873.

## George T. Smith: 1873

George T. Smith of Lexington purchased the 20-acre farm of the late Joseph A. McArthur at public auction on April 14, 1873, for $3,905.00.[70] He held the property for two weeks only before selling it to estate administrator and former owner Wright Smith.

## Wright Smith: 1873-84

Wright Smith of Concord reclaimed his 20-acre parcel with the buildings thereon from George T. Smith of Lexington on April 28, 1873, for $4,000.00.[71] He held, and presumably occupied, the property for the next 11 years. Smith lost his 20-acre property in 1884 in a forfeiture of an earlier mortgage dated 1870 that had been originally held by Henry Potter and later assumed by Jere Abbott of Boston.

## Frank S. Smith: 1884-87

Frank S. Smith of Concord purchased his father's 20-acre farm with buildings at a public auction held by creditor Jere Abbott of Boston in April 1884. Smith obtained the property for the bargain price of $1,100.00.[72] He named his farm "Elm Farm" and sold

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[66] Deed Book 1200, p. 151, signed Jan. 1, 1872.
[67] Deed Book, 1200, p. 152.
[68] Funk, "Historic Structures Report," 1973, p. 15; original reference is to McArthur probate #7187.
[69] Funk, "Historic Structures Report," 1973, pp. 14-15, & p. 19. Funk notes that the auction was advertised for three weeks in Boston's *Daily Evening Traveler*.
[70] Deed Book 1264, p. 639, signed April 28, 1873.
[71] Deed Book 1264, p. 639.
[72] Deed Book 1662, p. 571, signed April 21, 1884. John Shepherd Keyes mistakenly wrote in 1885 that Wright Smith, dying, left the house to his son Frank Smith. ("Builders and Owners or

"fancy stock," according to a description written in 1885.[73] The *Concord Directory* of 1886 listed Frank S. Smith as an "agent" located on "Lexington" road. Smith retained ownership of his farm for only 3 ½ years, selling it to Charles A. Sawyer in 1887.

## Charles A. Sawyer: 1887-99

Charles A. Sawyer of Concord next purchased the 20-acre farm with the buildings thereon, located on the north side of the road from Concord to Lexington, on October 17, 1887, for $3,000.00, subject to a mortgage of $2,000.00 held by the Middlesex Institution for Savings.[74] Charles Sawyer was a farmer who had been living on "Lexington [road] on [the] Lincoln line," according to the *Concord Directory* of 1886. Whether or not he ever occupied the farm purchased from Frank Smith is not known. Sawyer had moved to "Wood" street in Concord by 1893, where he resided through 1899.[75] He may have leased the farm to David Craton, who was recalled as being in residence before it was sold to Merton Carty in 1899.[76]

## Merton G. Carty: 1899-1917

Merton G. Carty of Concord purchased the 20-acre farm in east Concord, with the buildings thereon, from Charles A. Sawyer for $3,700.00, on December 21, 1899.[77] Carty was a young farmer of about 29 years of age in 1899. He was the son of James R. Carty, who occupied the next adjacent farm to the west.[78]

Merton Carty was assessed for a house and barn, valued at $1,000.00 and $400.00, respectively, in 1908-1910; a "shed" valued at $200.00 had been added by 1911. Concord directories and lists of poll taxpayers record Merton Carty as a farmer living on Lexington road for the years 1900-1912. He had relocated to Auburndale, Massachusetts, by 1913, when he was noted in the Concord tax records as a non-resident owner of property on Lexington road. It is
therefore likely that Carty leased his farm during the last five years of his ownership, from 1913 to 1917.

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Occupants in Concord, 1885," excerpt transcribed on p. 124 of typescript version of "Houses and People in Concord, 1810-20," by Edward Jarvis, typescript and annotated by Adams Tolman, 1915.

[73] J.S. Keyes, "Builders and Owners or Occupants in Concord, 1885," excerpt transcribed on pp. 124-124a of "Houses and People in Concord, 1810-20" by Edward Jarvis, typescript and annotated by Adams Tolman, 1915.

[74] Deed Book 1821, p. 324, signed Oct. 17, 1887.

[75] *Concord Directory*, 1886 and 1896, and the *Concord List of Poll Taxpayers*, 1893-1899.

[76] Annotation by Adams Tolman, 1915, on p. 124a of the typescript version of "Houses and People in Concord, 1810-20," by Edward Jarvis. Tolman mistakenly identified David Craton as both owning and occupying the farm after Frank Smith left town, and before it was sold to Merton Carty.

[77] Deed Book 2790, p. 282, signed Dec. 21, 1899.

[78] Annotation by Adams Tolman, 1915, on p. 124a of the typescript version of "Houses and People in Concord, 1810-20," by Edward Jarvis.

## George Williams: 1917-27

George Williams of Concord purchased Merton Carty's 20-acre farm in Concord on May 12, 1917, for an undisclosed price, subject to payment of the property taxes for 1917.[79] Town records document George Williams as a 53-year-old "farmer" and "milk dealer" living with his wife Mary on Lexington road in 1917.[80] Tax records for the years 1918 through 1924 appraised Williams' 20 acres of land for $1,600.00, and his "barn and shed" for $600.00. His house was assessed for $1,000.00 1918 through 1921, $2,000.00 in 1922 and 1923, and $2,200 in 1924, suggesting significant improvements. These may have included the installation of a central heating system, electrical wiring, and indoor plumbing.

## Joseph Tavilla: 1927-28

Joseph Tavilla of Everett, Massachusetts, purchased the 20-acre Concord farm of George Williams on Lexington Road, with the buildings thereon, on April 8, 1927, subject to payment of the taxes of April 1, 1927. George and Mary Williams also assumed a mortgage of $6,000.00, which was secured by the property. [81] The Williams family appears to have remained in residence on their farm following this transaction, as indicated by the presence of "George Williams, Farmer, Lexington rd." in the *List of Persons Residing in the Town of Concord* for the years 1927 and 1928.

## Biagio Cacciola: 1928-36

Biagio Cacciola of Lexington purchased the 20-acre Concord farm occupied by George and Mary Williams from Joseph Tavilla on January 4, 1928. The transaction was subject to two mortgages: the first for $4,000.00 held by Anthony Garbarino, the second for $6,000.00 held by Joseph Tavilla.[82] The second mortgage held by Tavilla was secured by the property, with the further clarification that the conveyed premises included the following:

> . . . all furnaces, heaters, ranges, mantels, gas and electric light fixtures, screens, and screen doors, awnings, and all other fixtures of whatever kind or nature present in building, or which may be placed or put in said buildings.[83]

Town records document Biagio Cacciola in 1928 as a 34-year-old farmer living on Lexington road with his wife Josephine. Tax assessments for April 1, 1928, listed Biagio as then living in the former "Williams House" valued at $2,200.00. A "barn and shed" were appraised at $600, while a new "store" (likely a farm stand) was assessed at $100.00. The land included a 19-acre houselot valued at $1,520, and a one-acre store lot appraised at $400.00. These assessments remained unchanged throughout the eight years of Cacciola ownership.

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[79] Deed Book 4136, p. 131, signed May 12, 1917.
[80] *Concord Directory: 1917,* and *List of Poll Taxpayers: 1918.* Living with George Williams in 1921 was his wife, Mary A., according to the *Concord Directory* for that year.
[81] Deed Book 5083, pp. 537-538, signed April 8, 1927.
[82] Deed Book 5187, p. 78, signed Jan. 4, 1928.
[83] *Ibid.*

**Figure 3.** Exterior view of "The Cacciola House," circa 1935.

The earliest known photograph of the house was taken circa 1935 (fig. 3), to accompany a short article by local historian Ruth Wheeler entitled "The Cacciola House."[84] This is a view looking toward the northwest, showing the front and east elevations. The house was then little changed from its appearance today, being 2 ½-stories tall with a gable roof, pedimented front doorway, and large center chimney. The windows in the first story had been updated by this time with six-over-six sashes, and the sidewalls and roof covered with what appear to be unpainted wood shingles. The house had definitely been electrified by this time, judging by wires running from the street to the front southeast corner where a meter was mounted. A small gable-roofed extension, visible on the back side of the house, provided a protected entrance to the cellar stair. Beyond this, in the rear yard, stood a small dilapidated outbuilding--most likely the "shed" noted in the tax valuations.

Biagio Cacciola forfeited on his 1928 mortgage held by Joseph Tavilla. His Concord farm was subsequently sold at public auction in January 1936.

## Mary Tavilla: 1936-45

Mary Tavilla of Everett, Massachusetts, next purchased the 20-acre Concord farm of Bagio Caccoila on January 14, 1936, at public auction for $100.00. The property was also subject to a mortgage for $6,000.00. Mary Tavilla remained as a non-resident taxpayer living in Everett, suggesting that the Concord property was leased during her 8½ years of ownership.

The Concord tax records assessed the value of the Tavilla's house on Lexington Road as $2,200.00 during the years 1936-45. An existing barn and shed appear to have been demolished between 1937 and 1945, and a new "barn" constructed by 1945. The "shed" and "barn" were assessed together in 1937 for $600.00; the barn only was noted in 1938, then valued at $350.00. Devaluation of the barn to $150.00 for the years 1940-44 suggests its slow decline. The old barn appears to have been replaced by a new structure the following year, based on its reassessment for $400.00 in 1945.[85] The existing "store" valued at $100.00 had disappeared by 1940, replaced by a "shed" valued at $25.00.

## Hagop Hovagimian and Family: 1945-2000

Hagop Hovagimian and his wife Sarah, of Hudson, Massachusetts, purchased Mary Tavilla's 20-acre Concord farm on June 29, 1945. The conveyance was subject to a mortgage of $4,000.00 held by Mary Tavilla, which was secured by the property.[86] Concord records of 1945 document Hagop Hovagimian as a 45-year-old "farmer" and "egg dealer" who resided on his farm on Lexington Road with his wife Sarah. Sarah and Hagop had two children: Edward A., born in 1935, and Albert N., born in 1940. Edward later worked as a

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[84] Ruth Wheeler, "The Cacciola House," undated article in folder 'L23 Lexington Road" of the Ruth Wheeler file, Special Collections, Concord Free Public Library. The article gives a brief ownership history of the house, but mistakenly identifies two of the early owners as Keturah Durant and Timothy Hoar.

[85] A date of "June 30, 1945" scribed in a poured-concrete threshold of the existing concrete-block barn confirms the information provided by the tax records.

[86] Deed Book 6868, p. 337, signed June 29, 1945.

"mechanic," and Albert as a "clerk," according to the *List of Persons Residing in the Town of Concord* for the years 1960-1964.[87]

Sarah Hovagimian was no longer residing at the Lexington Road farm by January 1959.[88] She later legally conveyed the farm to her then-former husband, Hagop, and her two sons, Edward and Albert, on September 20, 1961.[89] One week later Edward and Albert surrendered their interests to their father, Hagop, on September 27, 1961. The property was then succinctly described as follows:

> A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in the easterly part of said Concord, containing twenty (20) acres, and bounded and described as follows: beginning at the southwesterly corner of the granted premises at the Lexington Road, and running northerly and easterly by a lane to land formerly of Isaac W. Hurd; thence running southerly by land formerly of William Rice and Land of Ephraim M. Hatch to said road; thence westerly by said Road to the point of beginning. [90]

A new national park named "Minute Man National Historical Park" was created by act of Congress (Public Law 86-321) on September 21, 1959, to commemorate the events relating to the beginning of the American Revolution. Located within the boundaries of the new park was Hagop Hovagimian's farm on Lexington Road, which the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to "acquire by donation or with donated funds, or with funds hereby authorized to be appropriated, lands and interests in lands within the area designated for the park."[91]

Historical interest in Mr. Hovagimian's old house was awakened following creation of the park in 1959. All four sides of the house, then called the "Widow Stowe House," were photographed in 1963 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (figs. 4-7). The house was included as a contributing structure in a district nomination to the National Register of Historic Places entitled, "Minute Man National Historical Park," which was accepted in 1966. A "Historic Structures Report" was also prepared for the park by Carolee Dane Funk in 1973. The general consensus was that the existing house had been constructed sometime before 1775, making it a significant feature of the historic scene on April 19, 1775.

A proposed taking of Mr. Hovagimian's farm by the United States of America was underway in June 1972, when an "Appraisal Report" was prepared by Fred R. O'Donnell Associates, Inc., of Westfield, Massachusetts.[92] This was followed by an "Offer to Sell Easement" drafted by the park in 1974. Part five of the "offer" outlined certain improvements that were to be executed by Mr. Hovagimian "in and to the said property on or

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[87] *Concord Directories*, 1947 and 1950; and *List of Persons Residing in the Town of Concord*, 1945-1964.

[88] *List of Persons Residing in the Town of Concord*, 1959.

[89] Deed Book 9976, p. 68, signed Sept. 20, 1961. Hagop and Sarah S. Hovagimian are described as "being unmarried" in this deed.

[90] Deed Book 9976, p. 69, signed Sept. 27, 1961.

[91] Public Law 86-321, September 21, 1959. The Hovagimian farm was designated as Tract No. 03-120.

[92] A copy of the appraisal is in the land files at Minute Man National Historical Park.

before the execution and delivery of [the warranty] deed." These included the following tasks:

a) Remove storm enclosure on left [west] side of house . . . and repair any damage to the building caused by its removal.
b) Remove lean-to roof on left [west] side of house and repair any damage to building caused by its removal.
c) Remove doorway on left [west] side of house . . . and replace it with sash.
d) Have underwriter's inspection of electrical wiring made and make necessary corrections as indicated.
e) Have safety inspection made of heating plant, chimneys, fireplaces and stoves and necessary corrections made as indicated by the inspection.
f) Have the premises inspected for dry rot and insect infestation which could harm the structure and make necessary corrections and repairs. Take follow-up action recommended by the inspection to prevent recurrence.
g) Existing painted exterior wooden surfaces shall be [painted]. . .
h) A row of evergreens, six feet in height, minimum, shall be planted so as to screen the existing garage [barn] from view from the road.
i) Windows at gable ends of house may be replaced to conform to those at the front of the house for their respective floors. . . .
j) Existing rear extension to the building shall be removed. Repair any damage to building caused by its removal.
k) Furnish and build a total of 200 feet of stone fence, 30 inches to 36 inches high, along the side boundary lines of party lines.[93]

None of this work appears to have been carried out, judging by the existing conditions of the house and its site today.

Mr. Hovagimian sold 16.67 acres of his Concord farm the following year, on October 30, 1975, for $195,000.00. Although not specifically noted, the sale included the historic farmhouse and later barn. The deed of conveyance described the boundaries of the property as follows:

NORTHEASTERLY
1200' more or less by land now or formerly of Nowalk in two courses to a point, said point being the northwestern corner, thence;
EASTERLY
603' more or less also by lands now or formerly of Nowalk in two courses to a point, said point being a common corner between lands now or formerly of Nowalk, Hovagimian and Kaveski, thence;
SOUTHERLY
25' more or less by lands now or formerly of Kaveski to a point, said point being the western [sic: eastern] most and of a stone wall separating lands now or formerly of Kaveski and Inferra, thence;
SOUTHWESTERLY

[93] "Offer to Sell Easement: Tract No. 03-120; NPS Area: Minute Man Nat'l Historical Park; Vendor(s): Hagop Hovagimian" (Land files, Minute Man NPS.)

650' more or less, to a point, said point being the southwest corner of land now or formerly of Inferrera and the northwest corner of other lands of the United States of America and the most northern point of a stone fence, thence; still
SOUTHWESTERLY
810' more or less by said stone fence to a point being the intersection of said stone fence and northerly right of way line of Lexington Road, thence;
NORTHWESTERLY
550' more or less by and with the northerly right of way line of Lexington Road to the point of beginning.[94]

Mr. Hovagiminian also reserved for himself and his family the right to use and occupy a portion of the property for a period of 25 years, subject to certain terms and conditions on file at Minute Man National Historical Park. This was the front portion of the property, comprising 8.96 acres, which included the dwelling house and the barn. A "preservation easement" on file with the park restricted use of the premises to residential purposes, and required that the exterior condition and appearance of the house be preserved, maintained, and kept in good repair.[95]

No significant repairs or other work appears to have been carried out on the house after October 1975. A scare occurred one Sunday afternoon in the winter of 1983 when the Concord Fire Department was summoned the house for a chimney fire. The incident was described in a report prepared by the fire department:

> Chimney fire, 965 Lexington Rd. Action taken: raised ladder to roof then a roof ladder to ridge thence to chimney. Applied water to "massive" unlined chimney in small doses to cool down fire. Applied more and more in increasing amounts until we had practically saturated interior facing of all brick from top down to first floor wood stove. We then removed wood stove and piping to extinguish seat of fire just below damper door.[96]

Hagop Hovagimian died on March 4, 1998 at the age of 98. He had lived the last 53 years of his life on his Concord property, working as a farmer and serving as caretaker and steward of the historic Olive Stow House. He was survived by his son Albert, who continued to reside in the house for the remaining two years of the family's 25-year reservation, until October 2000.

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[94] Deed Book 12885, p. 742, signed October 30, 1975. Interestingly, the deed makes no mention of the buildings on the property.

[95] "Preservation Easement" for Tract No. 03-120, on file at Minute Man NHP. There are 29 separate items in the easement that detail allowable use and treatment of the property by the Hovagimians and the National Park Service.

[96] Concord Fire Department "Basic Incident Report" #17-067-2124, Dec. 11, 1983.

**Figure 4.** Olive Stow House: front facade, February 1963.

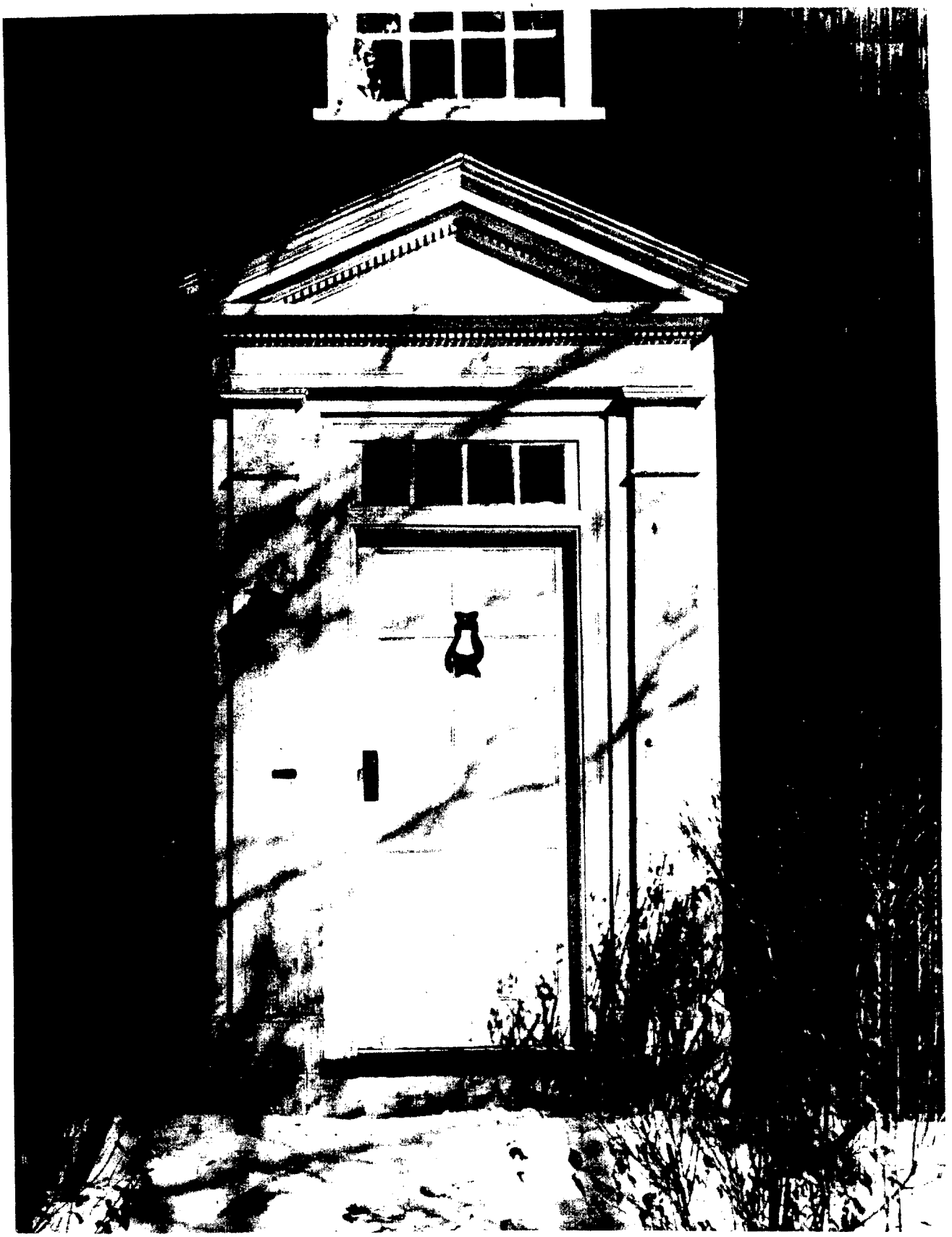
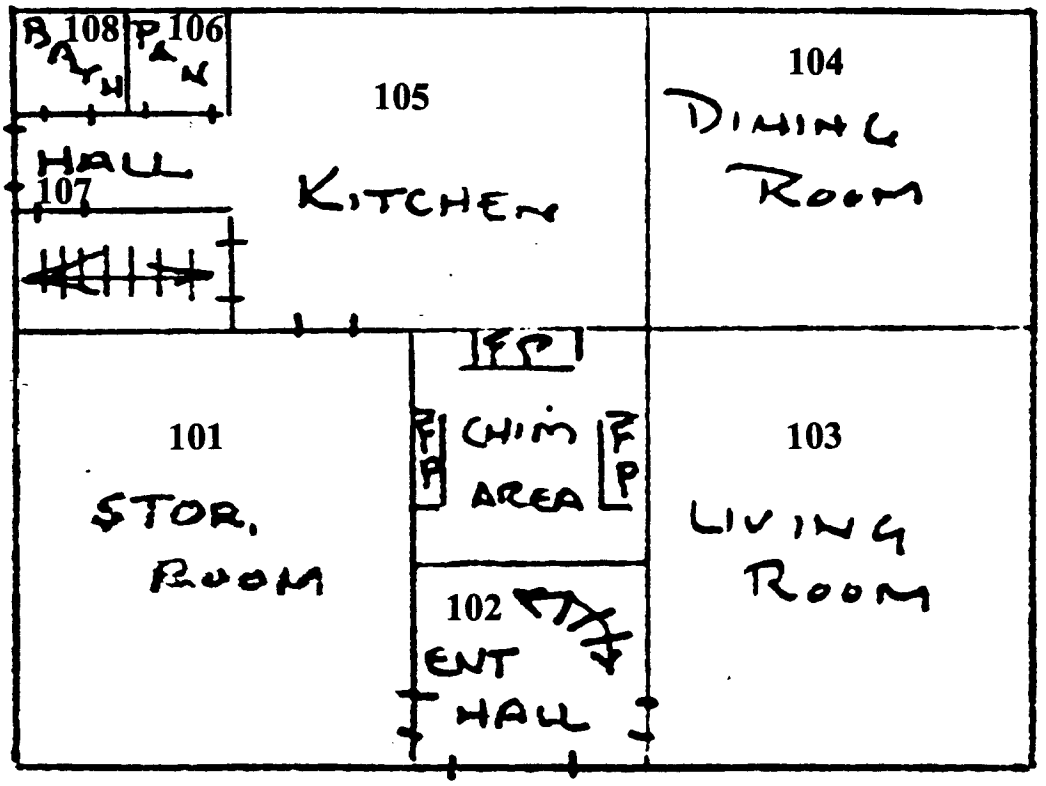


**Figure 5.** Olive Stow House: front doorway, February 9, 1963.

**Figure 6.** Olive Stow House: west and north elevations, February 1963.

**Figure 7.** Olive Stow House: east elevation, February 1963.

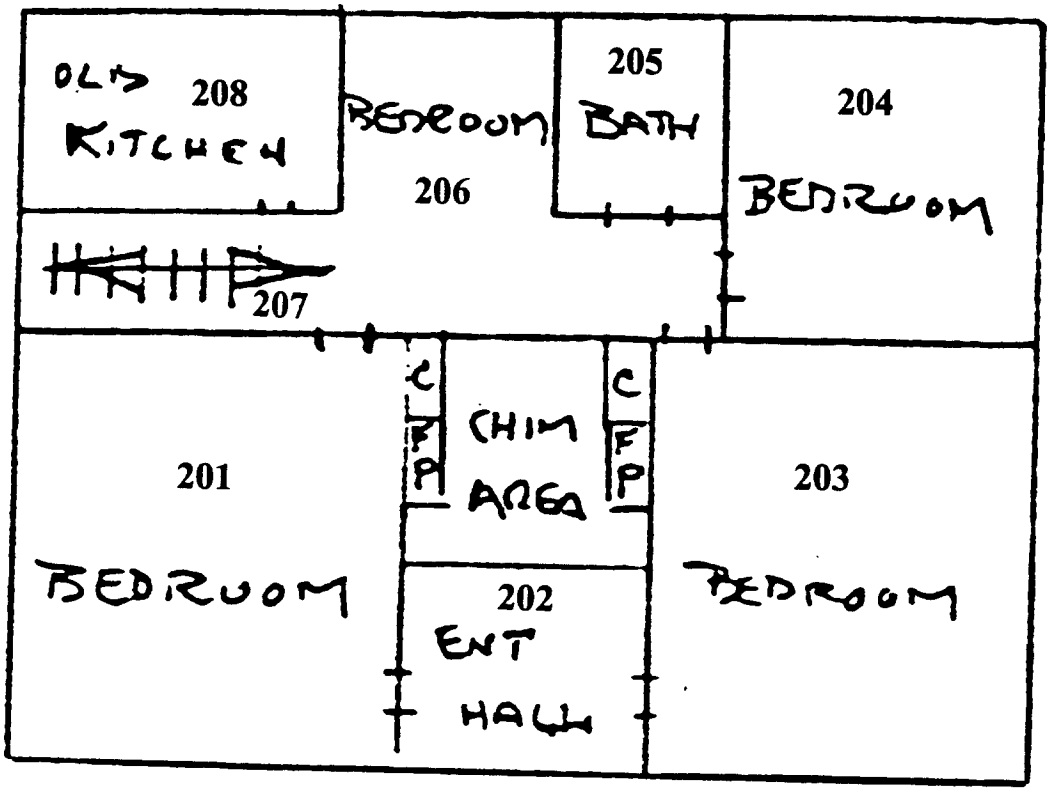
**Figure 8.** Olive Stow House: front and west elevations, September 1969.




PROJECT NORTH

# First Floor

**Figure 9.** Schematic first-floor plan, 1972.




# Second Floor

*PROJECT NORTH*

**Figure 10.** Schematic second-floor plan, 1972.

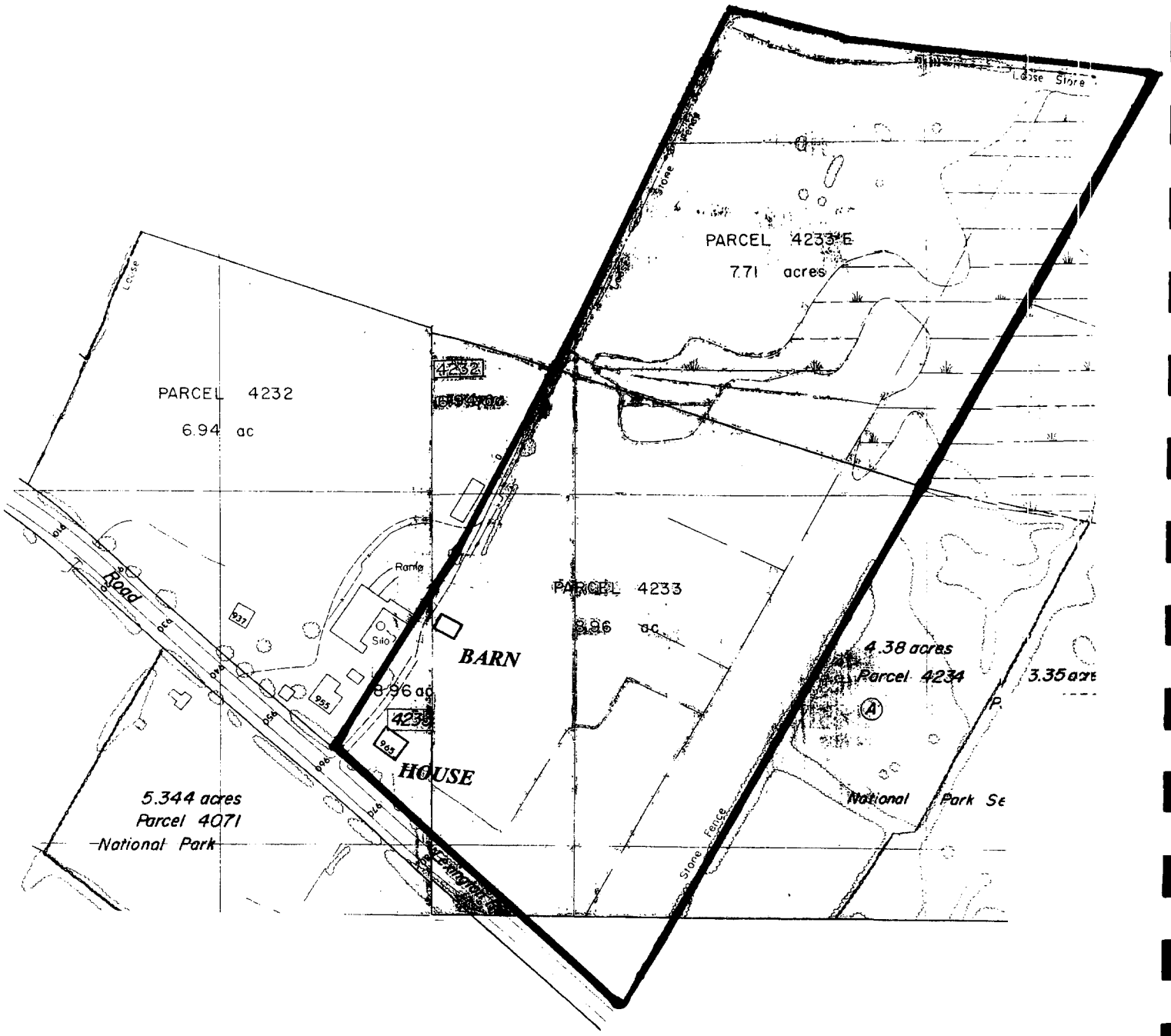



**Figure 11.** Detail of sheet J9 of the "Town of Concord Assessor's Maps," showing parcels 4233 and 4233-E (the Hovagimian farm), 1997.

## National Park Service: 2000 - Present

The National Park Service gained possession of the Olive Stow House property upon the expiration of the Hovagimian family's 25-year reservation, on October 25, 2000. The house was then vacated by the last surviving family member, Albert Hovagimian.

The Hovagimian's former home, the historic Olive Stow House, has remained unoccupied since October 2000. No work has been undertaken on the house with the exception of the installation of an intrusion-detection system, and battery-operated smoke detectors. Water has been drained from the plumbing system, and the building is unheated in the winter. Electrical and telephone service has been maintained.

Architectural evaluation of the Olive Stow House commenced on November 13, 2001, when a one-day training session was held at the house. Participants included historical architects, architectural conservators, and preservation specials from the Building Conservation Branch of the Northeast Cultural Resources Center, National Park Service. Preliminary documentary research was conducted by Judith Quinn-Sullivan, and a physical examination of the house was conducted by the participants. The general consensus of this collaboration was that although the physical evidence indicated a construction date of sometime before 1800, it was unclear whether this had occurred by April 19, 1775.

Phase I research on the architectural history, ownership, occupancy, and development of the Olive Stow House and property was undertaken by architectural conservator Barbara Yocum, beginning in March 2002. The findings of this investigation were written in May 2002 in a draft incremental "Historic Structure Report." It was therein concluded that the existing house had been constructed by Ebenezer Hardy sometime between 1784 and 1798, based on the tax records. A more precise construction date "commencing during 1786" was ascertained by a concurrent dendrochronology study. Corings for the study were obtained from oak framing members in the attic in May 2002; preliminary results were made available in July 2002. See Appendix D for a summary of the dendrochronology methodology and results.

# ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTIONS

# OLIVE STOW HOUSE

## General Description

The Olive Stow House is a 2 ½- story, wood-frame structure with a full cellar, walk-up attic, and large center chimney, located at 965 Lexington Street in Concord, Massachusetts. The house is situated close to the road on a rise of land in the southwest corner of the property. It is separated from the nearby historic Farwell Jones House to the west by an unpaved drive that was laid out as a lane to the brick kiln field in 1720. A modern barn built in 1945 is located down the lane to the north.

The footprint of the Stow House measures approximately 40' 6" wide by 30' 6" deep. A small gable-roofed entrance to the cellar is located on the back (northeast) side. The house frame is a heavy post-and-beam type with full two-story corner posts, supported on a stone foundation. Wide sheathing boards cover both the sidewalls and the gable roof, beneath later finish materials of wood siding shingles and roll roofing. The front façade is symmetrically arranged, with windows flanking a classic pedimented entrance. Two additional doorways enter the first story in the west elevation. There are 25 window openings in the first, second, and attic stories of the house fitted with a variety of double-hung sashes, including two lights over two lights, six-over-six, six-over-nine, and eight-over-twelve. Four-light transoms are also situated over the two early exterior doorways: one at the front entrance, the other in the west elevation. The large center chimney is constructed of red bricks with flues for five fireplaces and a bake oven. There are no gutters or downspouts.

The interior rooms of the house are arranged around the center chimney stack. Situated in front of the chimney is the main entry and stair to the second story. Located off this hall on either side of the chimney are large rooms of roughly equal size in both the first and second stories, each equipped with a fireplace. Rooms in the back portion of the house in the first story include a kitchen with fireplace and bake oven, a pantry, a dining room, a toilet room, and back stairs leading to the cellar and second story. Upstairs, the back of the house is partitioned into two bedrooms, a bathroom, a second kitchen, and an enclosed attic stair. Dominating the cellar is the stone foundation of the center chimney, featuring an east-west arched opening, and built-in brickwork storage shelves on the back side. The cellar is also the location of the steam boiler for the central heating system and oil storage tank. The attic is unfinished.

The Olive Stow House is an 18th-century house that has survived at least two fires and several remodelings. An attempt is made in the following sections to identify and describe the existing building materials that remain from its various periods of construction. Rooms have been assigned numbers, which are keyed to floor plans included in Appendix E.

## Original Surviving Elements: Circa 1786

### Dating

There is no question that the Olive Stow House was constructed sometime in the 18th century. The tall proportions of the rooms, lack of physical evidence of interior exposed framing, and full two-story corner posts suggest a date sometime after circa 1700. A date of sometime after circa 1725 is further suggested by the use of original accordion lath found in

some of the rooms, which was in common use circa 1725 to 1825. A date before 1800 is indicated by the use of hand-forged hardware, such as nails, strap hinges, and H-L hinges, while selected samples of early machine-cut nails suggest a construction date closer to 1800. The one original surviving door handle is a Suffolk latch of a type that was typically imported from England in great quantities after the American Revolution (post-1783). The extensive use of plaster-wall finishes in favor of interior wall paneling shows a preference for the Federal style of decorating, circa 1780-1820. Evidence provided by the tax records makes a strong case for the house having been constructed by Ebenezer Hardy sometime between 1784 and 1798. A more precise construction date of "circa 1786" was determined by a dendrochronology study of original attic framing members.

**General Exterior Appearance**

The general shape and massing of the Olive Stow House is unchanged from its original construction circa 1786. The large brickwork chimney centered at the roof ridge appears to be unaltered, although close examination has yet to be undertaken. Original skived clapboards remain on the front and side elevations of the house, beneath later wood shingles installed circa 1892. The symmetrical fenestration of the front elevation is preserved, and minor changes only have occurred to the window and doorway openings in the front and side elevations. Most altered are the window openings in the rear elevation. Two original doorways with 4-light transoms and paneled doors survive: one with a classical pedimented surround in the front elevation, the other with a simple hood in the side (west) elevation. Original plank window frames, with 8-over-12 double-hung sashes, remain in the second story of the front and side elevations.

**Foundation**

A substantial stone foundation supports the house and lines the walls of the full cellar. While it is possible that the some of the stones may have been reused from the earlier 17th century house on the property, there is no clear evidence of the foundation having been constructed in stages. The foundation is therefore presumed to date to the construction of the existing house circa 1786.

**Entrance Paver.**

A large granite paver is located at the front entrance doorway of the house. This is a substantial flat-topped stone, the north end of which is incorporated into the front wall of the foundation, leaving little doubt that the stone is an original feature of the house. While it was hoped that the builder had celebrated the placement of this monolith by carving a date, no such inscription was found.

**Structural Frame**

The existing post-and-beam frame of the Olive Stow House appears to have been assembled in one construction episode, based on the presence of full two-story corner posts.[97] The frame is two bays deep, with the front bay deeper than the back bay. It was constructed

[97] An earlier house may have had a lean-to configuration, as indicated by one-story posts in the back wall.

using the scribe-rule method, in which each joint is custom-made and marked (scribed) prior to assembly. The frame consists of a combination of hand-hewn and band-sawn members, with larger members such as sills, posts, and beams being hewn, and smaller members such as joists, rafters, and purlins being sawn. The gable roof is notable for its original hand-hewn ridge pole of pentagonal shape supported by the center chimney. Wide band-sawn boards attached with hand-wrought nails sheath the exterior side of the frame's sidewalls and roof. Inside, only the corner posts of the frame, cased with woodwork, are exposed within the finished rooms. Lath and plaster conceal the framing (summer beams and joists) of the original ceilings, with no evidence that the ceiling framing had ever been exposed.

**Chimney**

The large brickwork chimney provided ventilation for four fireplaces in the front rooms of the house, and the kitchen fireplace and bake oven in the back. The chimney's stone foundation in the cellar also supported the framing of the first floor, making it an integral part of the original construction. Other features of the chimney foundation include an arched center passage, which provided additional storage space in the cellar, and brickwork storage shelves on the back side. A similar arched passage and brickwork shelves were incorporated into the chimney foundation of the nearby Joshua Brooks House that was constructed circa 1779-81 in Lincoln.

**Siding**

Original skived clapboards with lapped ends, attached with hand-wrought nails, were found preserved beneath later (circa-1892) shingles on the front, east, and west sides of the house. These clapboards vary in both size and exposure. Narrower clapboards with exposures of 3" to 31/2" were used in the first story, while wider clapboards with exposures of 3 5/8" to 3 ¾" were used in the second story. Exposed sheathing boards appear to have served as the siding of the rear (north) elevation for many years, judging by weathering of the boards and the absence of early clapboards or physical evidence of missing clapboards. The rear elevation was later sided with early shingles circa 1805-15, based on fragments of shingles held with early cut nails found preserved on the sheathing boards.

**Roofing**

Complete removal of the existing multiple layers of roofing is necessary to determine if any remnants of circa-1786 roofing survive today. This would likely have been hand-riven shingles circa 1786.

**Exterior Doorways**

There are three original exterior doorways: one in the front façade, one in the west elevation, and one in the back elevation. The front doorway features a pedimented surround, and a 6-panel door below a 4-light transom. This doorway is similar in appearance to the front doorway at the Joshua Brooks House in Lincoln, constructed circa 1779-81. There is some question as to the antiquity of the existing front door of the Olive Stow House, however, since it differs in both appearance and construction from all the other early doors in the house. The moldings of this door are Federal in style (circa 1780-1820), are located on both sides of the door, and are applied as opposed to integral with the stiles and rails.

Additional physical investigation, such as a comparative analysis of the door's interior painted finishes with those of the front entry, would confirm if this door is original or later.

The side doorway, on the north side of the west elevation, retains its original trim with top hood, 4-light transom, and 8-panel door. It provided direct entrance to the back rooms of the house. The door has raised-and-beveled panels on the exterior side, and attached vertical-board paneling on the interior side.

The back doorway provides exterior access to the cellar from the exterior. While the original doorway opening in the cellar foundation remains today, an associated shed enclosure and door are of 20th-century construction.

## Windows

Nine original window openings and their double-hung sashes survive in three elevations of the second story: the south (front), east, and west elevations. These plank-frame windows have projecting and mortised frames that are embellished with dentil cornices in the front elevation, and hoods in the side elevations. The upper sashes are fixed in place and have eight lights; the operable lower sashes have twelve lights. The muntins have a wide profile, measuring 15/16".[98] Although mostly replaced with new glass, some lights retain their imperfect old glass.

Two original four-light transoms are also located above the two original exterior doorways: one in the front facade, the other in the west elevation. The muntins of these transom sashes are identical to those of the sashes described above, suggesting that the transoms are also original.

## Hardware

Only a selected few nail samples were pulled for the first phase of research of the Olive Stow House. Those associated with elements believed to date to the original construction of the house were found to be either hand-wrought or an early machine-cut type. Hand-wrought nails were found attaching exterior sheathing boards, sidewall boards in the attic stair, and trim in the southwest room of the first story (Room 101). Early machine-cut nails were found attaching the exterior pedimented trim of the exterior doorway, the west baseboard at the upper landing of the main stair, and the kitchen fireplace mantel. Additional physical investigation is required to determine if the early machine-cut nails are in fact original, or signify later alterations.

Original hand-wrought hardware also survives at some of the early paneled doors. Large strap hinges support the two early exterior doors, and smaller H or H-L hinges the interior doors. Only one original door handle, a Suffolk thumb latch, remains on one of the doors in the second story (Room 201).[99] The style of the latch, with bean cusps and swivel

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[98] Wide muntins measuring about 1 ¼ " were in common use prior to 1790; after 1790, muntins narrowed to about ¾". The muntins at the Olive Stow House appear to be transitional, measuring less than 1 ¼" but more than ¾". (Source: David Hart, "How to Date a House, Part Two," p. 258.)

[99] The latch in now upside-down due to the later repositioning of the door to swing in the opposite direction. The door is in the east doorway of Room 201 connecting with the hall.

lift located in the throat below the top cusp, is typical of Suffolk latches that were imported in large quantities from England after the American Revolution (post-1783).[100]

## Interior Layout

The original interior layout of rooms is unaltered in the front bay of the house in the first and second stories. These include the front entry and upper hall (Room 102-202), and the rooms and chambers on either side of the chimney (Rooms 101, 103, 201, and 203). Also unchanged from their original open configuration are the cellar and attic stories.

## Interior Wall Paneling

Walls finished with hand-planed, vertical boards survive at the east wall and closet of the southwest room (Room 101), at the lower stair in the front entry (Room 102), within the closet of the southwest chamber (Room 201), and at the attic stair. Single-board (plank) partitions that may also date to the original construction are found in the back rooms of the first story and in the second story at the back stairs.

## Lath and Plaster

Early plaster on original accordion lath (commonly used circa 1725-1825) is preserved on the walls and ceiling of the southwest chamber (Room 201). Additional physical investigation is required to determine the full extent of surviving original lath and plaster in the house.

## Floorboards

Wide floorboards that presumably date to the original construction of the house survive in the front entry (Room 102), in all the rooms of the second story, and in the attic story. Floorboards in the east chambers of the second story were reinstalled when the floor framing of those rooms was leveled sometime in the 20th century.

## Interior Doors

Nine original interior doors remain in the house. These include seven full-size doors and two small cabinet doors. All of the doors are hand-made and hand-planed; those with panels have through-mortise tenons, and moldings that are integral with the stiles and rails. Eight of the doors have raised beveled panels on one side and plain recessed panels on the other side. These include two single-panel cabinet doors above the kitchen fireplace (Room 105), three 6-panel doors in the southwest and southeast rooms of the first story (Rooms 101, 103), two 4-panel doors in the southwest chamber (Room 201), and one 2-panel door at the closet of the southwest chamber (Room 201). One other early door is a board-and-batten type, located at the second-story attic doorway.

[100] Albert Sonn, *Early American Wrought Iron* (New York: Bonanza Books, 1928), p. 158.

### Interior Woodwork Trim

Original woodwork trim has survived to various extents in the principal rooms of the house, including the front entry (Room 102), the southwest room (Room 101), the southeast room (Room 103), the southwest chamber (Room 201), and the upper hall (Rooms 202). Moldings embellished the woodwork of Rooms 101 and 103, including cornices installed at the interior fireplace walls of those rooms. Simpler, plain-board treatments were used in the front entry (Room 102), the southwest chamber (Room 201), and the upper hall (Room 202).

### Fireplaces and Bake Oven

There are five original fireplaces in the house: three in the first story, two in the second story. These are in the southwest room, the southeast room, the kitchen, the southwest chamber, and the southeast chamber (Rooms 101, 103, 105, 201, and 203). A bake oven is also located to the left (east) side of the large kitchen fireplace. Of these, no original opening appears to remain intact and unaltered. Two fireplaces only retain their early wooden mantels: in the kitchen (Room 105), and the southwest chamber (Room 201). One brickwork hearth, in the southwest chamber, remains in place.

### Paint and Wallpaper Finishes

A cursory sampling of exterior paints found the earliest surviving paint to be a mustard-yellow color on the west 8-panel door. No wallpapers of 18th-century vintage have been found in the house.

## Greek Revival Alterations: Circa 1830s

### General Description and Dating

The charred remains of a fire observed on the east and back sides of the attic, in the vicinity of the chimney, may explain an extensive remodeling that was undertaken in the southeast chamber (Room 203) and in the back rooms of the second story (Rooms 204, 205, 206, and 207). A date for the remodeling of sometime after circa 1800 is based on the use of cast-iron butt hinges and Norfolk latches for the new doors installed at this time. "Greek Revival" style moldings used to trim the woodwork suggest a time period of circa 1820-60. Machine-cut nails used to attach the moldings have rounded points and burrs on both sides of the nail shank, typically found in use after circa 1815 and before circa 1840. Sawn lath supporting the new plaster came into common use after circa 1825. A date of "circa 1830s" has therefore been assigned to these alterations.

### Interior Layout

The back portion of the second story appears to have been partitioned into three rooms circa 1830s (Rooms 204, 205-206, and 208). Partition walls for a bathroom (Room 205) were likely added at some later date.

### Lath and Plaster

The walls and ceiling of the southeast chamber (Room 203) were newly plastered on sawn lath circa 1830s, as were the new rooms on the back side of the house. The ceiling in the upper stair hall (Room 202) may also have been renewed at this time. The back sides of these plastered ceilings are clearly visible today beneath the floorboards in the attic.

### Doors

Seven new doors were installed as part of the circa-1830s remodeling. Three were hung in the southeast chamber (Room 203), and four in the new back chambers. These are hand-made, four-panel doors, constructed with through-mortise tenons. The panels have straight raised panels on one side, and unmolded recessed panels on the other side. Contemporary surviving hardware includes cast-iron butt hinges, and Norfolk latches with die-cast handles.

### Woodwork Trim

Woodwork trim in the southeast chamber and rear chambers dates to the circa-1830s remodeling. This includes baseboards with simple top-bead detail, and trim at the doorway and window openings with applied ogee moldings.

### Fireplace Mantel

The wooden mantel in the southeast chamber has the simple classical proportions of the Greek Revival period and therefore likely dates to the circa-1830s remodeling. There are no mantels in the back chambers, nor is there any physical evidence for a fireplace. The patched outline of a former stove-pipe opening in the chimney at the south wall of Room 206 may indicate that a stove warmed this room in the 1830s.

## Late Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Alterations

### General Description and Dating

Many changes and improvements have been made to the Olive Stow House over the years to adapt it to modern living standards. Some elements of the old house have also been lost to progressive age and deterioration. The exterior appearance has been altered with the application of wooden shingles on the sidewalls, and roll roofing on the roof. Inside, sags have been straightened in the old floors and ceilings of selected rooms, and new windows have replaced old. Mechanical and utility systems have been installed, including plumbing, central heating, and electrical wiring. The last major remodeling appears to have been carried out in the early 1950s, when the existing kitchen was modernized and a second kitchen was installed in the second story.

Twentieth-century building materials used at the Olive Stow House include wire nails, modern cut nails, circular-sawn lumber, machine-made doors and window sashes, strip oak flooring, narrow pine flooring, gypsum wallboard, knotty-pine paneling, fiberboard paneling, fiberboard ceiling panels, and machine-printed wallpapers.

## Structural Framing

Most of the old ground sills of the house have been removed and replaced with new lumber. The intermediate post in the northeast corner of the southeast room (Room 103) is missing, most likely removed due to deterioration or to make room for steam-heating pipes. New floor framing has completely replaced the old framing in the southwest, southeast, and northeast rooms (Rooms 101, 103, and 104). The existing old floor joists in the southeast and northeast chambers (Rooms 203 and 204) have been repositioned to correct sags caused by deflections in the center pine beams.

## Shed Enclosure

A small wood-framed, gable-roofed structure covers the back exterior entrance to the cellar, at the east end of the back (north) elevation. This enclosure was built sometime after the house was sided with wood shingles circa 1892 and before the photograph of circa 1935 (fig. 3),

## Exterior Siding

The existing shingle siding on the exterior sidewalls was installed circa 1892, based on a Boston Globe newspaper of that date found beneath the shingles on the rear (north) side of the house. The shingles are red cedar, attached with machine-cut nails. Areas of selected repairs, such as on the east elevation, used pine shingles attached with wire nails.

## Doorways

A modern door opening, door, and protective shed roof are located on the south side of the west elevation. This doorway provides direct access from the outside to the southwest room (Room 101). It was likely installed by Mr. Hovagimian, who used this room for his egg business after he acquired the house in 1945. Mr. Hovagimian was probably also responsible for the storm enclosure at the original side doorway in this elevation.

## Windows

Many of the old windows in the house were replaced with new cased frames and weighted double-hung sashes circa 1892. These included both 6-over-6 sashes in the first and second stories, and 6-over-9 sashes in gable ends of the attic story. One set of 6-over-9 sashes also appears to have been reused next to the original side doorway sometime in the 20th century. Most recently installed (circa 1950s) is a large window with 2-over-2 sashes in the second story of the rear elevation.

## Roofing

At least two layers of roofing cover the roof today. The top layer is roll roofing that was installed sometime after 1972. The roll roofing may have been applied to triangle-shaped asphalt shingles that were on the roof in 1963 and 1972, according to the photographic documentation. Wood shingles are the earliest layer of roofing on the sheathing boards, which are visible between cracks in the boards from the attic. Wood

shingles covered the roof as late as circa 1935, as documented by the earliest known photograph of the house (fig. 3).

**Exterior Painted Finishes**

The existing exterior painted finishes include brown stain or paint applied to the shingle siding, and white paint applied to the trim, doorways, and window sashes. It is not known when the house was last painted.

**Interior Layout**

The historic interior layout of rooms remained unchanged in the 20th century, except in the rear portion of the house in the first story. Here, new gypsum-board partition walls were installed to create the configuration of rooms that exists today. This work may have been carried out around 1950, when the kitchen was modernized and a toilet room installed next to the side entrance. The existing modern rooms include a dining room (Room 104), a kitchen (Room 105), a pantry (Room 106), a side entry hall (Room 107), and a toilet room (Room 108).

**Flooring**

Modern floorboards replaced historic floorboards in several rooms of the house in the 20th century. Strip oak flooring, 2 ¼" wide, covers the floors in the southwest room (Room 101), the southeast room (Room 103), the kitchen (Room 105), and the pantry (Room 106). Pine floorboards 3 ¼" wide finish the floor of the dining room (Room 104). Many floors in the house are also overlaid with patterned felt-based flooring. A poured-concrete floor in the cellar is also undoubtedly a 20th-century improvement.

**Wall Materials**

A variety of modern wall materials were installed in the Olive Stow House in the 20th century. These include gypsum wallboard (Rooms 104-108), fiberboard paneling (Room 103), knotty-pine paneling (Rooms 103 and 105), and masonite tileboard (Room 105).

**Ceiling Materials**

Two types of modern ceiling materials were observed at the Olive Stow House: fiberboard ceiling tiles and gypsum wallboard. Fiberboard ceiling tiles replaced the existing plaster ceilings in the southeast room (Room 103) and the dining room (Room 104 ), when structural repairs were made to the structural framing of those ceilings. Gypsum wallboard finishes the ceiling of the kitchen (Room 105).

**Woodwork Trim**.

Trim installed in the rooms in the 20th century typically consists of plain boards. This may be found in the southwest room (Room 101, baseboards), the kitchen (Room 105), the toilet room (Room 108), and the second-story kitchen (Room 208).

## Interior Doors

Five modern machine-made doors have been installed in the Olive Stow House in the 20th century. They include a glazed door in the exterior west wall of the southwest room (Room 101), a 6-panel door in the north wall of the southwest room (Room 101), a knotty-pine door at the cellar doorway of the kitchen (Room 105), a glazed door at the foot of the back stair to the second story (Room 107), and a two-panel door at the toilet room (Room 108).

## Door Hardware

Modern 20th-century door hardware is found on both the five new doors described above, and adapted to several of the historic paneled doors of the house. This hardware includes loose-pin hinges, spring hinges, doorknobs, locksets, and dead bolts.

## Fireplace Alterations

Most of the fireplaces in the house have been altered over the years, in the late 19th or 20th centuries. The historic fireplace mantels were replaced with modern wooden mantels, and the hearths replaced with concrete scored to resemble tiles, in both the southwest and southeast rooms (Rooms 101 and 103). The openings of both the kitchen fireplace and side bake oven were enclosed with plaster-finished brickwork, and later concealed behind knotty-pine paneling (Room 105). The fireplace opening of the southeast chamber (Room 203) was similarly enclosed with brickwork and plaster.

## China Cabinet

A reproduction antique china cabinet is built into the northwest corner of the dining room (Room 104). Although the cabinet has the appearance of an old piece, the modern materials and hardware of which it is assembled clearly identify it as a reproduction.

## Cellar Stair

A new cellar stair assembled with wire nails may have replaced an earlier stair when the existing poured-concrete floor of the cellar was installed.

## Wallpaper Finishes

Most of the plastered rooms in the Olive Stow House are finished with two or more layers of wallpaper. These include the southwest room (Room 101), the front entry (Room 102), the dining room (Room 104), the toilet room (Room 108), the southwest chamber (Room 201), the second-story hall (Room 202), the southwest chamber (Room 203), the northeast chamber (Room 204), the north chamber (Room 206), and the second-story kitchen (Room 208). Wallpaper is also applied to the south paneled wall of the attic stairway. All the currently exposed wallpaper patterns are machine printed on mechanical wood-pulp paper. Extra rolls of most of the patterns are stored in the attic, suggesting that the wallpapers were installed by the last owners of the house (the Hovagimian family, 1945-2000).

## Heating Equipment

The Olive Stow House is equipped with a functioning oil-fueled, steam heating system. A central-heating system appears to have been installed in the house by 1928, based on a mortgage document that described "all furnaces, heaters, ranges [etc.]." The heat is regulated by a single thermostat mounted to the north wall of the southeast room (Room 103). The boiler is a "No. 164 Smith Boiler" manufactured by the H.B. Smith Co., Inc., of Westfield, Massachusetts. The existing burner was installed in June 2000. Both the boiler and oil-storage tank are located in the cellar at the back (north) wall. Cast-iron radiators manufactured by three different companies are in the rooms of the first and second stories. Radiators made by the "American Radiator Co." are in the southwest room (Room 101), the southeast room (Room 103), and the dining room (Room 104); one radiator labeled "U.S." by an unknown manufacturer is in the kitchen (Room 105); and radiators by the "H.B. Smith Co." are in the front entry (Room 102), the southwest chamber (Room 201), the southeast chamber (Room 203), the bathroom (Room 205), and the second-story kitchen (Room 208).

## Electrical Equipment

The house is presently wired for 60-amp. service. Electrical equipment existed in the house by 1928, based on a mortgage document of that date that described "all . . . gas and electric light fixtures." A fuse box is located in the cellar, mounted to the south wall. Exposed porcelain knob-and-tube equipment is visible in the attic, and wiring covered by applied wooden molding is visible in the back stair hall. Most light fixtures in the rooms of the first and second stories are wall-mounted sconces of circa-1920s vintage. Rooms are also equipped with one or two wall-mounted electrical outlets.

## Plumbing Equipment

One bathroom, one toilet room, and two kitchens are equipped with plumbing fixtures. Water is supplied by the Town of Concord. Waste drains to two separate septic tanks situated east of the house.

Plumbing fixtures located in the second-story bathroom (Room 205) appear to be the oldest in the house, and include a white-enameled wall-mounted lavatory, a footed bath tub, and a toilet manufactured by the "Standard" Company circa "1933" (based on a stamped date on the underside of the tank cover).

The toilet room in the first story (Room 108) may have been installed circa 1950-51, based on the dates of manufacture on both the white-enameled lavatory and toilet. Writing on the lavatory identifies it as having been made by the "American Standard & Radiator Corporation, Baltimore" on "7-25-50." The toilet, also made by the "Standard" Company was manufactured "Mar. 8, 1950." The existing toilet tank is a later replacement dated "2-28-67."

The existing kitchens also probably date to circa 1950-51.[101] Both the kitchen in the second story (Room 208) and the main kitchen (Room 105) have identical white-enamel

[101] The last owner of the house, Hagop Hovagimian, is said to have installed a kitchen in the second story for the use of fellow Armenian immigrants who boarded with the family. (Source:

sinks housed in metal cabinets labeled "Youngstown Kitchens by Mullins." Also located in the northwest corner of the main kitchen is a later free-standing "Durastall" shower made by "E.L. Mustee & Sons, Inc."

## CONCRETE-BLOCK BARN

A one-story barn constructed of concrete blocks on a stone foundation is located north of the Olive Stow House. This gable-roof structure was constructed in 1945, based on the date "June 30, 1945" scribed in the cast-concrete threshold of the south doorway in the ground story.[102] The barn may have been used as a chicken coop by the last owner of the house, Hagop Hovagimian, whose profession was "egg dealer." The footprint of the building measures 33 feet wide by 22 feet deep. The principal entrance is in the south elevation of the main story, accessed by an earthen ramp. This doorway is fitted with a pair of side-hinged, glazed and paneled doors. Window openings are equipped with 6-over-6 sashes. Inside, the main story of the barn is divided by a wooden partition into two rooms; the ground (cellar) story consists of one large room. Asphalt roofing shingles are covered by later roll roofing.

Assistant Superintendent Dan Dattilio to Barbara Yocum April 17, 2002. Dan Dattilio obtained the information from Hagop Hovagimian's son Albert.)

[102] A construction date of 1945 is also confirmed by a rise in the valuation of the barn in the tax assessment records for the years 1944-45.

# ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

# STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

| Structural Element | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| Foundation | 1786 | Stone walls support the house and line the walls of a full cellar at the Olive Stow House. While some of the stones may have been reused from an earlier structure, the existing walls appear to have been assembled in one building episode (circa 1786). A large granite paver at the front doorway is an integral part of the front foundation. |
| Frame | 1786 | The frame is a post-and-beam type with full two-story corner posts. Roman numerals and other marks scribed at the mortise-and-tenon joints are indicative of a system of joinery known as "scribe rule." Larger members such as sills, posts, and beams are hand-hewn, while smaller members such as joists, studs, rafters and purlins are band-sawn. The frame is composed of oak and pine, with both used for large and small members. The gable roof is notable for its original hand-hewn ridge pole of pentagonal shape. Wide band-sawn boards attached with hand-wrought nails sheath the exterior side of the frame's sidewalls and roof. Inside, only the corner posts of the frame, cased with woodwork, are exposed within the finished rooms. Lath and plaster conceal the framing of the original ceilings. |
| | 20th century | Most of the original ground sills have been replaced with new lumber. Two intermediate posts in the first story have been removed: one in the northeast corner of the southeast room (Room 103), the other at the north wall of the kitchen (Room 105). New floor framing has completely replaced the old framing in the southwest, southeast and northeast rooms (Rooms 101, 103, and 104). The existing original floor joists in the southeast and northeast chambers (Rooms 203 and 204) have been repositioned to straighten sags caused by deflections in the center pine beams. Metal lally columns in the cellar support the framing of the first floor, while wooden posts in the attic support the roof rafters. |
| Rear Shed Entrance | 20th century | A small gable-roof structure attached to the north (easterly) side of the house provides a covered entrance to the cellar. The structure is assembled using modern dimensioned lumber and wire nails. It had been constructed by circa 1935, judging by a photograph of that date that shows it as existing (fig. 3). |

## EXTERIOR ELEMENTS

| Exterior Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Foundation** | 1786 | The stone walls of the original foundation are not visible on the exterior side of the house, most likely due to heightening of the adjacent grade over the years. |
| | 20th century | A cast-concrete ledge has been added to the exterior side of the foundation on the north-westerly side of the house. |
| **Siding** | 1786 | Three sides of the house were originally sided with skived clapboards with lapped ends attached to wide sheathing boards with hand-wrought nails. Most of the original sheathing boards survive on the four sides of the house today. Clapboards survive beneath later shingle siding on three sides: the front façade, east elevation, and west elevation. The exposed sheathing boards appear to have served as the siding on the back side of the house for several years before being covered with early rived shingles. The four corners of the house were finished with plain boards attached with hand-wrought nails, portions of which survive at the southeast and southwest corners. |
| | 1805-15 | The exposed sheathing boards on the north elevation were covered with hand-rived shingles circa 1805-15, based on the early machine-cut nails with which they were attached. Only a few scraps of these shingles survive on the north elevation today beneath later shingles. |
| | 1892 | The existing red cedar shingle siding was installed sometime after August 21, 1892, based on a Boston Globe newspaper of that date found beneath the shingles and below window W-107 in the north elevation. |
| | 20th century | Red cedar shingles have been replaced with pine shingles held with wire nails in selected area of repairs. |
| **Doorways**<br><br>*(Doorway numbers are keyed to architectural drawings in Appendix E)* | 1786 & 20th century | There are five exterior doorways at the Olive Stow House. Three are original doorways (circa-1786), and two date to the 20th century. The original doorways are a cellar entrance (D-001), a front doorway (D-101), and a side entrance (D-103). A modern shed enclosure and doorway were constructed at the cellar entrance sometime between 1892 and 1935 (D-102); a second doorway was installed in |

| Exterior Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorways (cont'd)** | | place of an original window in the west elevation circa 1950s (D-104). |
| D-001 | 1786 & 20th century | D-001 is the original exterior cellar entrance on the north side, east end, of the foundation, which is covered by a later (20th-century) shed enclosure. |
| D-101 | 1786 & 1810-20 | D-101 is the front entrance doorway with original 4-light transom, pedimented surround, and later door. The existing 6-panel door differs in both style and construction from all the other doors in the house. Applied moldings held with machine-cut nails suggest a later construction date (circa 1810-20), as do missing layers of early paint on the interior (Room-102) side of the door. Hand-wrought, strap hinges may have been reused from the original door. The doorknob is a modern brass type. |
| D-102 | 20th century | D-102 is located in the north gable end of the 20th-century shed enclosing the cellar entrance. The door is a board-and-batten type. |
| D-103 | 1786 & 1950s | D-103 is the original side entrance with 4-light transom, molded trim, hood, and plank-backed 8-panel door. The door is hung on original wrought-iron strap hinges; the metal door nob is modern . A glazed storm enclosure and wooden storm door were added circa 1950s (fig. 6). |
| D-104 | 1950s | D-104 is a modern doorway with shed roof that replaced an original window opening at the south end of the west elevation circa 1950s (fig. 6). The door has four horizontal panels and one glazed panel, two 5-knuckle hinges, and a modern brass doorknob. |
| **Windows**<br><br>*(Window numbers are keyed to architectural drawings in Appendix E)* | 1786, 1830s, 1892 & 1950s | There are 29 windows at the Olive Stow House: four in the cellar story, 11 in the first story, 12 in the second story, and two in the attic story. Of these, nine are original (circa-1786) openings with original plank frames, trim, and 8-over-12 sashes (W-201 through W-207, W-211, and W-212). Twelve appear to be original openings that were retrofitted circa-1892 with cased frames and casement or weighted sashes (W-001 through W-004, W-101 through W-106, W-301 and W-302). One window, |

| Exterior Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Windows (cont'd)** | | with cased frame and 8-over-12 sashes, was likely a post-fire improvement installed on the back side of the house circa 1830s. One window is a later (circa-1892) opening with cased frame and reused original 6-over-9 sashes (W-111). Two windows on the back side of the house are later openings with cased frames and 6-over-6 sashes dating to circa 1892 (W-107 and W-208). Four windows with modern cased frames and sashes were installed by the last owner circa 1950s (W-108 through W-110, and W-210). Existing screens and storm panels, and hooks for earlier missing screens and storm panels are later additions installed sometime in the 20th century. There are no window shutters. |
| W-001 through W-004 | 1786 & 20th century | W-001 through W-004 are original window openings in the upper stone foundation walls. Two windows are located in the south wall (W-001 and W-002), one is at the east end of the north wall (W-003), and one is at the south end of the west wall (W-004). Top-hinged, 3-light wood sashes, may date to 1892 when several windows in the upper stories were updated with new window frames and sashes. |
| W-101 through W-106 | 1786 & 1892 | W-101 through W-106 are original window openings in the first story of the south façade and in the east elevation. These windows were lengthened approximately one foot circa 1892 and fitted with the existing cased frames and 6-over-6 sashes. |
| W-107 | 1892 | W-107 has a modern cased frame and weighted 6-over-6 sashes. The window appears to have been newly installed in this location circa 1892, judging by a lack of physical evidence for an earlier window opening. A newspaper dated "Aug. 21, 1892," was found in 2002 preserved directly below this window and beneath the existing wood shingles. The window was thus dated "circa 1892." |
| W-108 through W-110 | 1950s | W-108 through W-110 are three windows with modern cased frames and weighted 6-over-6 sashes located in the first story of the north (rear) elevation. These windows appear to be contemporary with the last remodeling of the kitchen circa 1950s. Physical investigation is required to determine the locations of the original kitchen windows. |

| Exterior Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Windows (cont'd)** | | |
| W-111 | 1786; sashes reused 1892 | W-111 has a modern (circa-1892) cased frame with reused original sashes. The sashes are double hung, with six lights in the fixed upper sash, and nine lights in the operable lower sash. Window muntins match the profile of those in the original surviving sashes. These small sashes were likely reused from one of the two original attic windows, which were remodeled with new cased frames and sashes circa 1892. |
| W-201 through W-207 | 1786 | W-201 through W-207 are original surviving window openings with original plank frames and double-hung sashes located in the second story of the front façade and in the east elevation. Sashes are double hung, with eight lights in the fixed upper sashes, and 12 lights in the operable lower sashes. Sash muntins measure 15/16" wide. The five windows in the front façade (W-201 through W-205) have dentil cornices; those in the east elevation (W-206 and W-207) have hoods. |
| W-208 | 1892 | W-208 is a small bathroom window with cased frame and weighted 6-over-6 sashes located in the second story of the north elevation. This window is believed to date to the creation of Room 205 circa 1892. |
| W-209 | 1830s | W-209 is believed to be a later window opening dating to the post-fire renovations of circa 1930. Window elements include a cased frame and mortised sashes with 8-lights over 12-lights. While similar in general design to the original sashes, the muntin profiles differ by being only 5/8"wide. |
| W-210 | 1950s | W-210 is a modern window with 2-over-2 sashes that is contemporary with the remodeling of Room 208 as a kitchen circa 1950s. |
| W-211 and W-212 | 1786 | W-211 and W-212 are original surviving window openings with original double-hung sashes in the second story of the west elevation. The window frames are plank type. Sashes are double hung, with eight lights in the fixed upper sashes, and 12 lights in the operable lower sashes. Sash muntins measure 15/16" wide. The upper windows are topped with hoods, similar to W-206 and W-207 in the east elevation. |

| Exterior Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| W-301 and W-302 | 1786 & 1892 | W-301 and W-302 are original window openings, with later (circa-1892) cased frames and weighted 6-over-8 sashes, located in the gable ends of the attic story. One pair of original attic sashes survives in W-111. |
| **Cornice and Rake Boards** | 1786 & 20th century | Original cornice elements held with hand-wrought nails survive at the front façade, including the frieze, bed molding, soffit, and fascia. Missing from the frieze is a dentil molding, the physical evidence for which is ghosted in the paint finish. The fascia at the rear (north) elevation is later, held with wire nails; the soffit may be earlier. Rake boards in the gable ends were originally about 6" wide, based on the proximity of original surviving clapboards. The rake boards in the west elevation have been replaced with narrower boards. The rake boards in the east elevation have not yet been evaluated. |
| **Gutters** | N/A | There is no gutter equipment on the Olive Stow House, nor is there any documentary or physical evidence for missing gutters. |
| **Roof** | 1786 & 20th century | The Olive Stow House retains its original (circa-1786) roof framing and most of the original wide sheathing boards. New sheathing boards replaced fire-damaged boards in the vicinity of the chimney circa 1830s. Three layers of roofing materials currently cover the roof: wood shingles (extant 1935), triangular-shape asphalt shingles (extant 1963 through 1972), and roll roofing (post-1972). The original roofing was likely hand-riven shingles. |
| **Chimney** | 1786 | There is little doubt that the large center chimney dates to the original construction of the house circa 1786. A stone foundation in the cellar supports the chimney and first-floor framing, and features an arched center passage and rear storage shelves. The chimney stack above the stone foundation is constructed of hand-made red bricks. The chimney flues provide ventilation for four fireplaces in the front rooms of the house, and a kitchen fireplace and bake oven in the back. |
| **Missing Wing** | 1840s-50s | Physical evidence of a missing two-story wing on the west side of the rear elevation was discovered in October 2002 beneath the existing shingle siding. Here step flashing for a former shed roof (presumably the east slope of a gable roof) |

| Exterior Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| | | had been nailed flat against the original sheathing boards when the wing was removed circa 1892. The flashing appears to be zinc, which was employed as a building material as early as the 1840s-50s. Future archeological investigations may uncover the foundation of the missing wing. |
| **Painted Finishes** | 1786 | The earliest exterior paint finish identified by the paint analysis is a mustard-yellow paint containing lead, found on the exterior side of the original west door. The original front door, which was replaced with the existing 6-panel door circa 1820, was likely painted the same mustard-yellow color. Other exterior elements of the house appear to have remained unpainted circa 1786, according to the findings of the paint analysis (see Appendix B), including the siding, trim at the doorways and windows, window sashes, cornice, and soffit. |
| | 1935 | The photograph of circa 1935 (fig. 3) shows what appears to be unpainted wood-shingle siding, and light (white?)-painted trim, door, and sashes. |
| | Existing (2002) | The existing exterior painted finishes include brown stain/paint applied to the shingle siding, and white paint applied to the trim, doorways, and window sashes. The house was last painted sometime before October 2000. |

# INTERIOR ROOMS

## Room 001 (Cellar)

| Room 001 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1786 | A full cellar is an original feature of the house dating to circa 1786. |
| **Floor** | 20th century | The cellar floor is poured concrete. |
| **Walls** | 1786 & 20th century | The cellar walls are exposed stones that appear to have been laid in one construction episode. While it is possible that some of the stones were reused from the earlier house on the property, it was not possible to distinguish earlier construction materials. A large granite paver at the front doorway is incorporated into the construction of the south wall. Joints between the stones are filled with modern portland-cement mortar. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 & 20th century | The cellar ceiling consists of the exposed beams, joists, and undersides of the subflooring in the first story. The ceiling framing was rebuilt with modern lumber sometime in the 20th century in the areas of Rooms 101, 103, and 104. Early ceiling framing survives in the areas corresponding to Rooms 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, and 108. Lally columns installed sometime in the 20th century support the ceiling beams. |
| **Windows** | 1786 & 20th century | There are four windows in the upper walls of the cellar: two in the south wall (W-001 & -002) one in the north wall (W-003), and one in the west wall (W-004). The window openings are presumably original. Top-hinged, three-light wood sashes are of modern construction. |
| **Chimney Base** | 1786 | A massive stone chimney base occupies the center portion of the cellar. Features include a vaulted and brick-lined passage, five-feet wide, that runs from east to west. Brickwork storage shelves, with plank shelving, are incorporated into the chimney base on the back (north) side). A similar chimney, with passage and brickwork shelves, exists in the circa 1779-81 Joshua Brooks House in Lincoln, Massachusetts. |

| Room 001 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Exterior Stair** | 1786 & 20th century | Direct access to the exterior is by means of an exterior stairway at the east end of the back (north) wall. This stairway, which is presumably original, features stone walls, concrete steps, and a modern shed enclosure. Additional physical investigation is required to determine if stone steps survive beneath the concrete, and the appearance of the original enclosure. |
| **Interior Stair** | 1786 & 20th century | An interior wooden stair is located in the northwest corner of the cellar, beneath the back stair to the second story. This is presumably the original location for the interior stair, which provides direct access to the kitchen (Room 105). The stair itself is of 20th-century construction, based on the circular-sawn lumber and wire nails used in its assembly. |
| **Electrical Equipment** | 20th century | A fuse box for the 60-amp. electrical service is mounted to the front (south) wall of the cellar. |
| **Heating Equipment** | 20th century | Heating equipment for the central heating system is located on the back (north) side of the cellar. This includes an oil-storage tank in the northwest corner, and a boiler for the steam-heating system. The boiler is a "No. 164 Smith Boiler" made by "The H.B. Smith Co., Inc." of Westfield, Massachusetts. No numbers identifying the date of manufacture were found on the boiler. The burner was newly replaced in June 2000. Both are operational today. |
| **Plumbing Equipment** | 20th century | Cast-iron and PVC waste pipes are located at the back (north) wall of the cellar. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | Unknown | Remnants of a white-painted finish may be seen on the old ceiling framing members on the back (north) side of the cellar. This is likely whitewash, which was typically used in cellars. |

## Room 101 (Southwest Room)

| Room 101 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1786 | Room 101 is one of the two most formal rooms in the house, located on the west side of the front entry hall. It may have served originally as a second-best parlor or a dining room. The room was used as a "storage room" by the last owner of the house, Hagop Hovagimian, who was a farmer and egg dealer. It was most likely he who installed the existing west exterior doorway. |
| **Floor** | 1786 & 20th century | Original wide floorboards, painted green, survive in the closet at the east wall, south of the fireplace. The original floor of the main room was completely replaced sometime in the 20th century with narrow oak floorboards, 2 ¼" wide, applied to modern subflooring and new floor joists (visible in the cellar). |
| **Walls** | 1786 | Structure. The existing four walls of the room date to circa 1786. Cased structural wall posts are in the four corners of the room. Those in the northeast and southwest corners appear to retain their original casing with simple beaded trim. The northwest and southeast posts have plain casing that is likely a later replacement. |
| | 1786 & 20th century | Plaster. The walls are finished with plaster that may be original. Additional physical investigation is required to identify the lath type. Plaster patching on either side of the windows in the south wall attests to the later remodeling of the windows (circa 1892). |
| | 1786 | Paneling. The walls of the east closet are finished with wide, hand-planed boards that presumably date to circa 1786. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 | The structural framing of the ceiling is presumably original, dating to 1786. It is finished with plaster that may be original; additional physical investigation is required to identify the lath type. |
| **Baseboards** | Unknown | The lower walls are finished with plain, unmolded baseboards of unknown date. |

| Room 101 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Cornice Moldings** | 1786 & 20th century | A deep molded cornice that appears to be original embellishes the east fireplace wall. A narrower molding attached to the upper north, south, and west walls at the ceiling, is likely a later addition installed sometime in the 20th century. |
| **Doorways** | | There are four doorways in Room 101: two are original, two are later additions. |
| | 1786 | Hall Doorway. The hall doorway is located at the south end of the east wall. Original elements include the opening, molded trim, 6-panel door, and H-L hinges. A box latch with black-glass doorknobs is a later addition that likely replaced an original thumb latch. |
| | 1786 | Closet Doorway. The closet doorway is located in the east wall between the fireplace and hall doorway. Original elements include the opening, molded trim, 6-panel door, and H-L hinges. The existing wood doorknob may be a later addition. |
| | 1786? & 1950s | Kitchen Doorway. The kitchen doorway is located at the east end of the north wall. All physical elements of this doorway appear to date to the 20th century, including the plain-board trim, modern six-panel door, 3-knuckle hinges, metal doorknob, and dead bolt. The doorway opening may, however, be original. |
| | 1950s | Exterior Doorway. An exterior doorway replaced an original window in the west wall circa 1950s. Modern doorway elements include the plain-board trim, glazed 4-panel door, 5-knuckle hinges, and a metal doorknob. |
| **Windows** | | There are two windows in Room 101, both located in the south wall. |
| | 1786 & 1892 | South Windows (W-101 & W-102). These are original window openings that were enlarged (lengthened) and fitted with cased frames, plain-board trim, and weighted 6-over-6 sashes circa 1892. |
| | 1786 & 1950s | Missing Window. An original window in the west wall was converted to an exterior doorway by the last owner of the house circa 1950s. |

| Room 101 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Fireplace** | 1786 & 20th century | An original fireplace at the east wall has undergone extensive remodeling in the 20th century, with the installation of a new wooden mantel and concrete hearth scored to resemble tiles. Additional investigation is required to assess the historic integrity of the existing brickwork firebox. |
| **Closet** | 1786 | An original closet is located at the east wall, between the fireplace and hall doorway. Original elements include the doorway with molded trim and 6-panel door, wide floorboards, hand-planed wall paneling, and plaster ceiling. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century<br><br>20th century | Light Fixtures. Four wall-mounted electric sconces are located in the southwest room: two above the fireplace at the east wall, one at the west wall, and one at the north wall.<br><br>Electrical Outlets. There are two electrical outlets: one in the upper south wall between the windows, the other in the west-wall baseboard. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | 20th century | One steam radiator made by the "American Radiator Co." is located at the south end of the west well. An exposed vertical steam pipe north of the radiator connects with radiators in the room above. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | The woodwork of the southwest room is painted a cream-yellow color today. This paint finishes the baseboards, casing of the corner posts, upper ceiling molding, trim at the doorways and windows, doors, window sashes, fireplace mantel, and interior of the east closet. The plaster ceiling of the room and closet is painted white. The closet floorboards are painted green. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1920s-50s | Four layers of wallpaper cover the unpainted plaster walls. The earliest wallpaper is dated circa 1920s, the most recent wallpaper circa 1950s. Extra rolls of the circa-1950s paper were found stored in the attic. Samples of all four wallpapers have been removed and included in the wallpaper collection of the Olive Stow House. |

## Room 102 (Front Entry)

| Room 102 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1786 | Room 102 is the front entry and main stair hall. It served as the formal entrance to the house and the primary access to the second story. |
| **Floor** | 1786? & 1950s | The floor is completely covered with a brown-color, felt-base flooring installed circa 1950s. This flooring will need to be removed before an assessment of the floor can be undertaken. The room's subflooring and floor beams, visible in the cellar, appear to be original. |
| **Walls** | 1786<br><br>1786?<br><br>1786 | Structure. The walls of the front entry and stair are presumably original. The north wall of the stairway is the plastered front face of the brick chimney.<br><br>Plaster. Plaster covers the south and east walls of the front entry, and the walls of the stairway. Physical investigation is required to identify the lath type.<br><br>Paneling. Hand-planed paneling finishes the west wall and the lower north wall at the stair. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 & 20th century | The structural framing of the entry hall ceiling is presumably original, dating to 1786. The ceiling is finished with what appears to be plaster. The excellent condition of this material suggests a recent repair. Physical investigation is required to more precisely identify the ceiling materials and lath substrate. |
| **Ceiling Moldings** | 20th century | Later molding trims the upper walls at the ceiling. |
| **Baseboards** | 1830s? | Baseboards trim the lower walls of the front entry and the upper landing of the stair. This is a plain board that is simply embellished with a top bevel molding. Early cut nails attaching the baseboard on the upper stair landing suggest an installation date sometime in the early 19th century--perhaps circa 1830s, when extensive post-fire remodeling was undertaken in the second story rooms. |
| **Doorways** | | There are three original doorways in Room 102. |

| Room 102 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorways (cont'd)** | 1786 & 1810-20 | Exterior Doorway (D-101). The main entrance of the house is centered at the south wall of the front entry. Original elements of the doorway include the opening, plain-board trim, 4-light transom, and (reused?) strap hinges. The six-panel door appears to be a later replacement, judging by its style, applied moldings, and the absence of the first two layers of paint observed in a cursory analysis of the painted finishes in Room 102. An approximate date of circa 1810-20 has been assigned to the door. |
| | 1786 & later | West Doorway (to Room 101). Original elements of the west doorway include the opening, plain-board trim, 6-panel door, and H-L hinges. A box latch with black-glass doorknobs is a later addition. |
| | 1786 & later | East Doorway (to Room 103). Original elements of the east doorway include the opening, plain-board trim, 6-panel door, and H-L hinges. A box latch with black-glass doorknobs, and Stanley spring hinges, are later additions. |
| **Windows** | 1786 | An original 4-light transom is a located above the exterior doorway. |
| **Stair** | 1786 | The main stair to the second story occupies the north side of the front entry. This is a U-shaped stair with 12 risers, two landings, unadorned newels, handrails and balusters. The stair presumably dates to the original construction of the house circa 1786. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | Light Fixture. The entry is lit by a single string-activated, ceiling-mounted light fixture. This is a porcelain-base, bare-bulb fixture with no shade. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | 20th century | One steam radiator made by "The H.B. Smith Co." sits at the south wall, west of the front doorway. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | The woodwork of the front entry is painted cream and brown today. Cream paint covers the baseboards, doors, door trim, transom, ceiling molding, stairs, and balusters. Brown paint finishes the stair railing and newels. The ceiling is painted white. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1930s-40s | Two layers of wallpaper cover the unpainted plaster walls and the board partition at the stair. Both are modern papers with machine-printed designs dating to the |

| Room 102 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| Wallpaper (cont'd) | | 1930s-40s. The first (earliest) wallpaper is a Colonial-scenic design. The second (top) wallpaper is a subtle line-printed pattern that has completely faded to a monochromatic brown. Extra rolls of the top (circa-1940s) wallpaper were found stored in the attic. Samples of both wallpapers have been included in the wallpaper collection of the Olive Stow House. |

## Room 103 (Southeast Room)

| Room 103 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1786 | Room 103 is one of the two most formal rooms in the house, located on the east side of the entry hall. It most likely served originally as the best room, or parlor. |
| **Floor** | 20th century | The original floor was completely replaced sometime in the 20th century with narrow oak floorboards, 2 ¼" wide, applied to modern subflooring and new floor joists (visible in the cellar). |
| **Walls** | 1786 | Structure. The four walls of Room 103 date to the original construction of the house circa 1786. Three cased structural posts are in the southwest, southeast, and northwest corners of the room; the northeast post is missing. The casing on the three existing posts consists of plain, unmolded boards of unknown date. The northeast post is missing, perhaps removed when heating pipes were installed in this corner in the 20th century. |
| | 1786? | Plaster. Plaster of unknown date survives on the walls beneath later paneling. |
| | 20th century | Paneling. Two types of paneling cover the four walls of Room 103: knotty pine on the west wall, and simulated wood-grain paneling on the north, south, and east walls. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 & 20th century | Structure. The structural framing of the ceiling is original, dating to 1786. A sag in the pine summer beam necessitated the repositioning of the joists to level the floor of the room above (Room 203). The use of wire nails dates this as a 20th-century repair. |
| | 1786; removed 20th century | Plaster. Physical evidence of missing lath and plaster is visible on the undersides of the ceiling joists and summer beam. No lath or plaster remains today. |
| | 20th century | Ceiling Tiles. The ceiling and east-west summer beam are finished today with modern acoustical ceiling tiles. The existing tiles appear to have been installed at the same time structural repairs were made to the ceiling framing sometime in the 20th century. |

| Room 103 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Baseboards** | 1786 & 20th century | Early baseboards with simple top bead detail survive at the north, east, and south walls. The height of these baseboards varies due to the leveling of the floor that was carried out sometime in the 20th century. Newer baseboard with more elaborate molding is located at the west wall. |
| **Cornice Moldings** | 1786 & 20th century | A deep molded cornice that appears to be original embellishes the west fireplace wall. A narrower molding attached to the upper north, south, and east wall at the ceiling is likely a later addition installed sometime in the 20th century. |
| **Doorways** | 1786 & later | There are two doorways in Room 103: one is original, the other has been modified.<br><br>Hall Doorway. A doorway connecting with the hall is located at the south end of the west wall. Original elements include the opening, 6-panel door, and H-L hinges. A box latch with black-glass doorknobs, and Stanley hinges, are later additions. |
| | 1786 & 20th century | North Doorway. A doorway in the north wall connects with the dining room (Room 104). This may be an original opening that was remodeled with an arched header sometime in the 20th century. The doorway has no door and no trim. |
| **Windows** | 1786 & 1892 | There are three windows in Room 103: two in the south wall (W-103 & 104), and one in the east wall (W-105). These are original window openings that were enlarged (lengthened) and fitted with new cased frames, plain-board trim, and weighted 6-over-6 sashes circa 1892. |
| **Fireplace** | 1786 & 20th century | An original fireplace at the west wall has undergone extensive remodeling in the 20th century, with the installation of a new wooden mantel and concrete hearth scored to resemble tiles. The firebox also appears to have been reconstructed using portland cement mortar. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | Light Fixtures. There are three electric sconces mounted to the walls: two above the fireplace at the west wall, and one at the south end of the west wall. |

| Room 103 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Electrical Fixtures (cont'd)** | 20th century | Electrical Outlets. Two electrical outlets are located on opposite sides of the room: one at the north wall, the other at the south wall. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | 20th century | Radiator. One steam radiator made by the "American Radiator Co." is located at the north end of the east wall. An exposed vertical pipe on the north side of the radiator connects with a radiator in the room above. |
| | 20th century | Thermostat. Heat for the entire house is regulated by a thermostat mounted to the west end of the north wall. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | The woodwork is currently painted white. This includes the baseboards, trim at the doorways and windows, doors, sashes, cased corner posts, and fireplace mantel. The walls are covered by unpainted knotty-pine and fiberboard paneling, and the ceiling with fiberboard tiles. |
| **Wallpaper** | Unknown | Wallpaper applied to the plaster walls is covered by modern wall paneling. Five layers of wallpaper were found on the north wall, dated circa 1930s-50s. Extra rolls of the third wallpaper from the top were also found stored in the attic. Samples of all five papers have been included in the wallpaper collection of the Olive Stow House. |

## Room 104 (Dining Room)

| Room 104 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1786 | Room 104 is located in the back northwest corner of the house. The original function of this room is not known—it may have served as a dining room or a first-story chamber (bedroom). The room was used most recently as a dining room by the Hovagimian family. |
| **Floor** | 1786 & 20th century | The flooring consists of modern pine floorboards 3 ¼" wide, supported by earlier (original?) floor joists. Removal of the existing floorboards is necessary to determine the extent of surviving original floorboards. |
| **Walls** | 1786 & 20th century | Structure. The north, east, south, and a portion of the west wall date to circa 1786. One original structural post is exposed in the northeast corner of Room 104. Removal of one casing board revealed this to be a full two-story post. A second original post that was formerly exposed in the northwest corner of the room is covered today by a modern china cabinet. The south half of the west wall consists of 20th century construction materials. |
| | 1786? | Plaster. Plaster finishes the north, east, and south walls. Physical investigation is required to identify the date and lath substrate of the plaster. |
| | 1786 | Board Partition. Painted boards preserved behind a later china cabinet at the north end of west wall appears to be the remnant of an early board partition. |
| | 20th century | Plasterboard. The south half of the west wall, south of the china cabinet, is modern plasterboard. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 & 20th century | Structure. The structural framing of the ceiling is original, dating to 1786. A sag in the center pine beam necessitated the repositioning of the joists to level the floor of the room above (Room 204). The use of wire nails dates this as a 20th-century repair. |
| | 1786; removed 20th century | Plaster. Physical evidence of missing lath and plaster is visible on the undersides of the ceiling joists and center beam, although no lath or plaster remains today. |

| Room 104 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Ceiling (cont'd)** | 20th century | Ceiling Tiles. The ceiling is currently finished with modern acoustical ceiling tiles. The existing tiles appear to have been installed at the same time structural repairs were made to the ceiling framing sometime in the 20th century. |
| **Baseboards** | 1786 & 20th century | The lower walls are trimmed with plain boards that are approximately 7" high. Those at the north, south, and east walls may be original, dating to circa 1786. The baseboard at the west plasterboard wall dates to the 20th-century remodeling of the room. |
| **Doorways** | 1786 & 20th century | There are two doorways in Room 104: one in the south wall, the other in the west wall.<br><br>South Doorway. A doorway in the south wall connects with the southeast room (Room 103). This may be an original opening that was remodeled with an arched header sometime in the 20th century. This doorway has no door and no trim. |
| | 20th century | West Doorway. A doorway at the south end of the west wall connects with the kitchen (Room 104). This is a 20th-century opening that is contemporary with the adjacent plasterboard wall. |
| **Windows** | 1786 & 1892 | There are two windows in Room 104: one in the east wall, the other in the north wall.<br><br>East Window (W-106). The east window is believed to be an original window opening that was enlarged (lengthened) circa 1892 and fitted with a new cased frame, 6-over-6 weighted sashes, and plain-board trim. The lower sash may be earlier (reused?), based on the muntin profiles. |
| | 1892 | North Window (W-107). The window at the west end of the north wall is believed to be a later opening installed circa 1892 with a modern cased frame, 6-over-6 weighted sashes, and plain-board trim. A newspaper dated Aug. 21, 1892, was found adhered to the sheathing boards directly beneath this window on the exterior side of the opening. |
| **China Cabinet** | 20th century | A built-in china cabinet is located at the north end of the west wall of Room 104. This cabinet, with paneled walls and large glazed door above a pair of smaller paneled doors, is assembled with 20th-century materials. |

| Room 104 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century<br><br>20th century | Light Fixture. One electric sconce is mounted to the west wall, next to the china cabinet.<br><br>Electrical Outlet. One electrical outlet is located in the baseboard of the east wall. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | 20th century | One steam radiator made by the "American Radiator Co." is located at the south end of the east wall. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | White paint finishes the room's woodwork, including the baseboards, ceiling moldings, cased corner post, and built-in china cabinet. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1940s-50s | Two layers of wallpaper cover the walls of the dining room. The most recent (circa-1950s) paper is machine-printed with a Colonial-scenic design. Beneath this is an earlier, circa-1940s, layer of embossed wallpaper. This second layer is also preserved on the west interior wall of the china cabinet. Extra rolls of the top scenic wallpaper were found stored in the attic. Writing in the selvedge identifies the scenic wallpaper as having been made in the U.S.A. by the "J.C. Eisenhart W.P. Co." A sample of this scenic wallpaper has been added to the wallpaper collection of the Olive Stow House. |

## Room 105 (Kitchen)

| Room 105 Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1786; remodeled 1950s | Room 105 encompasses the kitchen and west kitchen hall, located on the back side of the house. This area has always served as the kitchen, judging by the original kitchen fireplace and bake oven at the south wall. The existing kitchen was last remodeled circa 1950s by previous owner Hagop Hovagimian. |
| **Floor** | 1786? & 20th century | The floor is covered with modern asphalt tiles (green and pink-beige), applied over narrow oak floorboards, 2 ¼" wide. Removal of these later materials is necessary to determine how much, if any, of the original flooring survives. The floor framing, visible in the cellar, appears to be old. |
| **Walls** | 1786 & 20th century | Structure. The exterior north and interior south walls of the kitchen date to the original construction of the house circa 1786. An original structural post is missing from the north wall in the vicinity of two windows: W-109 and W-110. This post was likely removed when the kitchen was remodeled circa 1950s. The east and west partition walls date to the later remodeling of the kitchen circa 1950s. |
| | 1786 | Plaster and Wainscot. Later knotty-pine paneling removed from the south kitchen wall revealed early plaster preserved on the upper wall, and horizontal-board wainscot on the lower wall. Plaster and wainscot may also survive beneath the paneling at the north wall. Early painted wainscot with multiple layers of applied wallpaper was also found reused as exterior sheathing on the north side of the house, first story, in October 2002. |
| | 1786 | Board Partitions. The south and west walls of the kitchen's west hall are early board partitions that may be as early as circa 1786. |
| | 1950s | Knotty-Pine Paneling. Unpainted pine paneling applied to wood strapping finishes the north and south walls of the kitchen. The paneling was likely installed during the remodeling of the kitchen circa 1950s. |
| | 1950s | Plasterboard. The east and west partitions of the kitchen are finished with modern plasterboard installed circa 1950s. |

| Room 105 Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Ceiling** | 1786 & 1950s | The structural framing of the kitchen ceiling is presumably original, dating to 1786. The ceiling is finished with modern plasterboard. It is not known how much, if any, original plaster survives above this material. |
| **Baseboards** | 1830s & 1950s | Early bevel-topped baseboards trim the lower south and west board partitions of the kitchen's west hall. A date of "circa 1830s" is based on the similarity of these baseboards to one on the upper landing of the main stair, which is held with early cut nails (see Room 102). A modern pine baseboard, dated circa 1950s, trims the south wall of the kitchen. |
| **Doorways** | | There are four doorways in the kitchen and west hall. |
| | 1950s | East Doorway. A doorway in the east wall connects with the Dining Room (Room 104). The header is beveled; there is no door. This doorway has been dated circa 1950s, based on its pine jambs and the plasterboard partition in which it is located. |
| | 1786? & 1950s | South Doorway. A doorway in the south wall provides access to the southwest room (Room 101). All physical elements of this doorway appear to date to the 20th century, including the pine trim, modern six-panel door, 3-knuckle hinges, metal doorknobs, and dead bolt. The doorway opening may, however, be original. |
| | 1786 & 1950s | Cellar Doorway. A doorway leading to the cellar is located at the south end of the west wall. Modern elements of this doorway include its knotty-pine door, pine trim, and reproduction H-L hinges and thumb latch. The doorway opening may be original. |
| | 1950s | West Hall Doorway. A wide doorway connecting with the west hall is centered in the west wall. This doorway is similar in appearance to the east doorway, with beveled upper opening, pine jambs, and no door. The doorway is contemporary with the modern plasterboard partition in which it is located. |
| **Closet** | 1950s | A tall, narrow closet with 2-panel door is in the west wall of the kitchen, north of the hall doorway. The closet was likely designed to house an ironing board, based on its |

| Room 105 Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Closet (cont'd)** | | shallow depth. A date of circa-1950s is based on its location in the plasterboard partition. |
| **Windows** | 1950s | There are three windows in the north wall of the kitchen: W-108, W-109, and W-110. All three windows appear to be of modern 20th-century construction, with cased frames, weighted 6-over-6 sashes, and knotty-pine trim. Additional physical investigation is required to identify the locations of the original kitchen windows. |
| **Fireplace** | | The original kitchen fireplace has been preserved beneath later knotty-pine paneling installed circa 1950s. Partial removal of this paneling in April 2002, revealed the following. |
| | 1786 | Fireplace Opening. The opening of the fireplace, which measures 4' 7" wide by 3' 7" tall, is enclosed with later brickwork. This likely occurred when the boiler for the central heating system was vented through the fireplace. The openings of both the fireplace and adjacent bake oven are spanned by an original metal plate that supports the original brickwork above. |
| | 1786 | Bake Oven. An original bake oven is offset to the east side of the fireplace. The bake oven door is missing, and the opening is enclosed with later brickwork. A small storage chamber below the bake oven is also enclosed with bricks. |
| | 1786 | Mantel. The fireplace mantel consists of plain boards with simple interior-bead detail. Surviving portions of the mantel include the lintel and right pier; the left pier is missing. |
| | 1786 | Cabinets. Two small cabinets are built into the south wall above the kitchen fireplace. Each cabinet has plain-board trim, a single raised-panel door, a wood-lined interior, and center interior shelf. Each door was hung with two "H" hinges that are missing today, but whose ghosted remains are clearly outlined in paint. |
| | 19th century? | Stove-Pipe Hole. A hole for a stove pipe is located in the upper south wall above the fireplace. This stove-pipe hole was likely installed sometime in the later 19th century for a cast-iron cooking stove. |

| Room 105 Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | Light Fixtures. There are two electric light fixtures in the kitchen: one ceiling-mounted light, and one fluorescent light above the sink. |
| | 20th century | Electrical Outlets. Five electrical outlets are distributed throughout the kitchen: two at the south wall, two at the north wall, and one at the east wall. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | 20th century | One long, low steam radiator labeled "U.S." sits beneath the center window at the north wall of the kitchen. |
| **Plumbing Fixtures** | 1950s | A circa-1950s white-enamel sink is at the east wall of the kitchen, within a metal cabinet, labeled "Youngstown Kitchens by Mullins." A free-standing shower stall sits in the northwest corner, labeled "Durastall, E.L. Mustee & Sons, Inc." |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | Varnish or shellac finishes the pine woodwork in the main kitchen area, including the paneling, cellar door, trim at the doors and windows, and cabinets. Cream-beige paint is on the window sashes and paneled door to the southwest room (Room 101). Avocado-green paint covers the gypsum-board partitions on the west and east sides of the room. |
| | 20th century | The kitchen hall to the west is painted blue, with a light-blue color used on the walls, and a deeper blue on the baseboards, south-wall shelf, pantry door, and west transom sash. Varnish or shellac finishes the modern (circa-1950s) frame of the wide east doorway and the frame of the north pantry doorway. The ceiling is painted white. |
| | Pre-1950s | Earlier painted finishes are preserved at the south fireplace wall of the main kitchen area, beneath the circa-1950s knotty-pine paneling. Mustard-yellow paint is on the brickwork at the former fireplace opening. Dark-green paint finishes the interior edge of the fireplace mantel. Pink-beige paint covers the remainder of the wall, including the outer edge of the mantel, horizontal-board wainscot, upper plaster wall, and raised-panel doors of two cabinets. |

| Room 105 Elements | Circa Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Wallpaper** | Circa 1860s to 1930s | Remnants of wallpaper are preserved on the south wall of the kitchen, beneath the knotty pine paneling. This includes small decorative motifs that have been cut out and applied to the plaster wall in the vicinity of the kitchen fireplace. Multiple layers of wallpaper, partially covered with plaster, also survive on the brickwork face of the kitchen fireplace. In addition, eight layers of wallpaper, dated circa 1860s to circa 1930s, were discovered in October 2002 on a wide painted (wainscot?) board removed from the kitchen and reused circa 1950s as a sheathing board on the north side of the house. These layers have been separated and included in the wallpaper collection of the Olive Stow House. |

## Room 106 (Pantry)

| Room 106 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| General Description | 1950s | Room 106 is a pantry located west of the kitchen. This space was likely part of the original kitchen. It was partitioned as a separate room during the remodeling of the kitchen circa 1950s. |
| Floor | 1786 & 1950s? | The floor is covered with felt-base flooring applied over narrow oak floorboards, 2 ¼" wide. Removal of these later materials is necessary to determine how much, if any, of the original flooring survives. The floor framing, visible in the cellar, appears to be old. |
| Walls | 1786 & 1950s | Structure. The north and west pantry walls are early (1786?); the south and east walls date to the remodeling of the east adjacent kitchen circa 1950s. |
| | 1786 | Plaster and Wainscot. The upper portion of the north wall is finished with plaster, and the lower portion with wainscot similar to that found in the kitchen. |
| | 1786 | Board Partition. The west wall is an early (original?) board partition. |
| | 1950s | Plasterboard. The south and east partitions consist of modern plasterboard. |
| Ceiling | 1786 | The structural framing of the pantry ceiling is presumably original, dating to 1786. The ceiling is finished with plaster. Additional physical investigation is required to determine the type and date of the lath and plaster. |
| Baseboard | 1830s? | An early bevel-topped baseboard trims the board partition at the west wall. A date of "circa 1830s" is based on the similarity of this baseboard to one on the upper landing of the main stair, which is held with early cut nails. This baseboard is continuous at the west wall of both Rooms 106 (pantry) and 105 (west hall). |
| Doorways | 1830s & 1950s | One doorway in the south wall of the pantry connects with the west kitchen hall. This doorway is located in a plasterboard wall, dating the opening as "circa 1950s." The four-panel door was reused from the upper hall of the back stair (Room 207). This door, dated circa 1830s, retains its |

| Room 106 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorways (cont'd)** | | original Norfolk latch, and is hung with modern 5-knuckle hinges. |
| **Windows** | N/A | There are no windows in the pantry, nor any physical evidence of a former opening in the north wall. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | A single-bulb light fixture is mounted to the wall above the south pantry doorway. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | N/A | The pantry is unheated. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | The interior walls and door of the pantry are painted pink; the ceiling is painted cream-white. |
| **Wallpaper** | N/A | There is no wallpaper in the pantry. |

## Room 107 (Side Entry)

| Room 107 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| General Description | 1786 & 1950s | Room 107 serves as a side entry and back stair hall, the existing configuration of which was achieved when the north toilet-room partition was installed circa 1950s. The room has retained some original features, such as the exterior doorway and back stair. |
| Floor | 1786 & 1950s? | The floor is covered with circa-1950s felt-base flooring applied over narrow oak floorboards, 2 ¼" wide. Removal of these later materials is necessary to determine how much, if any, of the original flooring survives. The floor framing, visible in the cellar, appears to be old. |
| Walls | 1786 & 1950s | Structure. All walls of the side entry and back stair are believed to be original, except the north partition that was installed circa 1950s. |
| | 1786 | Board Partitions. Vertical-board partitions comprise the east wall of the entry and the south partition between the entry and stairway. Horizontal boards finish the south wall of the stairway in the first story. |
| | 1786 | Plaster and Wainscot. The upper portion of the west wall of the entry and stairway is finished with plaster; the lower wall with horizontal-board wainscot similar to that found in the kitchen. |
| | 20th century | Plasterboard. The north partition is finished with modern plasterboard installed circa 1950s. Plasterboard also covers the early vertical-board partition on the entry side of the stairway. |
| Ceiling | 1786 | The structural framing of the ceiling is presumably original, dating to 1786. The ceiling is finished with plaster. Additional investigation is required to determine how much, if any, original plaster remains. |
| Baseboards | N/A | There are no baseboards in the side entry and back stairway. |
| Doorways | | There are four doorways in the side entry: two are original and two date to the 1950s. |

| Room 107 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorways (cont'd)** | 1786 | Exterior Doorway (D-103). The exterior doorway in the west wall of the side entry is an original feature of the house dating to 1786. Original surviving elements of the doorway include the door, strap hinges, and transom. The 8-panel door is reinforced on its interior side with wide vertical planks, and is hung with two large wrought-iron strap hinges. Above the door is a 4-light transom with muntins that are identical to those of the original sashes in the second story. The interior plain-board trim is likely also original to the doorway. The metal doorknob and dead bolt are both modern. |
| | 1786 | Kitchen Doorway. An opening in the east board partition connects with the west kitchen hall. This is presumably an original doorway dating to 1786. There is no door, nor any physical evidence of a missing door. |
| | 1950s | Toilet-Room Doorway. A doorway in the north partition connects with a modern toilet room (Room 108). This partition and all elements of the doorway have both been dated "circa 1950s." The door is a modern 2-panel type, with two 5-knuckle hinges and metal doorknob. Plain boards trim the opening. |
| | 1950s | Stair Doorway. A doorway at the south stair is also later, installed circa 1950s. The glazed 4-panel door is identical in design to a later exterior door in the west wall of Room 101 (D-104). Plain-boards trim the opening. |
| **Windows** | 1786 & later | There are two transom windows in the side entry. One is an original 4-light transom above the exterior doorway in the west wall. The other is a 3-light transom above the interior doorway connecting with the kitchen hall in the east wall. This interior transom appears to be a later addition, judging by the sash muntins that differ in profile from those of the original transom. The transom was likely installed to provide additional light to the kitchen. |
| **Stair** | 1786 | A steep stair on the south side of the entry provides access to the back rooms of the second story. This is presumably an original stair dating to 1786, based on its location beneath the original attic stair. Selected treads and risers are later replacements, as may be ascertained from the lighter color of the wood visible in the cellar stairway. |

| Room 107 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | The hall is illuminated by a ceiling light fixture with a pebble-textured glass shade. This light and an exterior light are activated by switches at the west wall. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | N/A | The side entry and back stairway are unheated. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | Gray paint is applied to the walls, the exterior door is painted green, and the stair door is painted pink. The modern door to the toilet room has a varnish or shellac finish. The ceiling is painted white. The paneled and plastered walls of the back stairway are painted light blue; the stair treads and risers are painted brown. |
| **Wallpaper** | N/A | There is no wallpaper in Room 107. |

## Room 108 (Toilet Room)

| Room 108 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1950s | Room 108 is a small toilet room located in the back northwest corner of the house. A date of circa 1950s for this room is based on the dates of manufacture stamped on the lavatory and toilet tank (see "Plumbing Fixtures"). |
| **Floor** | 1950s | The floor is covered with pink-beige tiles applied over an unknown base. |
| **Walls** | 1786 & 1950s | Structure. The north and west exterior walls of the toilet room are original, dating to circa 1786. A projection in the northwest corner of the room contains a structural post and plumbing. A vertical-board partition on the east side of the room is also thought to be original. The south plasterboard partition is most likely contemporary with the circa-1950s toilet room. |
| | 1786 | Plaster and Wainscot. Additional physical investigation is required to determine how much, if any, original plaster and wainscot survives at the upper north and west walls of the toilet room. |
| | 1786 | Board Partition. The east wall is an original vertical-board partition. |
| | 1950s | Plasterboard. The south partition is a modern wall finished with plasterboard that was installed circa 1950s. |
| | 1950s | Masonite. Gray masonite tileboard finishes the lower walls of the toilet room. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 | The structural framing of the ceiling is presumably original, dating to 1786. The ceiling is finished with plaster of undetermined date. |
| **Baseboards** | 1950s | Plain boards, approximately 5" high, finish the lower walls. |
| **Doorways** | 1950s | One doorway in the circa-1950s south wall connects the toilet room with the side entry (Room 107). The modern door is modern with two panels, metal doorknobs, and two 5-knuckle hinges. The opening is trimmed with plain boards. |

| Room 108 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Windows** | 1786 & 1892 | There is one small window in the west wall of the toilet room (W-111). This opening appears to have been created circa 1892, when the existing cased frame was installed. The 6-over-9 sashes appear to be original, based on the wide profile of the muntins. These were likely reused from one of the two attic windows when those openings were fitted with new windows circa 1892. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | A fluorescent light and a single bare-bulb light are mounted to the east wall. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | N/A | The toilet room is unheated. |
| **Plumbing Fixtures** | 1950 | Lavatory. The lavatory at the west wall was manufactured by the "American Standard & Radiator Corporation, Baltimore, 7-25-50," according to information stamped on the bottom side of the bowl. |
| | 1950 & 1967 | Toilet. The toilet at the north wall is labeled "Standard." The original tank was manufactured "Mar. 8, 1950," based on the date stamped on the lid stored next to the toilet; its replacement was made "2-28-67." |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | A varnish or shellac finish is applied to the modern bathroom door and north-wall cabinet. Light blue-green paint finishes the woodwork trim at the doorway and window, the window sash, and the baseboard. The ceiling is painted white. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1950s | The upper walls are covered with circa-1950s wallpaper with a machine-printed design featuring iris flowers and swans. Extra rolls of the wallpaper were found stored in the attic. |

## Room 201 (Southwest Chamber)

| Room 201 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1786 | Room 201 is one of two large chambers in the house, located in the front southwest corner of the second story. This room is notable for being the best-preserved in the house, with original flooring, plaster walls and ceiling, doors, windows, fireplace mantel, brick hearth, and woodwork trim. |
| **Floor** | 1786 & 1950s | Flooring consists of painted boards that measure from 9" to 11" wide. The floorboards are covered with circa-1950s felt-base flooring, printed with a green-tile pattern. |
| **Walls** | 1786<br><br><br><br><br>1786 | Structure. All four walls of the room are original, dating to 1786. These include the exterior south and west walls, and the interior north and east walls. Structural posts are located in the four corners of the room, cased with plain boards.<br><br>Plaster. The walls are finished with original plaster on accordion lath. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 | The structural framing of the ceiling in the southwest room is original, dating to 1786. It is finished with original plaster on accordion lath attached directly to the ceiling joists. The ceiling height is approximately 7' 6". |
| **Ceiling Moldings** | 20th century? | Narrow moldings trim the upper walls of the room at the ceiling. These moldings may be contemporary with the existing circa 1940s-50s wallpapers. |
| **Baseboards** | 1786 | Plain boards, approximately 5 ¼" high, finish the lower walls of the room. |
| **Doorways** | <br><br><br>1786 | There are three doorways in Room 201, all dating to circa 1786.<br><br>Hall Doorway. A doorway at the south end of the east wall connects with the upper hall (Room 202). Original doorway elements include the opening, raised 4-panel door, H-L hinges, Suffolk latch, and plain-board trim with mitered corners. The latch is a type that was commonly made in England and imported in large quantities after the |

| Room 201 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorways (cont'd)** | | American Revolution (post-1783); it is the only surviving original latch in the house. The door is currently hung upside-down and hinged on the north side; it was originally hinged on the south side. |
| | 1786 | Closet Doorway. A doorway at the north end of the east wall opens onto a closet next to the fireplace. Original doorway elements include the opening, raised 2-panel door, and plain-board trim with mitered corners. |
| | 1786 | Back Doorway. A doorway in the north wall connects with the back stair hall (Room 207). Original doorway elements include the opening, raised 4-panel door, H-L hinges, and plain-board trim with mitered corners. The existing thumb latch is a later Norfolk type of a design unlike any other in the house, with fleur-de-lis detailing on the back plate, and die-cast handle made of pewter and iron. |
| **Windows** | 1786 | There are three windows in Room 201: two in the south wall (W-201 and W-202), and one in the west wall (W-212). All three are original window openings with original plank frames and 8-over-12 sashes. The windows have no applied trim. |
| **Fireplace** | 1786 | A fireplace is centered at the east wall. Original elements include a simple wooden mantel with a narrow shelf above a graceful arch. The brick-lined firebox is shallow and has splayed jambs. The hearth is paved with bricks. |
| **Closet** | 1786 | An original walk-in closet is situated north of the fireplace at the east wall. The closet has wide floorboards and plastered walls, except for wide-board paneling in the northeast corner. This paneling retains evidence of fire damage (charring) beneath its painted finish, as do similar boards applied to the ceiling. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | Light Fixtures. One electric wall sconce is mounted to the north wall. |
| | 20th century | Electrical Outlets. One electrical outlet is centered in the baseboard at the south wall. |

| Room 201 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Heating Fixtures** | 20th century | Two steam radiators made by the "H.B. Smith Co." are positioned beneath the window at the west wall. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | Cream-white paint finishes the room's woodwork, including the baseboards, doorway trim and doors, window frames and sashes, ceiling moldings, cased corner posts, and fireplace mantel. The plaster ceiling is painted white. The woodwork of the closet interior is painted cream-yellow. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1940s-50s | The plaster walls of the room are covered with a circa-1950s wallpaper with a floral-medallion design machine-printed on a blue-green ground. Extra rolls of this paper were found stored in the attic, with the words "Montville Washable" and "Union Made" printed in the selvedge. Another paper, with a machine-printed striped pattern in colors of blue and metallic silver, covers the plaster walls of the closet. This wallpaper has been dated "circa 1940s." No investigation has yet been undertaken to determine if earlier wallpapers survive beneath these two existing papers. |

## Room 202 (Upper Stair Hall)

| Room 202 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1786 & Early 19th century | Room 202 is the upper hall at the main stair. This room is little changed from its original construction circa 1786. The existing plaster on the walls and ceiling appears to have replaced original plaster sometime in the early 19th century. |
| **Floor** | 1786 | The floor is composed of original floorboards that measure up to 13" wide. |
| **Walls** | 1786<br><br><br><br>1786? & 1830s | Structure. The four walls of the upper stair hall are original. These include the south exterior wall, the north wall at the chimney, and the east and west interior partitions.<br><br>Plaster. The walls of the upper stair hall are finished with plaster applied to lath and the brick chimney. How much, if any, original plaster on accordion lath survives is not known. Replastering is evident on the east and west walls, where the back side of later sawn-lath substrate is visible in the attic. An associated later baseboard at the upper stair landing, held with machine-cut nails, suggests a date sometime in the early 19th century. The work may have been undertaken circa 1830s, when post-fire repairs were made in other rooms of the second story. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 & 1830s | The structural framing of the hall ceiling is original, dating to circa 1786. The plaster finish is later, judging by the sawn-lath substrate that is visible in an area of water damage at the south wall. The ceiling height at the south wall is approximately 7' 6". |
| **Baseboards** | 1786 | Original baseboards are located at the south, east, and west walls of the upper stair hall. These measure 6" high and have a simple top-bead detail. |
| **Doorways** | <br><br>1786 | There are two doorways in the upper stair hall.<br><br>West Doorway. A doorway in the west wall leads to the southwest chamber (Room 201). Original doorway elements include the opening, plain-board trim with mitered corners, and 4-panel door with H-L hinges and Suffolk latch. The latch is a type that was commonly made in England and imported in large quantities after the American |

| Room 202 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorways (cont'd)** | 1786 & 1830s | Revolution (post-1783); it is the only surviving original latch in the house. The door is currently hung upside-down and hinged on the north side; it was originally hinged on the south side.<br><br>East Doorway. A doorway in the east wall leads to the southeast chamber (Room 203). Original doorway elements include the opening and plain-board-trim with mitered corners. The 4-panel door with Norfolk-type latch is believed to be a later (circa-1830s) replacement of the original door. The existing door is hung with H-L hinges that may have been reused from the earlier door. |
| **Windows** | 1786 | One window (W-203) is centered in the south wall of the upper stair hall. Original window elements include the opening, plank frame, and 8-over-12 sashes. There is no trim. |
| **Stairway** | 1786 | The north side of the stair hall is the upper portion of the stairway connecting the second and first floors. See "Room 202" for a description of the stair. A barrier between the stair hall and stairwell is provided by a wooden railing, with plain newel, handrail, and balusters. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | Light Fixture. A single electric wall sconce is mounted to the south wall, west of the window. It is controlled by a switch located below the sconce. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | 20th century | There is no heating equipment in the upper stair hall. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | Gray paint finishes the wide floorboards of the upper hall. Cream-color paint is on the baseboards, door trim and doors, window casing and sashes, ceiling moldings, and stair-railing balusters. The handrail is painted brown. The plaster ceiling is white. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1940s-50s | The walls of the upper hall are covered with the same two layers of wallpaper found in the front entry (Room 102). |

## Room 203 (Southeast Chamber)

| Room 203 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1786, 1830s & 20th century | Room 203 is one of two large chambers in the house, located in the front southeast corner of the second story. The room was remodeled circa 1830s following a fire, with new plaster, fireplace mantel, two doors, and molded woodwork trim. Structural stabilization of the floor was undertaken sometime in the 20th century. |
| **Floor** | 1786 & 20th century | The floor consists of painted floorboards that measure 12" to 13" wide. These floorboards were relaid following repositioning of the floor joists sometime in the 20th century to level a sag in the original east-west summer beam. The boards may be original to Room 203, or they may have been reused from Rooms 101 and 103 where the original floorboards have been replaced with new oak. Some floorboards were flipped to expose their previously unworn surfaces, judging by paint finishes preserved on the undersides of selected boards (visible above the later ceiling in Room 103). |
| **Walls** | 1786 & 1830s<br><br>1786? & 1830s | Structure. The four walls of the southeast chamber are original, dating to circa 1786. These include the south and east exterior walls, the interior west wall at the chimney, and the interior north partition. Four original structural posts are located in the four corners, embellished with simple bead detailing. The casing presumably dates to the remodeling of the room circa 1830s.<br><br>Plaster. The walls of the southeast chamber and closet are finished with plaster. How much, if any, original plaster on accordion lath survives is not known. The west wall appears to have been replastered circa 1830s on sawn lath, the back side of which is visible from the attic. Charring evidence of a fire in the vicinity of the southeast chamber, also visible in the attic, explains the need for this repair. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 & 1830s | The structural framing of the ceiling appears to be original, dating to circa 1786. The plaster is later, based on its sawn-lath substrate visible in the attic. A date of circa 1830s has been assigned to this plaster, as explained in "walls." The ceiling height is 7' 4 ½". |

| Room 203 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Baseboards** | 1830s<br><br>20th century | The lower walls of the southeast chamber are trimmed with baseboards 8 ½" high with top-bead detail. These baseboards presumably date to the remodeling of the room circa 1830s.<br><br>A later baseboard trimming the former fireplace opening at the west wall is contemporary with the closing in of that opening sometime in the 20th century. |
| **Doorways** | 1786 & 1830s<br><br>1786 & 1830s<br><br>1830s | There are three doorways: two in the west wall, and one in the north wall.<br><br>Hall Doorway. A doorway connecting with the upper stair hall (Room 202) is located at the south end of the west wall. This is an original opening dating to circa 1786. Later (circa-1830s) elements include the trim with mitered corners and ogee moldings, and 4-panel door with Norfolk latch. The door is hung on H-L hinges that may have been reused from the original missing door.<br><br>Closet Doorway. A closet doorway is located at the west wall north of the fireplace. An original closet doorway in this same location is thought to have been destroyed in a fire. All elements of the existing doorway likely date to the post-fire remodeling of the room circa 1830s. These include the existing opening, trim with mitered corners and ogee moldings, and 4-panel door with cast-iron butt hinges. A small metal latch of unknown date secures the door.<br><br>Back Doorway. A doorway at the west end of the north wall leads to a rear chamber (Room 206). While there is little doubt that an original doorway was in this wall, its location is not known. All elements of the existing doorway are believed to date to the circa-1830s remodeling of the room. These include the existing opening, trim with mitered corners and ogee moldings, and 4-panel door with Norfolk latch and cast-iron butt hinges. |
| **Windows** | 1786 & 1830s | There are three original (circa-1786) windows: two in the south wall (W-204 and W-205), and one in the east wall (W-206). Original elements of these windows include their openings, plank frames, and 8-over-12 sashes. Window trim with ogee molding was added circa 1830s. |

| Room 203 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Fireplace** | 1786, 1830s, & 20th century | A fireplace centered at the west wall is an original feature of the southeast chamber dating to circa 1786. The existing wooden mantel is a simple neoclassical design dating to the remodeling of the room circa 1830s. The fireplace opening was plastered over and the hearth removed sometime in the 20th century. |
| **Closet** | 1786 & 1830s | A closet has historically been located on the north side of the fireplace at the west wall. The existing closet is believed to have been rebuilt circa 1830s following a fire, with new plaster, beaded baseboards, and door. The interior is fitted with wooden shelves of the same period. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century<br><br>20th century | Light Fixtures. The southeast chamber is equipped with two electric wall sconces: one at the east wall, the other at the north wall.<br><br>Electrical Outlets. There are two outlets: one at the north wall, and one at the south wall. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | 20th century | One steam radiator made by "The H.B. Smith Co." is located at the north end of the east wall. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | Light-green paint finishes the woodwork of the southeast chamber, including the baseboards, doorway trim and doors, window casings and sashes, cased corner posts, ceiling moldings, and fireplace mantel. The wide floorboards are painted gray. The ceiling and interior of the west-wall closet are painted white. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1950s & earlier | The unpainted plaster walls are covered with multiple layers of wallpaper. The top layer is a circa-1950s machine-printed, white-striped pattern on a pink ground, extra rolls of which were found stored in the attic. No wallpaper samples have yet been taken from the walls to determine the number and age of the earlier wallpaper layers. |

## Room 204 (Northeast Chamber)

| Room 204 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1830s | Room 204 is a small chamber located in the back northeast corner of the second story. The room was created as part of a post-fire remodeling of the second story circa 1830s. Structural stabilization of the floor was carried out sometime in the 20th century. |
| **Floor** | 1786 & 20th century | The floor consists of painted floorboards that measure 12" to 15" wide. These boards were most likely removed and reinstalled when the floor joists were repositioned to level a sag in the center north-south floor beam sometime in the 20th century. The floorboards are covered with circa-1950s felt-base flooring, printed with a tile pattern. |
| **Walls** | 1786 & 1830s | Structure. Three walls in the northeast chamber are original, dating to circa 1786: the exterior north wall, the exterior east wall, and the interior south wall. An original structural post is located in the northeast corner. The woodwork casing of this post, and the room's west partition wall, are believed to date to the remodeling of the room circa 1830s. |
| | 1786? & 1830s | Plaster. All four walls of the northeast chamber are finished with plaster. How much, if any, original plaster on accordion lath survives on the original north, east, and south walls is not known. The plaster on the circa-1830s west partition is presumably contemporary with that wall. |
| | Post-1830s | Board Partitions. A small closet in the northwest corner of the room is partitioned with board walls. The room's baseboards continue uninterrupted behind these board partitions, suggesting a later (post-1830s) construction date for the closet. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 & 1830s | The structural framing of the ceiling is original. It is finished with circa-1830s plaster on sawn lath, the back sides of which are visible in the attic. |
| **Baseboards** | 1830s | The lower walls are finished with baseboards, 8 ½" high, with top bead detail. These baseboards date to the remodeling of the room circa 1830s. |

| Room 204 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorways** | | There are two doorways in the northeast chamber: one in the west wall, the other at the closet. |
| | 1830s | West Doorway. A doorway in the west wall connects with the east hall of the back chamber (Room 206). Both the doorway and the wall in which it is located are believed to date to the remodeling of circa 1830s. Doorway elements of this period include the opening, casing, plain-board trim with mitered corners, and 4-panel door with Norfolk latch. The two hinges are a later loose-pin type. |
| | Post-1830s | Closet Doorway. A doorway is located in the board partition of the circa-post-1830s northwest closet. The door is a board-and-batten type. |
| **Windows** | 1786 & 1830s | One window, W-207, is centered in the east wall. Original (circa-1786) elements of this window include the opening, plank frame, and upper 8-light sash. The lower 12-light sash is a later replacement, as suggested by the muntin profiles that differ from those of the upper sash. Trim with ogee molding was added circa 1830s. |
| **Closet** | Post-1830s | A small closet with board partitions and board-and-batten door is located in the northwest corner of the room. The closet interior has wide floorboards, plaster ceiling, and baseboards that are continuous with the walls of the room. The closet is likely a later addition that post-dates the remodeling of circa 1830s. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | Light Fixtures. A single electric wall sconce is mounted to the west wall. |
| | 20th century | Electrical Outlets. One electrical outlet is located in the baseboard at the south wall. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | N/A | The northeast chamber is unheated. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | A cream-color paint finishes the woodwork of the northeast room, including the baseboards, doorway trim and doors, window trim and sashes, ceiling molding, cased corner post, and closet. The wide floorboards are painted gray. The plaster ceiling is painted white. |

| Room 204 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Wallpaper** | 1940s-50s | The plaster walls are covered with a circa-1950s wallpaper, machine-printed with a floral-striped design on a pale-green ground. This same paper is also on the walls of the back chamber (Room 206) and the back stairway (Room 207). Loose scraps of this paper were also found in the attic with the words "Mountville Washable" printed in the selvedge. Another wallpaper, machine-printed with a green and metallic-silver stripe, finishes the interior walls of the closet in the northwest corner of the room. This paper has been dated "circa 1940s." No investigation has yet been undertaken to determine if earlier wallpapers survive beneath these two existing papers. |

## Room 205 (Bathroom)

| Room 205 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| General Description | 1892 & 1930s | Room 205 is a small room that is believed to have been partitioned for use as a bathroom circa 1892. The existing bathroom fixtures appear to have been installed in the 1930s, based on the date "1933" stamped on the underside of the toilet-tank cover. |
| Floor | 20th century | The floor is presently covered with multiple layers of felt-base flooring—a type of flooring that was manufactured beginning in 1910. These materials will need to be removed to enable an assessment of the floor beneath. |
| Walls | 1786, 1830s, & 1892 | Structure. The north exterior wall is an original wall dating to circa 1786. An original structural post is centered at the north wall with plain board casing of undetermined date. The east interior wall dates to the circa-1830s post-fire remodeling of the second story. The south and west interior walls may date to the creation of the bathroom circa 1892. |
| | 1786, 1830s, & 1892 | Plaster. The walls of the bathroom are finished with plaster. How much, if any, original plaster on accordion lath survives on the original north wall is not known. The plaster on the east partition wall is presumably contemporary with its construction circa 1830. The plaster on the south and west walls likely dates to their construction circa 1892. |
| Ceiling | 1786 & 1830s | The structural framing of the bathroom ceiling is original, dating to circa 1786. The plaster finish appears to be later (circa 1830s), based on the sawn-lath substrate visible from the attic. |
| Baseboards | 1830s & 1892? | The lower walls of the room are trimmed with baseboards, 7" high, with top-bead detail. The baseboards at the north and west walls presumably date to the 1830s; those at the south and east walls to circa 1892. |
| Doorway | 1830s, reused 1892 | One doorway in the south wall of the bathroom connects with the east hall of the back chamber (Room 206). Both the door opening and the wall in which it is located are believed to date to the construction of the wall circa 1892. The doorway elements are earlier, however, suggesting |

| Room 205 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorway (cont'd)** | | their reuse circa 1892. These circa-1830s doorway elements include the casing, plain-board trim with mitered corners, and 4-panel door with Norfolk latch and cast-iron butt hinges. Ghosting on the outer edges of the doorway trim is suggestive of missing ogee molding, which survives in Rooms 203, 206, 207, and 208. |
| **Windows** | 1892 | One window (W-208) is located at the west end of the south wall. This window is believed date to the creation of the bathroom circa 1892. Window elements include a cased frame, weighted 6-over-6 sashes, and plain trim boards with an interior bead. |
| **Cabinet** | 1930s | A modern 2-door cabinet is mounted to the east side of the north wall, above the toilet. This cabinet likely dates to the remodeling of the bathroom circa 1930s. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century<br><br>20th century | Light Fixtures. Fluorescent and an incandescent light fixtures are mounted to the west wall, next to a mirror above the lavatory.<br><br>Electrical Outlets. One outlet is paired with the fluorescent light fixture. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | 20th century | One steam radiator made by "The H.B. Smith Co." is positioned beneath the window at the north wall. |
| **Plumbing Fixtures** | 1930s<br><br>1930s<br><br>1930s | Lavatory. A white-enamel, wall-mounted lavatory at the west wall has no manufacturer's identification.<br><br>Toilet. A white enamel toilet at the north wall was made by the "Standard" company around 1933, based on a faint date stamp on the underside of the tank cover.<br><br>Bathtub. No identification is evident on the footed, white-enamel bathtub at the west wall. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | White paint finishes the bathroom's walls, ceiling, baseboards, doorway trim, and window trim and sashes. Blue paint covers the interior side of the south door and the built-in cabinet at the north wall. |
| **Wallpaper** | N/A | There is no wallpaper in the bathroom. |

## Room 206 (Back Chamber)

| Room 206 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1830s & 1892 | Room 206 is a back chamber located on the north side of the second story. The room was created as part of a post-fire remodeling of the second story circa 1830s. The room is believed to have acquired its existing "L" shape, when partition walls were installed for a bathroom in the northeast corner circa 1892. |
| **Floor** | 1786 & 1950s | The floor consists of wide floorboards covered with circa-1950s felt-base flooring. There are two flooring patterns, each featuring floral designs. |
| **Walls** | 1786, 1830s, & 1892 | Structure. The exterior north and interior south walls of the north chamber are original, dating to circa 1786. An original structural post with board casing is located at the north wall, west of the window. The interior west wall and the east wall at Room 204 are later additions installed circa 1830s. The partition walls for the bathroom in the northeast corner of the room may date to circa 1892. |
| | 1786?, 1830s, & 1892 | Plaster. All of the walls are finished with plaster. It is not known how much, if any, original lath on accordion lath survives at the north and south walls. The plaster at the east and west partition walls is presumably contemporary with those walls—circa 1830s and circa 1892. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 & 1830s | The structural framing of the back-chamber ceiling is original, dating to 1786. The existing plaster finish was most likely applied circa 1830s, based on the sawn-lath substrate visible in the attic. |
| **Baseboards** | 1830s & 1892 | Baseboards 7 ¾" high with top bead detail trim the lower walls of the north chamber. The baseboards date to the creation of the room circa 1830s and the bathroom addition of circa 1892. |
| **Doorways** | | There are four doorways in the north chamber. Three date to the 1830s; one is believed to have been added circa 1892. |
| | 1830s | West Doorway. A doorway at the south end of the west wall connects with the back stair hall (Room 207). Both |

| Room 206 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorways (cont'd)** | | the wall and its doorway have been dated circa 1830s. Doorway elements of this period include the opening, casing, and mitered trim with applied ogee molding. The door is missing from the doorway today. It was reused in the pantry doorway (Room 106) when that room was created circa 1950s. The door is identical in design to the three others in the rear chamber, with four panels and a Norfolk latch. |
| | 1830s | South Doorway. A doorway at the east end of the south wall connects with the southeast chamber (Room 203). All elements of this doorway have been dated circa 1830s, including the opening, casing, mitered trim with applied ogee molding, and 4-panel door with Norfolk latch and cast-iron hinges. |
| | 1830s | East Doorway. A doorway in the east wall east doorway connects with the northeast chamber (Room 204). Both the wall and its doorway have been dated circa 1830s. Doorway elements of this period include the opening, casing, and mitered trim with applied ogee molding, and 4-panel door with Norfolk latch. The original cast-iron hinges have been replaced with the existing loose-pin hinges. |
| | 1892 | North Doorway. A doorway in the north wall connects with the bathroom (Room 205). Both the wall and its door opening have been dated circa 1892. Doorway elements of an earlier (circa-1830s) vintage appear to have been reused at this doorway, including the casing, mitered trim with applied ogee molding, and 4-panel door with Norfolk latch and cast-iron hinges. |
| **Windows** | 1786 & 1830s? | One window (W-209) is located at the east end of the north wall in the back chamber. This may be an original window opening dating to circa 1786, or it may date to the remodeling of the second-story rooms circa 1830s. Window elements of the latter period include the cased frame, mitered trim with applied ogee moldings, and 8-over-12 sashes. While the sashes are similar to the original surviving sashes in the house, the narrower muntins are suggestive of a later date. |

| Room 206 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Chimney** | 1786 | The back side of the original chimney is located in a niche at the south wall. There are no physical remnants of a fireplace, although physical investigation has not yet been undertaken. A stove had formerly been vented at this chimney, based on the shadow outline of a patched stove-pipe hole. |
| **Closet** | 20th century | The chimney niche described above was most recently outfitted with two modern doors to serve as a small closet. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century<br><br>20th century | Light Fixtures. One electric wall sconce is mounted to the west wall, north of the doorway.<br><br>Electrical Outlets. One electrical outlet is located in the lower west wall. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | N/A | There are no radiators in the back chamber. This room had previously been heated by a stove, the smoke pipe for which connected with the chimney at the south wall (as evidenced by a round patch in the chimney). |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | White paint finishes the woodwork of the back chamber, including the baseboards, doorway trim and doors, window trim and sashes, cased post, and ceiling molding. The plaster ceiling is also painted white. The floorboards are painted gray. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1940s-50s | The same wallpapers found in the northeast chamber (Room 204) also cover the unpainted plaster walls of the rear chamber and closet. The walls of the main room are finished with the circa-1950s floral-striped pattern. The walls of the south closet have an earlier (circa-1940s) striped green-and-metallic-silver pattern. |

## Room 207 (Back Stair Hall)

| Room 207 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1786 & 1830s | Room 207 is the back stair hall, located on the west side of the second story. The steep stair to the first story is likely an original feature dating to circa 1786. The post-fire remodeling of the 1830s introduced an east partition wall and doorway. |
| **Floor** | 1786 & 1950s | The upper landing of the back stair is comprised of wide floorboards. The floorboards are covered by one layer of circa-1950s felt-base flooring printed with a geometric pattern. |
| **Walls** | 1786 & 1830s | Structure. Original walls dating to circa 1786 include the west exterior wall, and the north and south interior walls. The east interior partition and doorway is believed to have been added circa 1830s. |
| | 1786 & 1830s | Plaster. The original south and west walls of the back stair hall are finished with plaster. How much, if any, of the original plaster on accordion lath survives at these walls is not known. Plaster above the doorway at the circa-1830s east wall is presumably contemporary with that wall. |
| | 1786 | Board Partition. The north wall of the back stair hall is composed of vertical boards. This board partition is believed to be original, dating to circa 1786. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 or 1830s | The ceiling of the back stair hall is flat at the upper landing, and sloping at the underside of the attic stair. The ceiling is finished with plaster of undetermined date. |
| **Baseboards** | N/A | There are no baseboards. |
| **Doorways** | | There are three doorways in the back stair hall. |
| | 1786 | South Doorway. A doorway in the upper south wall connects with the southwest chamber (Room 201). This is an original doorway dating to circa 1786. Original elements of this doorway include the opening, casing, plain-board trim, and 4-panel door with H-L hinges. The Norfolk latch is a later replacement of the door's original Suffolk latch. |

| Room 207 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorways (cont'd)** | 1830s | East Doorway. A doorway at the head of the stairs connects with the back chamber (Room 206). This is a later doorway installed with the wall circa 1830s. Doorway elements of this period include the opening, casing, and plain-board trim. The 4-panel door is missing from the doorway today, but survives in the pantry doorway (Room 106), where it was reused circa 1950s. |
| | 1830s | North Doorway. A doorway in the north wall connects with the second-story kitchen. This doorway also appears to be of circa-1830s vintage. Doorway elements of that period include the opening, plain-board trim, and 4-panel door with Norfolk latch and cast-iron hinges. |
| **Windows** | N/A | There are no windows in the back stair hall. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | Light Fixture. A single-bulb light fixture with glass shade is mounted to the ceiling of the back stair hall. Light switches are mounted to the north wall, the wiring for which is concealed by a wooden molding. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | N/A | The back stair hall is unheated. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | The woodwork and ceiling of the back stair hall are painted white. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1950s | The unpainted plaster walls are covered with the same circa-1950s floral-striped wallpaper used in the northeast chamber (Room 204) and the rear chamber (Room 206). |

## Room 208 (Second-Story Kitchen)

| Room 208 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **General Description** | 1830s & 1950s | Room 208 is located in the northwest corner of the second story. The room was created as part of a post-fire remodeling of the second story circa 1830s. It was later equipped as a tenant's kitchen by the last owner of the house, Hagop Hovagimian, circa 1950s. |
| **Floor** | 1786 & 1950s | The floor consists of original wide floorboards, covered with cira-1950s felt-base flooring printed with a geometric pattern. |
| **Walls** | 1786 & 1830s | Structure. Three walls date to the original construction of the house circa 1786: the exterior north and west walls, and the interior board partition at the back stair. One original structural post with plain-board casing is partially concealed by modern cabinets in the northwest corner of the room. The interior east wall is believed to have been installed circa 1830s as part of the post-fire remodeling of the second story. |
| | 1786 & 1830s | Plaster. Three walls are finished with plaster today: the west, north, and east. How much, if any, original plaster on accordion lath survives at the north and west walls is not known. The plaster on the east wall is presumably contemporary with the construction of that wall circa 1830s. The original board partition on the south side of the room is covered with wallpaper. |
| **Ceiling** | 1786 | The structural framing of the ceiling is original, dating to circa 1786. The ceiling plaster is later, circa 1830s, judging by the sawn-lath substrate visible in the attic. |
| **Baseboards** | 1830s | The lower walls of the room are trimmed with circa-1830s baseboards, 7 ½" high, with top bead detail. |
| **Doorways** | | There are two doorways in the upper kitchen, both located in the south wall. |
| | 1830s | Hall Doorway. A doorway at the east end of the south wall connects with the upper stair hall. This doorway is believed to date to the creation of the room circa 1830s. Doorway |

| Room 208 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorways (cont'd)** | 1786 | elements dating to that period include the opening, casing, and 4-panel door with Norfolk latch and cast-iron hinges.<br><br>Attic Doorway. A doorway at the west end of the south wall opens onto the attic stairway. This is believed to be an original doorway dating to circa 1786. Original elements include the opening, casing, plain-board trim, hand-planed board-and-batten door with simple wooden knob, and hand-wrought "H" hinges. |
| **Windows** | 1786 & 1950s | There are two windows in the upper kitchen: one in the north wall (W-210), the other in the west wall (W-211). The north window is a modern opening with 2-over-2 sashes, installed circa 1950s. The west window is an original opening with plank casing and 8-over-12 sashes dating to circa 1786. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century | Light Fixture. One electric wall sconce is mounted to the south wall.<br><br>Electrical Outlets. One electrical outlet is located at the east wall. |
| **Heating Fixtures** | 20th century | One steam radiator made by "The H.B. Smith Co." sits at the north wall. |
| **Plumbing Fixtures** | 1950s | A white-enamel sink is at the west wall, within a metal cabinet labeled "Youngstown Kitchens by Mullins." This is identical to the circa-1950s sink in the first-story kitchen (Room 105). |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | White paint finishes the woodwork, including the baseboards, doorway trim and doors, west window trim and sashes, and west-wall cabinet. The plaster ceiling is also painted white. The wide floorboards are painted gray. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1940s-50s | Four layers of wallpaper cover the walls of Room 208, judging by a sample removed from the unpainted plaster of the circa-1830s east wall. The top layer is a circa-1950s wallpaper with a machine-printed design of colorful tiles on a cream ground. Extra rolls of this wallpaper were found stored in the attic with the following information printed in the selvedge: "Imperial Wallpaper," and "Guaranteed Washable and Fast to |

| Room 208 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Wallpaper (cont'd)** | | Light." Beneath this is an earlier (circa-1940s) wallpaper with a blue-and-metallic-silver striped pattern, which is also exposed behind the wooden cabinet above the sink. The third layer, dated circa 1930s, includes a body paper with an abstract "worm" design printed in cream on a plain paper ground, and a narrow border paper printed with a diamond motif. The fourth (earliest) wallpaper, dated circa 1920s, has small-scale foliate design in colors of brown and cream. |

## Room 301 (Attic)

| Room301 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| General Description | 1786 | A large, walk-up attic is an original feature of the house dating to circa 1786. |
| Floor | 1786<br><br>1786 & later repairs | Structure. The structural framing of the attic floor is original, dating to circa 1786. Reciprocal-sawn floor joists measure 7 ½ - ¾" by 2" and are spaced 1' 9" on center.<br><br>Floorboards. Original boards measuring up to 18" wide cover the floor of the attic. Charring of the floor framing and floorboards on the northeast side of the chimney is physical evidence of a previous fire. Building materials associated with a subsequent remodeling of the second story rooms date this fire "circa 1830s." Selected floorboards on the west side of the chimney have been replaced with later boards that appear to have been reused from furniture packing crates, based on the stenciled writing thereon: "Kaplan Furniture, 91 Albany Street, Cambridge, Mass." |
| Walls | 1786 | The east and west gable-end walls of the attic consist of the exposed wall studs and the back sides of the exterior wall sheathing. The sheathing boards are reciprocal-sawn and measure up to 16" wide. |
| Ceiling | 1786, 1830s, & 20th century | The attic ceiling consists of the exposed original framing of the gable roof, and the undersides of the wide roof sheathing boards. A ridge pole of pentagonal shape and rafters are hand-hewn; the sheathing boards and purlins are reciprocal-sawn. New sheathing boards replaced fire-damaged boards in the vicinity of the chimney circa 1830s. Wooden posts supporting the roof rafters at mid span were probably installed sometime in the 20th century. |
| Doorways | 1786 | See "Room 208" for a description of the doorway to the attic stair. |
| Windows | 1786 & 1892 | There are two windows in the gable ends of the attic: one in the east wall (W-301), the other in the west wall (W-302). The window openings are unchanged from their original size and locations, judging by physical evidence on the exterior side of the windows. The original frames and sashes were replaced with the existing cased frames and |

| Room301 Elements | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| | | weighted 8-over-12 sashes circa 1892. One pair of original attic sashes survives in a first-story window, W-111, where it was reused circa 1892. |
| **Attic Stair** | 1786 | A steep wooden stair in the northwest corner provides access to the attic from the second-story kitchen (Room 208). This appears to be an original stairway, as suggested by the hand-planed paneling attached with hand-wrought nails that finishes the sidewalls in the second story. |
| **Chimney** | 1786 | An original brick chimney rises through the center of the attic. |
| **Electrical Fixtures** | 20th century<br><br>20th century | Light Fixtures. Bare-bulb light fixtures are suspended between the roof rafters of the attic, controlled by a switch mounted to the wall at the attic stair.<br><br>Knob-and-Tube Wiring. Early porcelain knob-and-tube wiring is installed in the joists of the attic floor. |
| **Painted Finishes (Existing)** | 20th century | The attic is unpainted, except for the circa-1892 window sashes at the east and west walls that are finished with white paint. |
| **Wallpaper** | 1940s-50s | Two layers of wallpaper cover the south and west walls paneled walls of the attic stairway. Both papers are machine-printed with a striped design. The wallpapers were likely installed by the last owner circa 1940s-50s. Loose rolls of extra wallpapers used throughout the house circa 1940s-50s are stored on a table in the attic. |

## Mechanical, Utility, and Detection Systems

| Systems | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| **Electrical System** | By 1928 | The house is wired for 60-amp. service. Electrical equipment likely existed in the house by 1928, based on a mortgage document of that date that describes "all gas and electric light fixtures." |
| Fuse Box | 20th century | A fuse box is located in the cellar, mounted to the south stone wall. |
| Wiring | 20th century | Exposed porcelain knob-and-tube electrical equipment is visible in the attic. Wiring covered by an applied wooden molding is visible in the back stair hall. |
| Light Fixtures | 1920s | Most light fixtures in the rooms of the first and second stories are wall-mounted sconces of circa-1920s vintage. |
| Outlets | 20th century | Most rooms are equipped with one or more wall-mounted electrical outlets. |
| **Heating System** | By 1928 | The house is equipped with a functioning oil-fueled, steam-heating system. A central-heating system appears to have been installed in the house by 1928, based on a mortgage document of that date that describes "all furnaces, heaters, ranges [etc.]." |
| Thermostat | 20th century | Heat is regulated by a single thermostat mounted to the north wall of the southeast room (Room 103). |
| Boiler | 20th century | The boiler is a "No. 1164 Smith Boiler" manufactured by the H.B. Smith Co., Inc. of Westfield, Massachusetts. The boiler is located in the cellar at the back (north) wall. The existing burner was installed in June 2000. |
| Oil Tank | 20th century | A single oil tank is located in the back northwest corner of the cellar. |
| Radiators | 20th century | Cast-iron steam radiators manufactured by three different companies are in the rooms of the first and second stories. The earliest radiators are likely those made by the "H.B. Smith Co." These are located in the front entry (Room 102), the southwest chamber (Room 201), the southeast chamber (Room 203), the bathroom (Room 205), and the second-story kitchen (Room 208). Radiators made by the "American Radiator Co." are in the southwest room (Room 101), the southeast room (Room 103), and the |

| Systems | Circa Date | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| Radiators (cont'd) | | dining room (Room 104). These may be contemporary with the later structural rebuilding of the floors in those rooms. One radiator labeled "U.S.," by an unknown manufacturer, is in the kitchen (Room 105). This radiator was likely installed as part of the circa-1950s remodeling of the kitchen. |
| **Plumbing System** | 20th century | One bathroom, one toilet room, and two kitchens are equipped with plumbing fixtures; one exterior spigot is located on the back (north) side of the house. |
| Water Supply | 20th century | Water is supplied by the Town of Concord. |
| Sewage | 20th century | Waste drains to two separate septic tanks east of the house. Cast-iron and PVC sewer pipes are located at the upper north wall of the cellar. |
| Toilet Room Fixtures (Room 108) | 1950-51 | Lavatory: white enamel, made by the "American Standard & Radiator Corporation, Baltimore, 7-25-50." |
| | 1950 | Original toilet-tank cover: white enamel, manufactured by the "Standard" Company, "Mar. 8, 1950." |
| | 1967 | Existing toilet tank: a later replacement, dated "2-28-67." |
| Bathroom Fixtures (Room 205) | 1930s | Footed bath tub: white enamel, no manufacturer's identification. |
| | 1930s | Lavatory: white enamel, wall-mounted, no manufacturer's identification. |
| | 1930s | Toilet: white enamel, made by the "Standard" Company, circa 1933. |
| Kitchen Fixtures (Rooms 105 & 208) | 1950-51 | Sinks: housed in metal cabinets labeled "Youngstown Kitchens by Mullins." |
| | Post-1950 | Shower (Room 105 only): a free-standing "Durastall" unit made by "E.L. Mustee & Sons, Inc." |
| **Fire Detection** | 20th century | Fire-detection equipment consists of ceiling-mounted, battery-powered smoke detectors installed by the last owner of the house. |
| **Intrusion Detection** | 2000 | A hard-wired intrusion-detection system was installed by the National Park Service following acquisition of the property in October 2000. |

# PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION: 2002

**Figure 12.**

(Above)
Front façade of the Olive Stow House, April 2002.

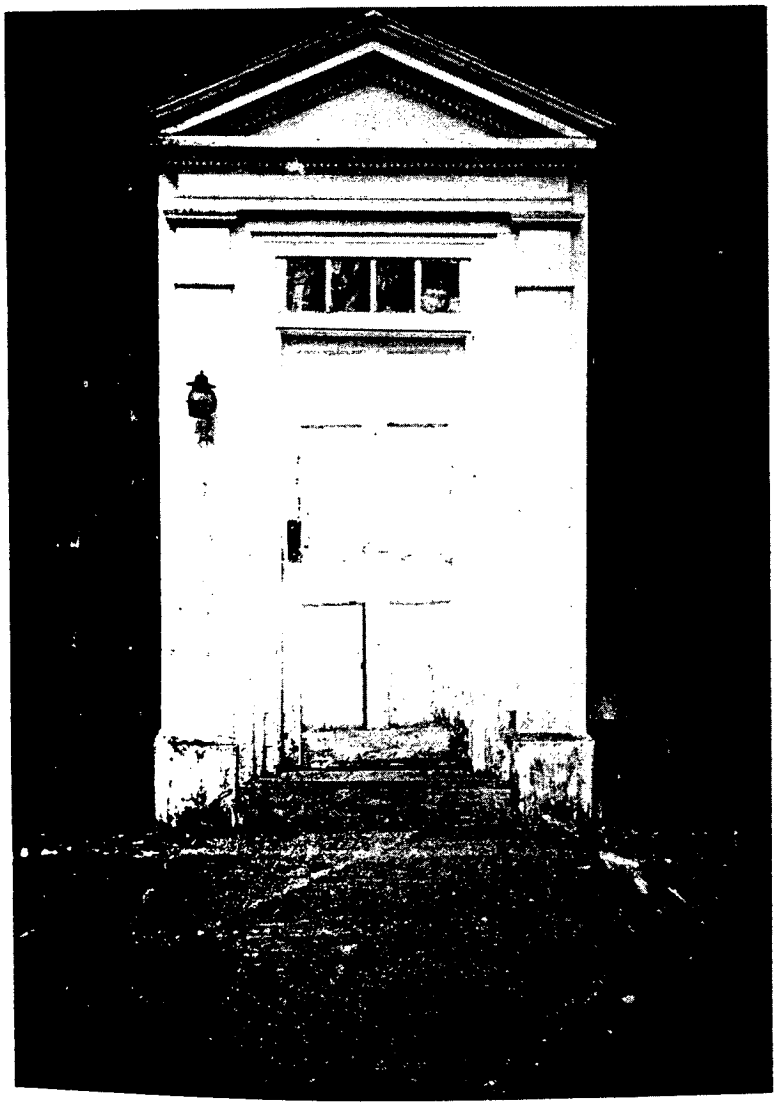

**Figure 13.**

(Left)
Front doorway and paving stone, April 2002.

**Figure 14.**

(Left)
West elevation, April 2002.

**Figure 15.**

(Below)
Detail showing the original doorway in the west elevation, April 2002.

**Figure 16.** Rear (north) elevation, April 2002.

**Figure 17.** East elevation, April 2002.

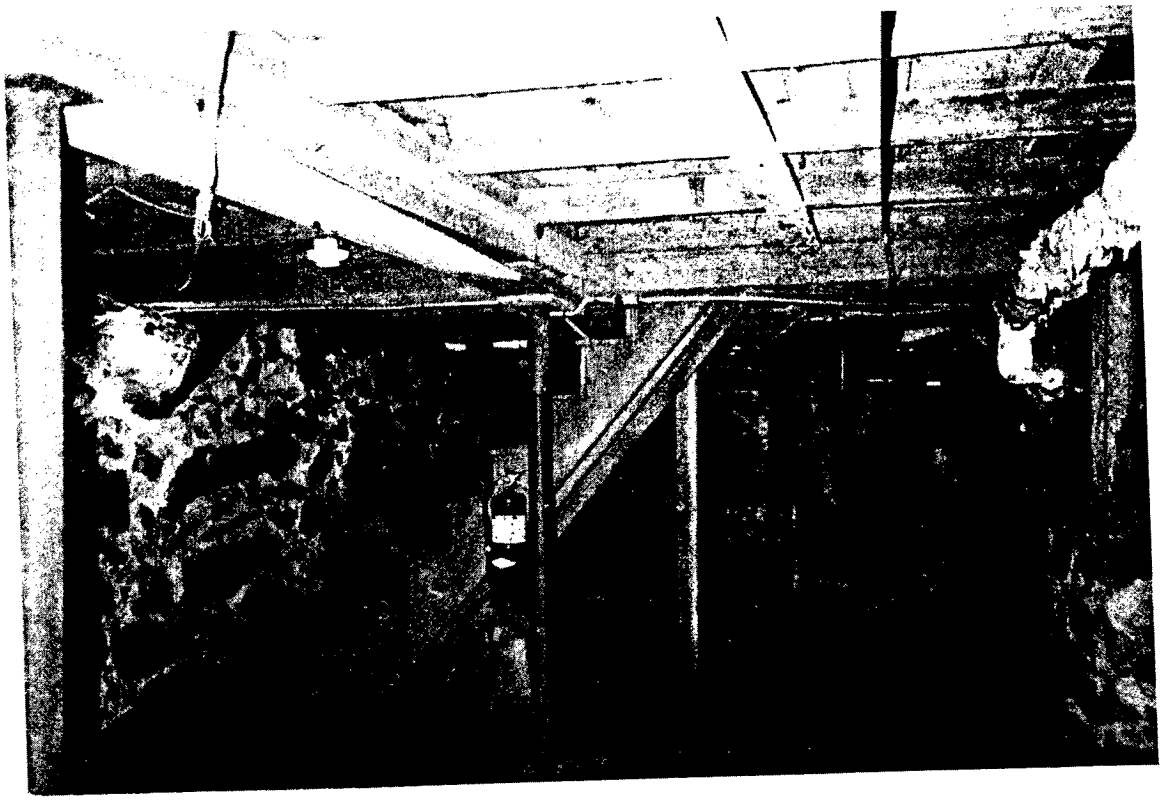

**Figure 18.** Cellar (Room 001): west side, view looking north, April 2002.

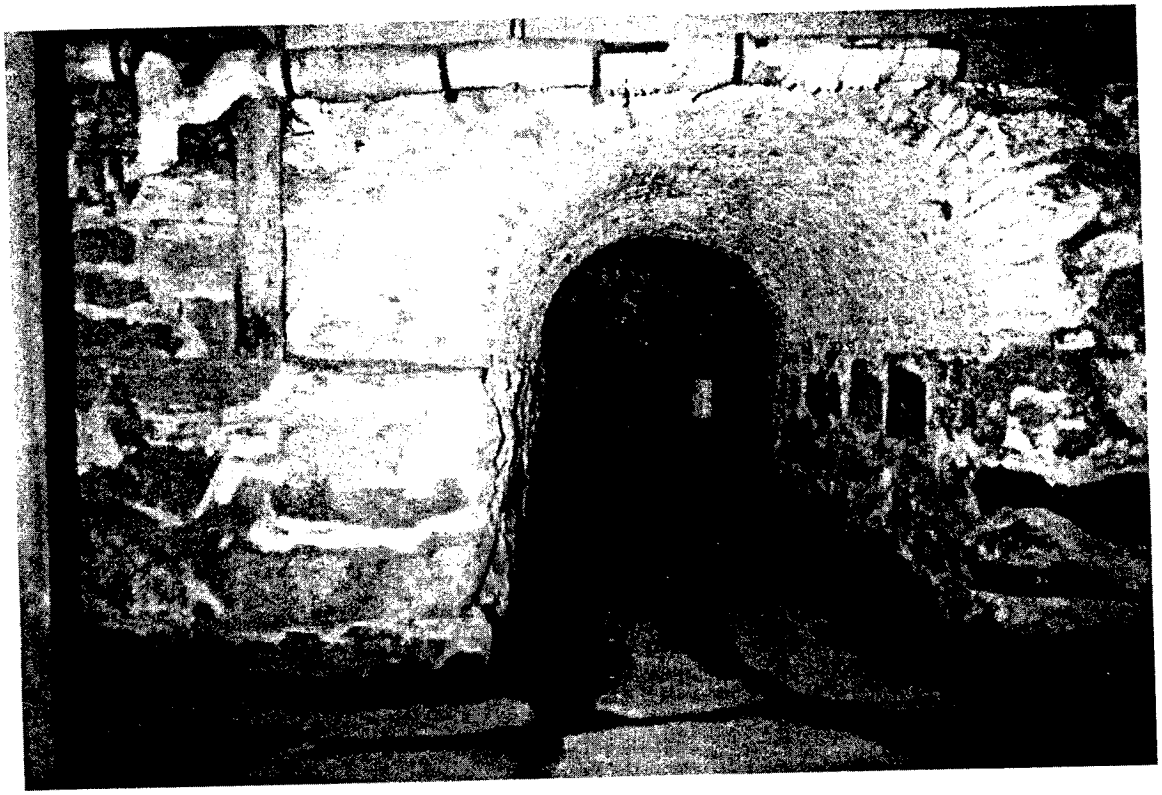

**Figure 19.** Cellar (Room 001): brick-arched passage in the stone chimney base, April 2002.

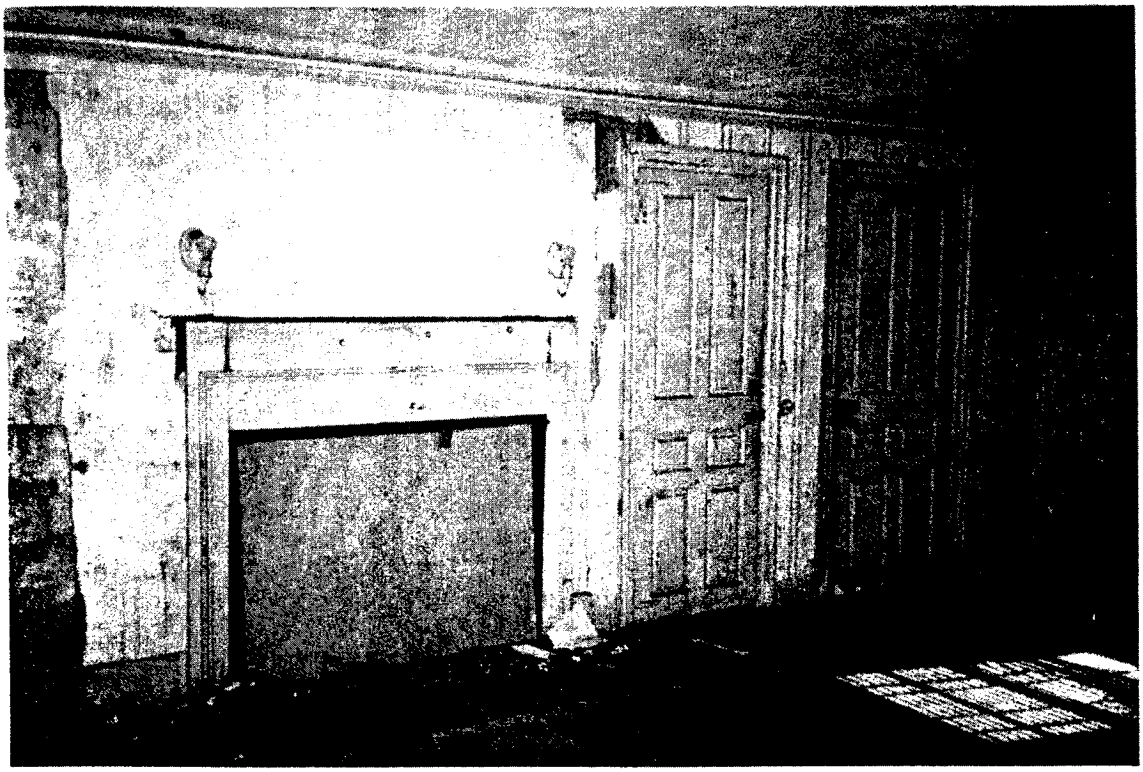

**Figure 20.** Southwest room (Room 101): view looking southeast, April 2002.

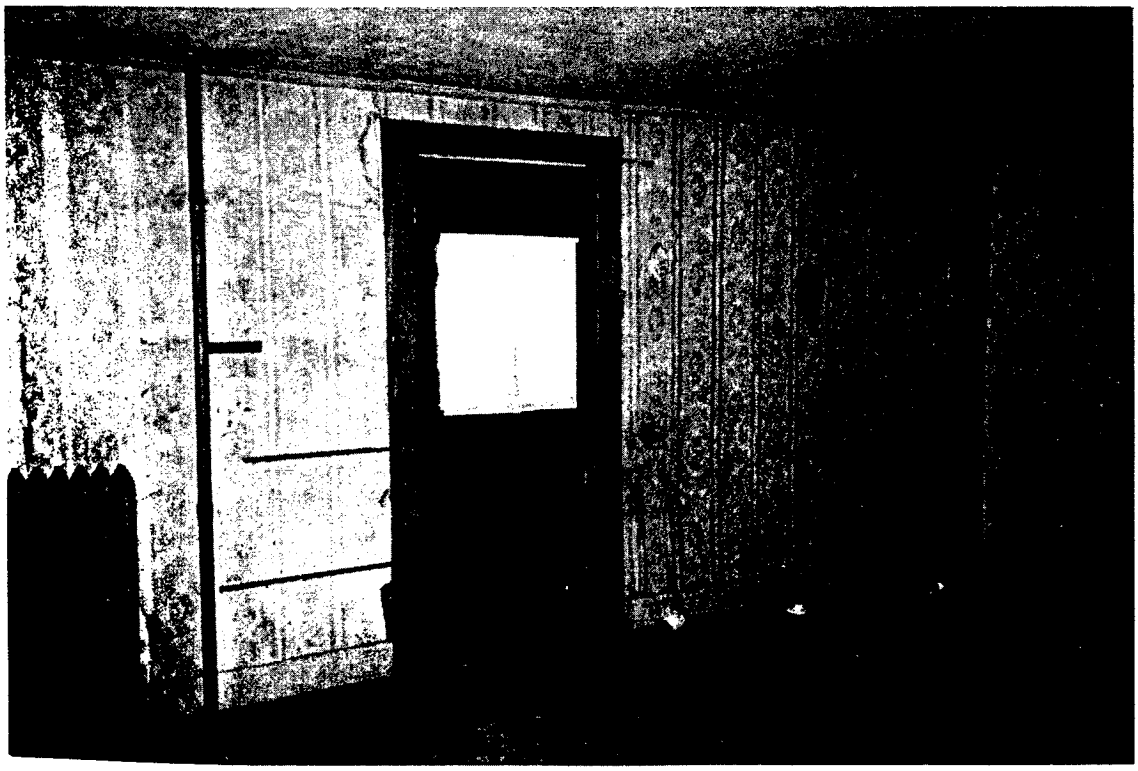

**Figure 21.** Southwest room (Room 101): view looking northwest, April 2002.

**Figure 22.**

(Left)
Front entry (Room 102):
view looking east, April 2002.

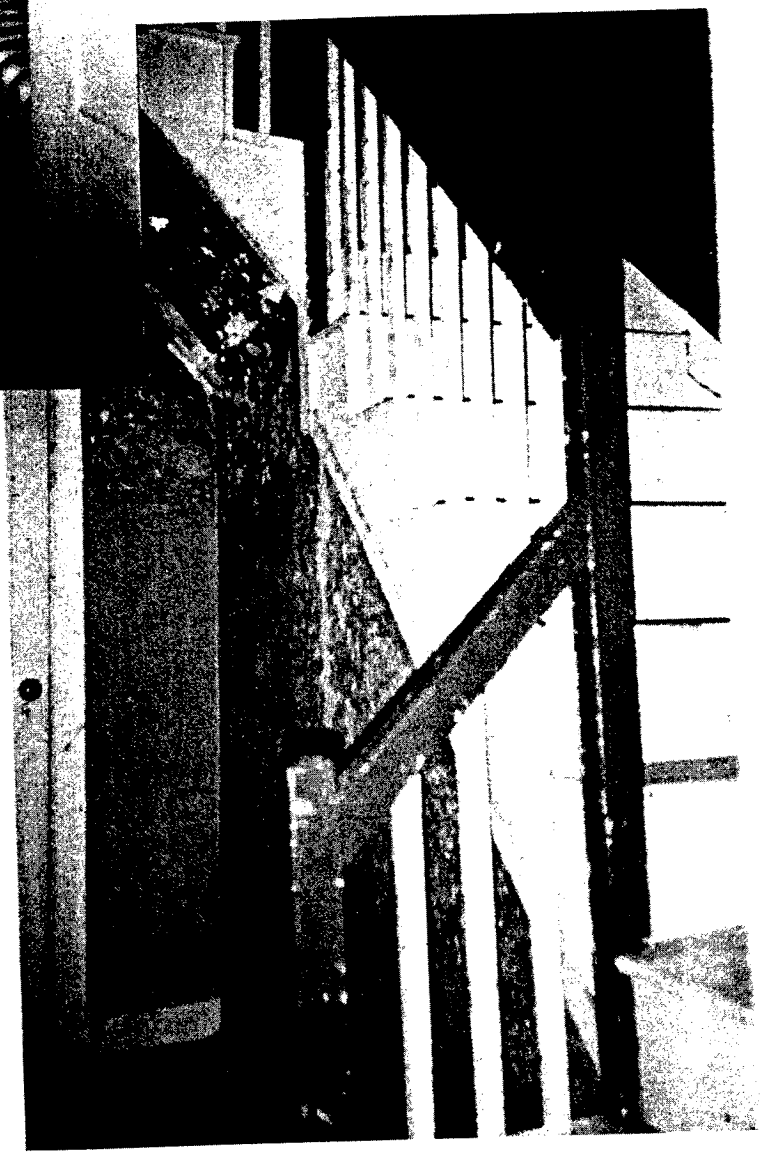

**Figure 23.**

(Right)
Front entry (Room 102):
main stair, view looking
northwest, April 2002.

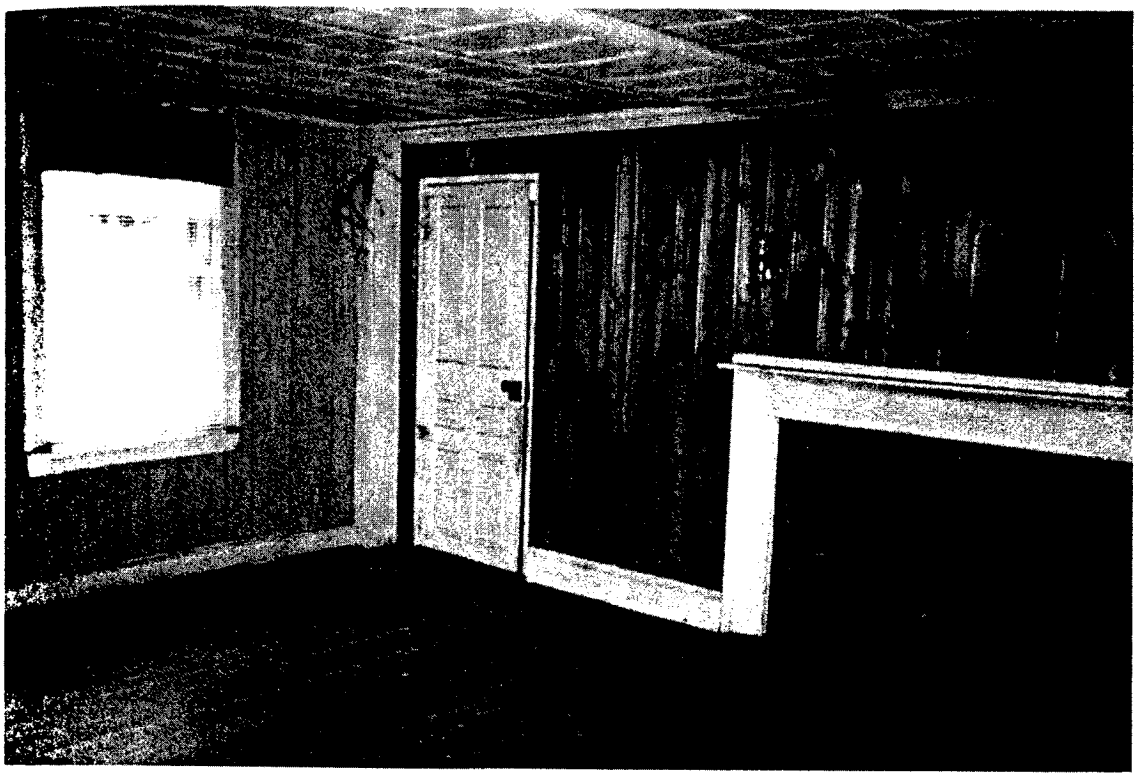

**Figure 24.** Southeast room (Room 103): view looking southwest, April 2002.

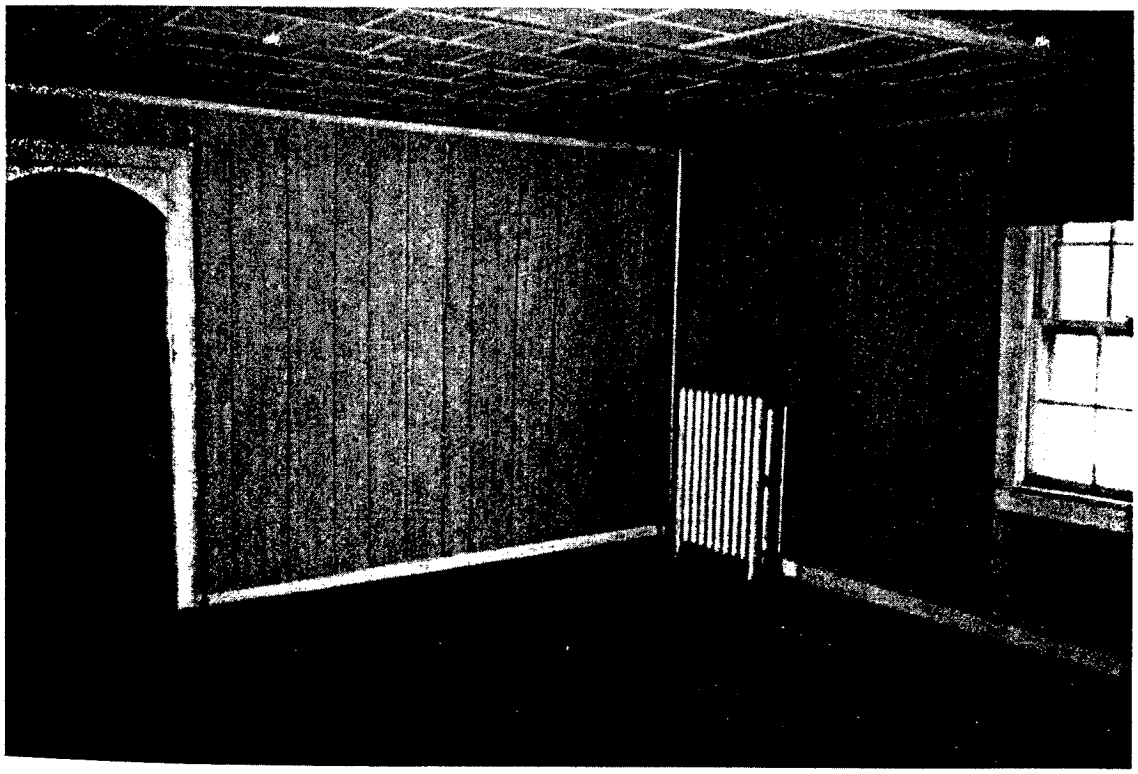

**Figure 25.** Southeast room (Room 103): view looking northeast, April 2002.

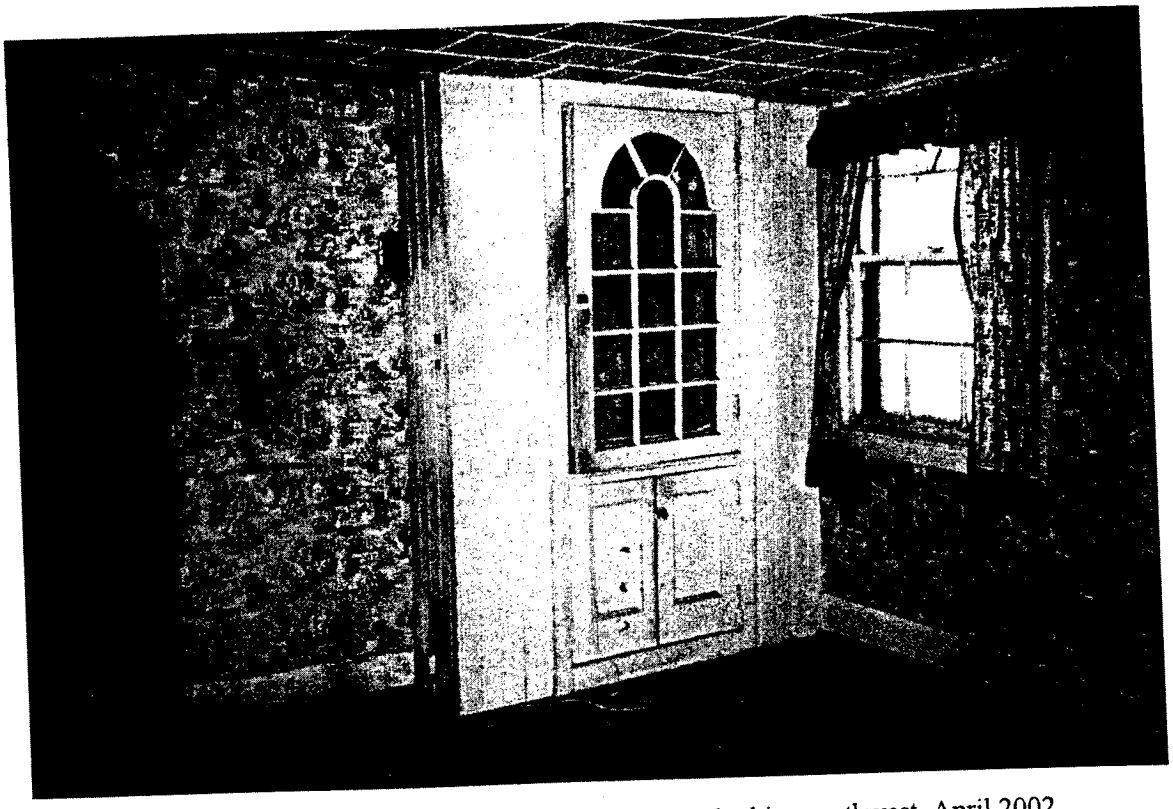

**Figure 26.** Dining room (Room 104): view looking northwest, April 2002.

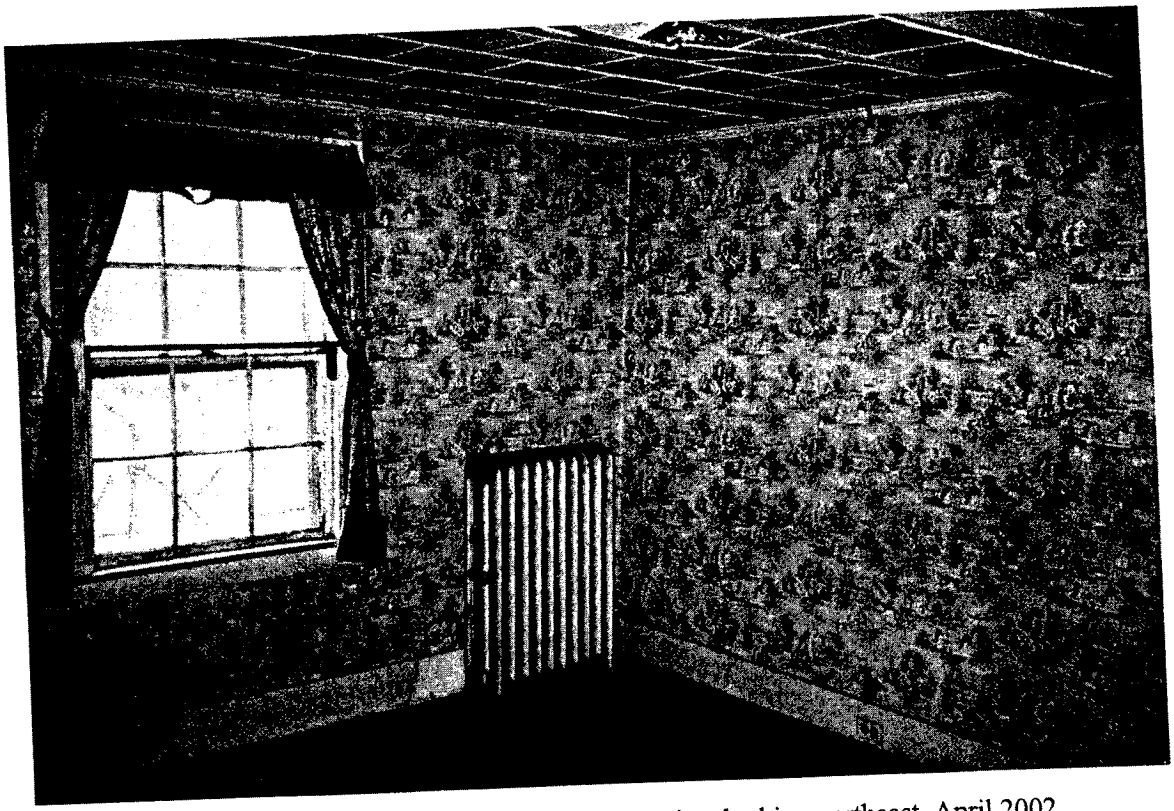

**Figure 27.** Dining room (Room 104): view looking northeast, April 2002.

**Figure 28.** Kitchen (Room 105): view looking east, April 2002.

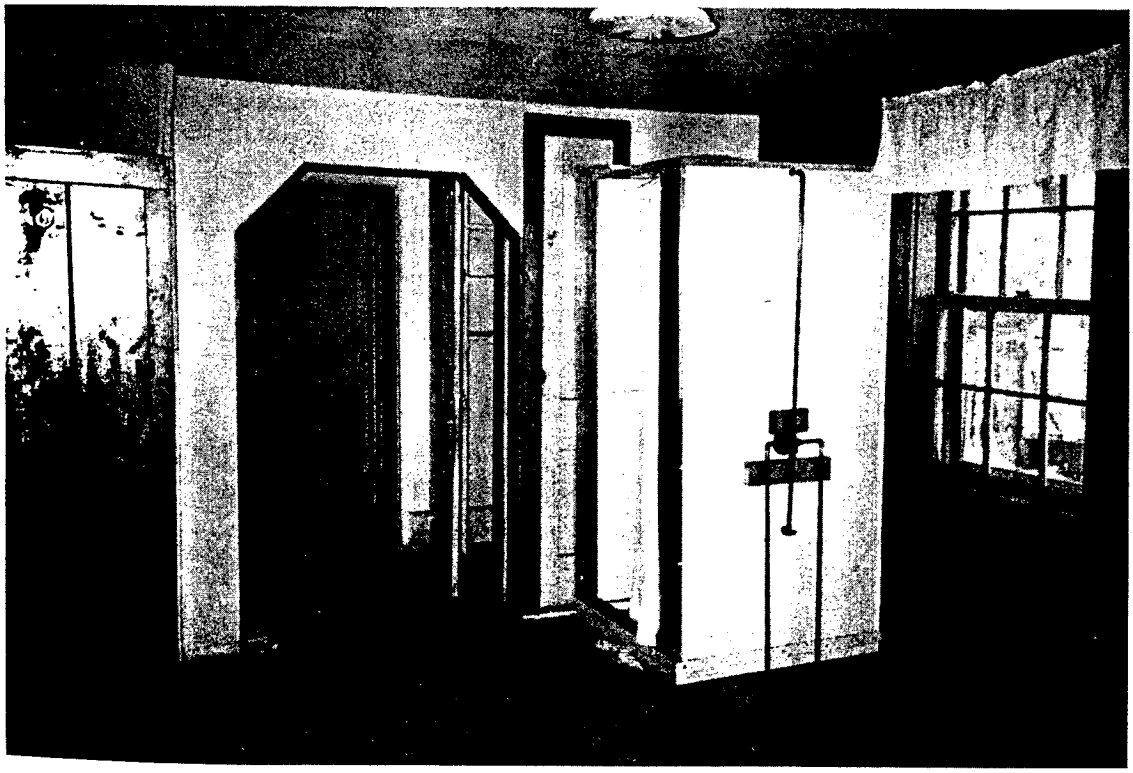

**Figure 29.** Kitchen (Room 105): view looking northwest, April 2002.

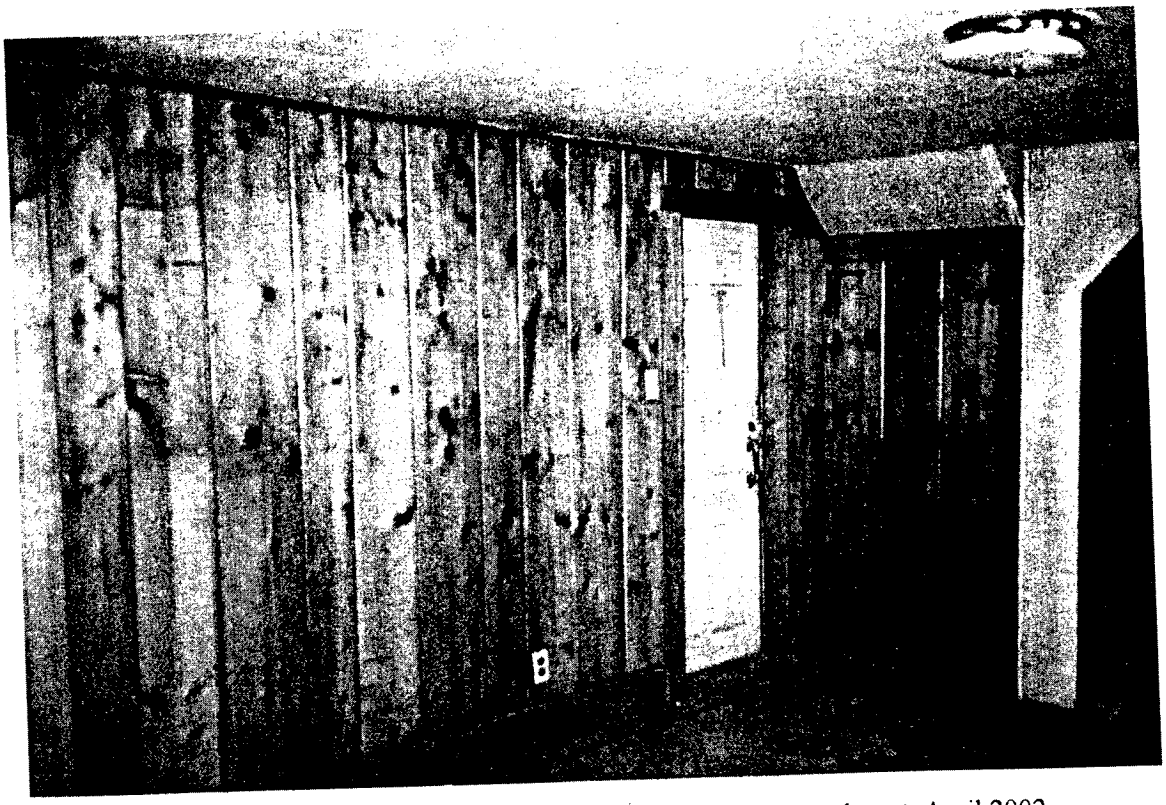

**Figure 30.** Kitchen (Room 105): view looking southwest, April 2002.

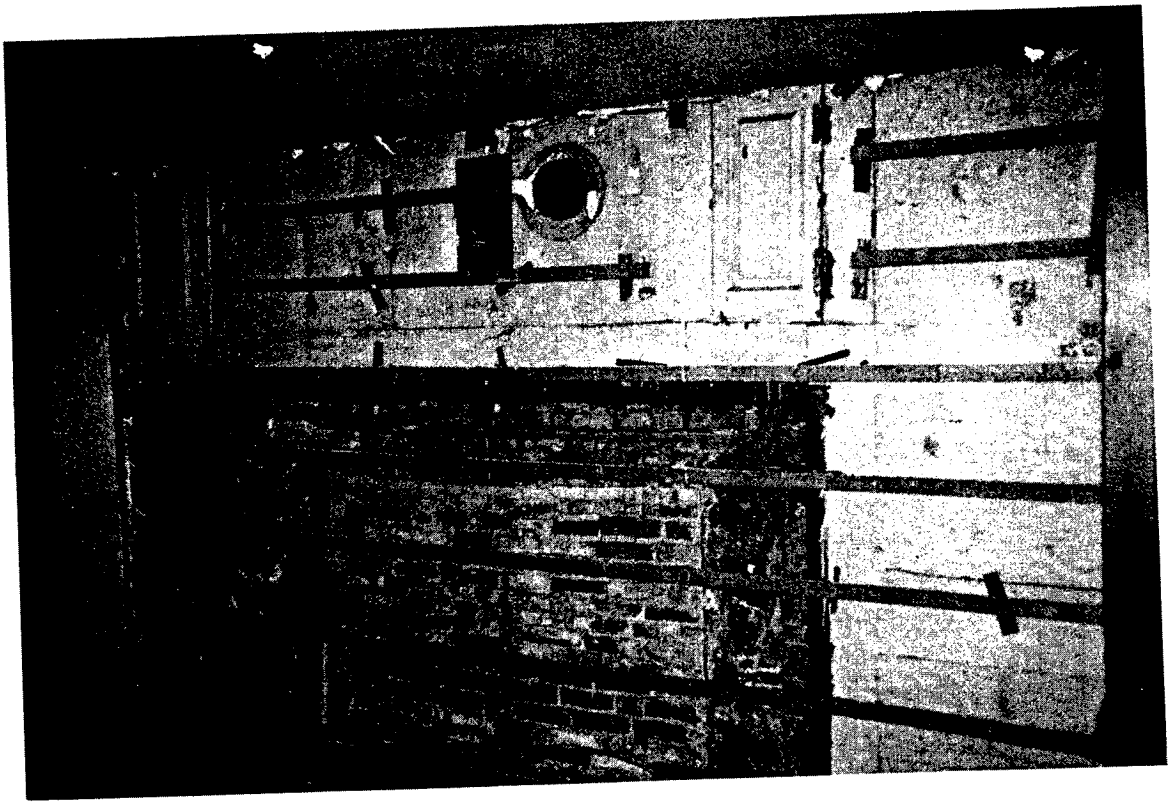

**Figure 31.** Kitchen (Room 105): original fireplace and cabinet concealed beneath later paneling at the south wall, April 2002.

**Figure 32.**

(Left)
West hall and side entry (Room 107): view looking southwest, April 2002.

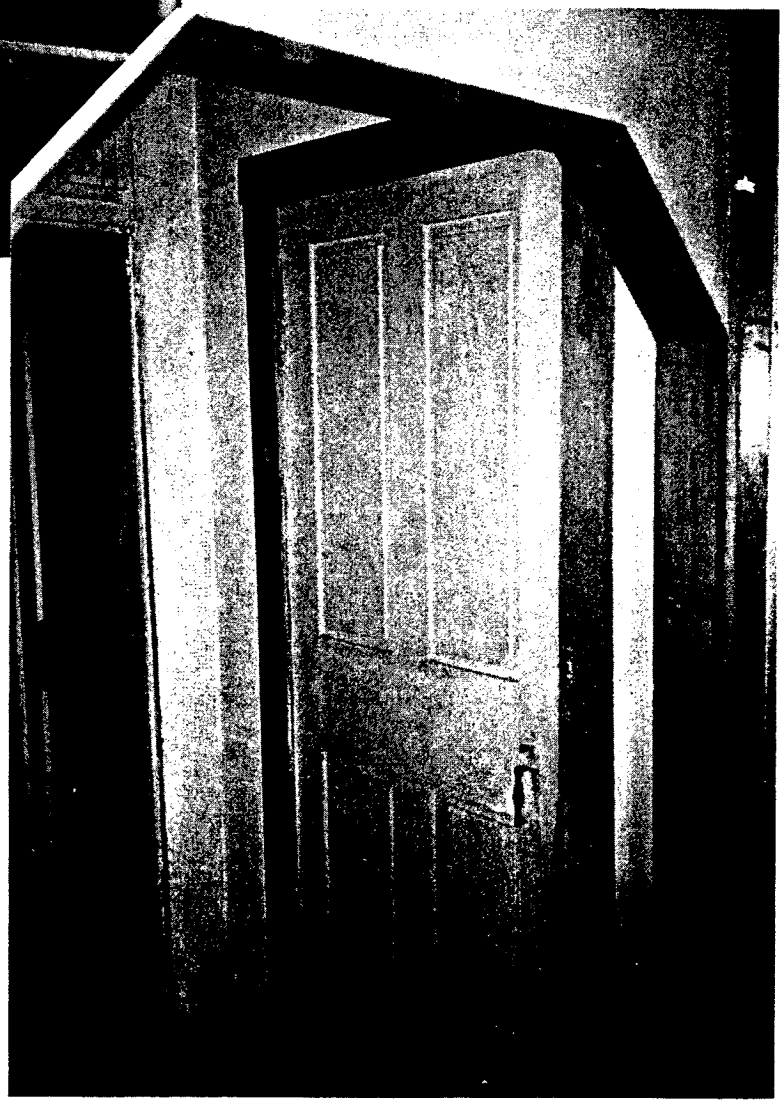

**Figure 33.**

(Right)
Pantry (Room 106): paneled door reused from the back chamber in the second story, April 2002.

**Figure 34.**

(Right)
Toilet room (Room 108):
view looking north,
April 2002.

**Figure 35.**

(Left)
Back stair looking
east, April 2002.

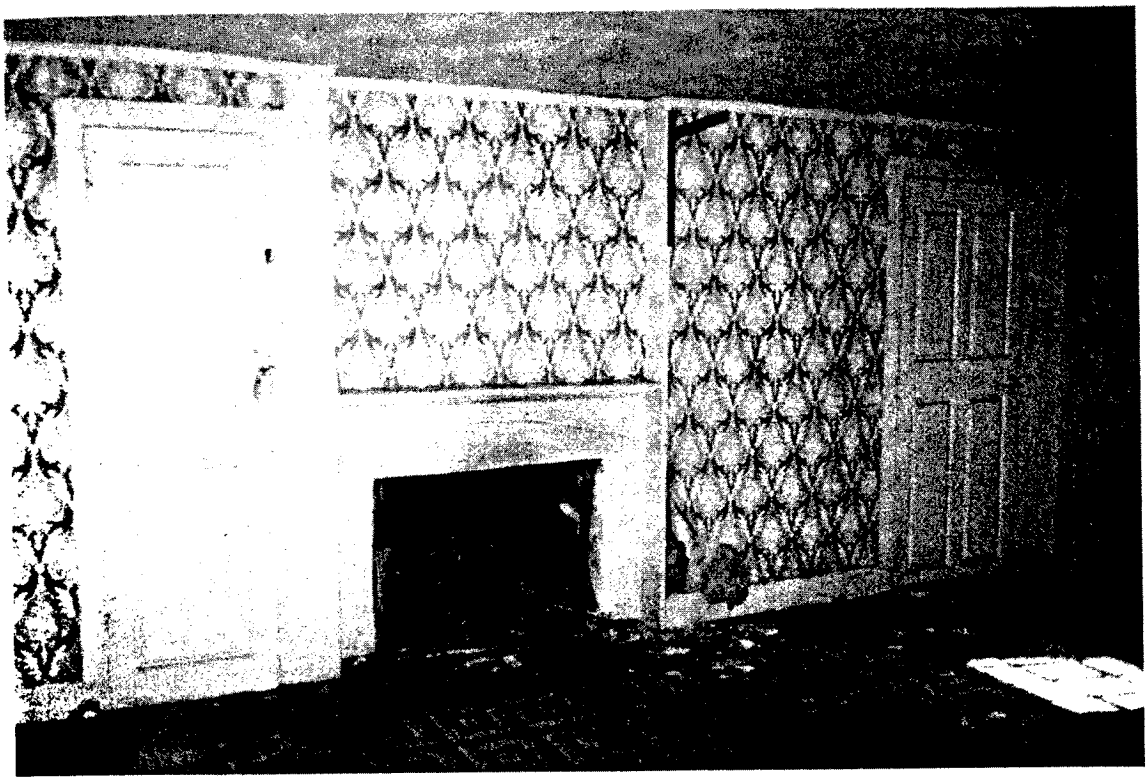

**Figure 36.** Southwest chamber (Room 201): view looking east, April 2002.

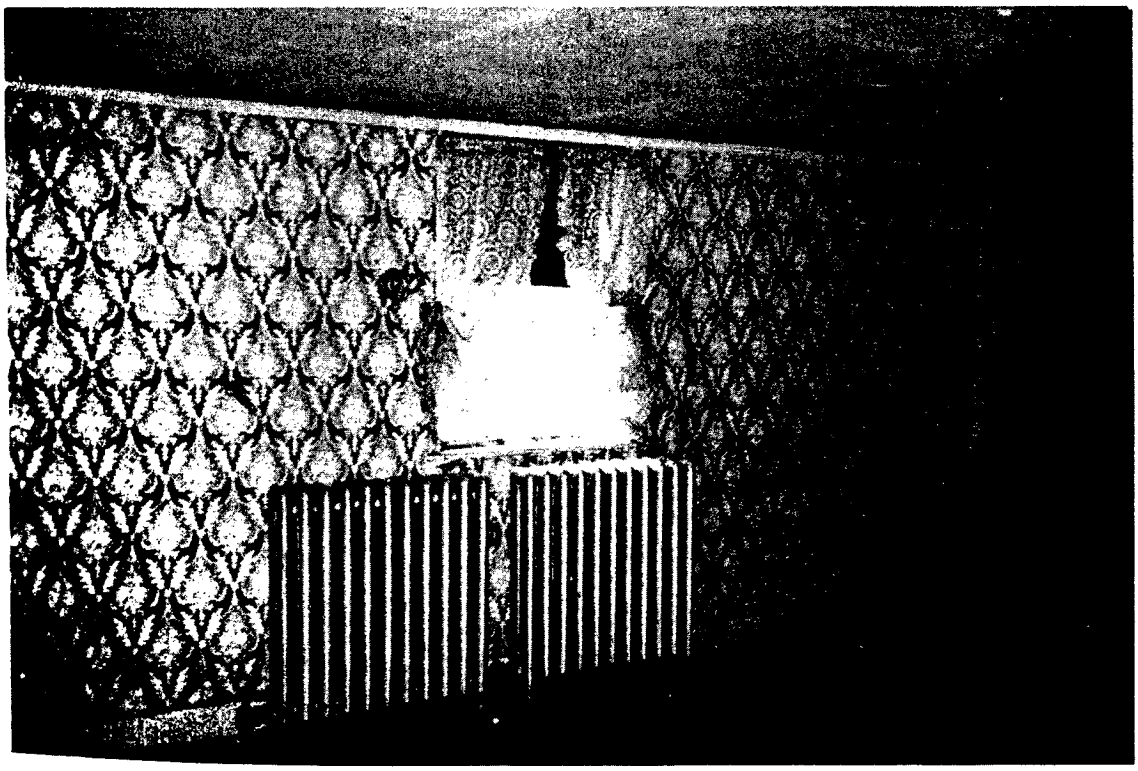

**Figure 37.** Southwest chamber (Room 201): view looking northwest, April 2002.

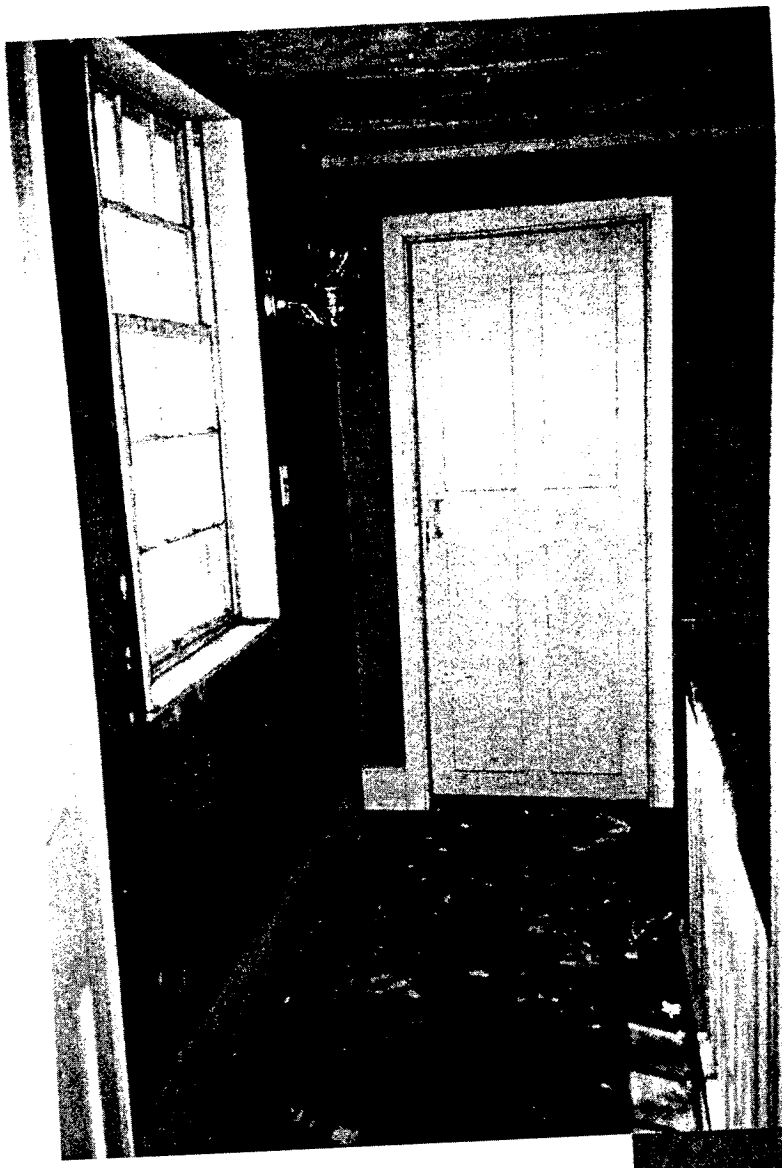

**Figure 38.**

(Left)
Upper hall (Room 202):
view looking west,
April 2002.

**Figure 39.**

(Right)
Main stair (Rooms 102-202):
view looking down,
April 2002.

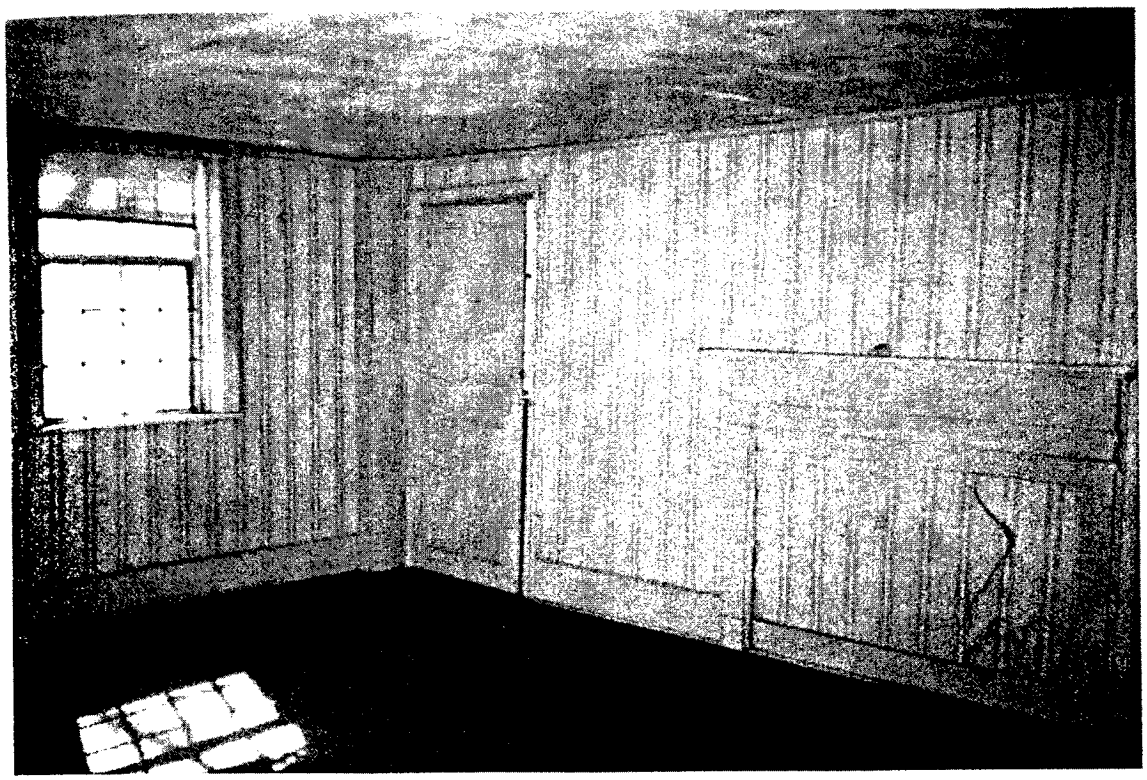

**Figure 40.** Southeast chamber (Room 203): view looking southwest, April 2002.

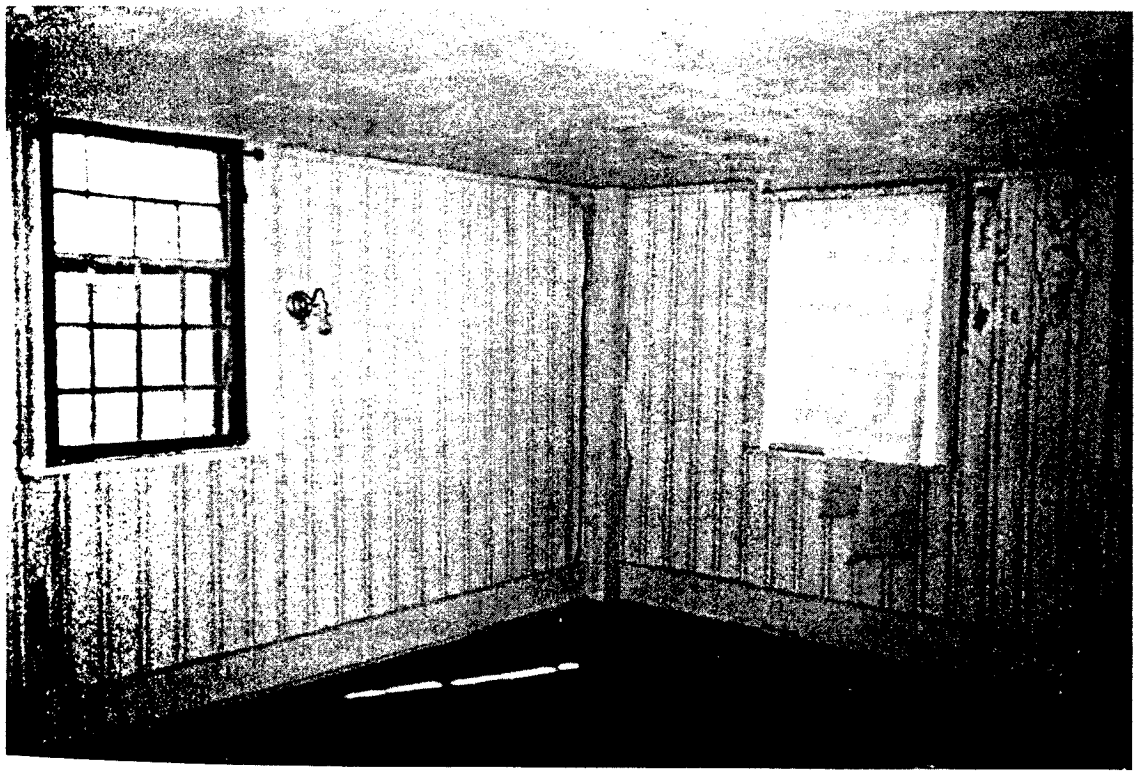

**Figure 41.** Southeast chamber (Room 203): view looking southeast, April 2002.

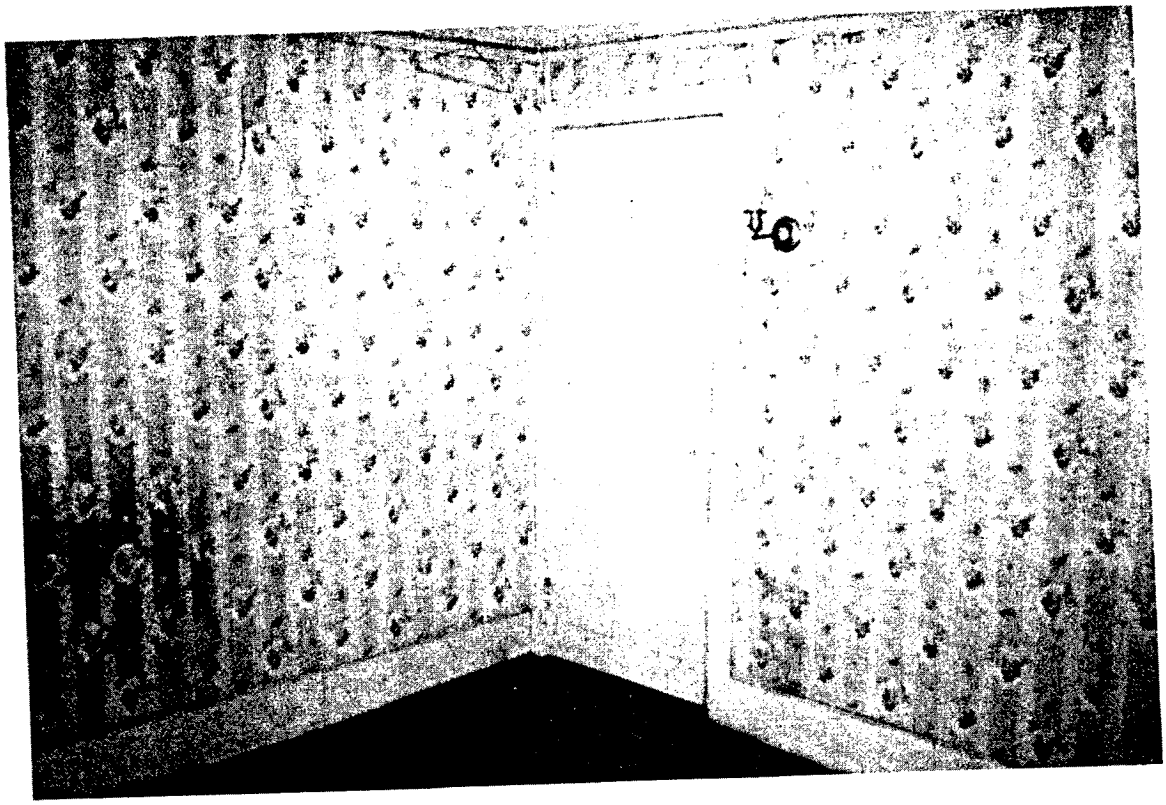

**Figure 42.** Northwest chamber (Room 204): view looking southwest, April 2002.

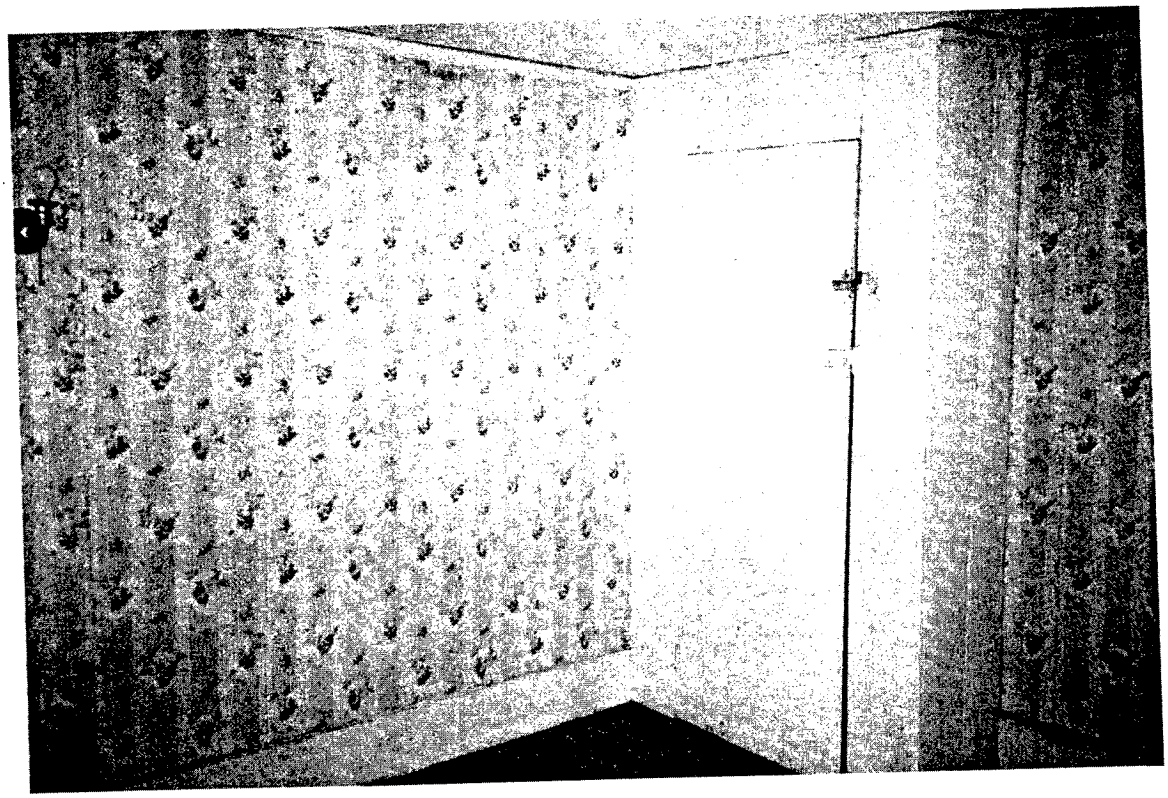

**Figure 43.** Northwest chamber (Room 204): view looking northwest, April 2002.

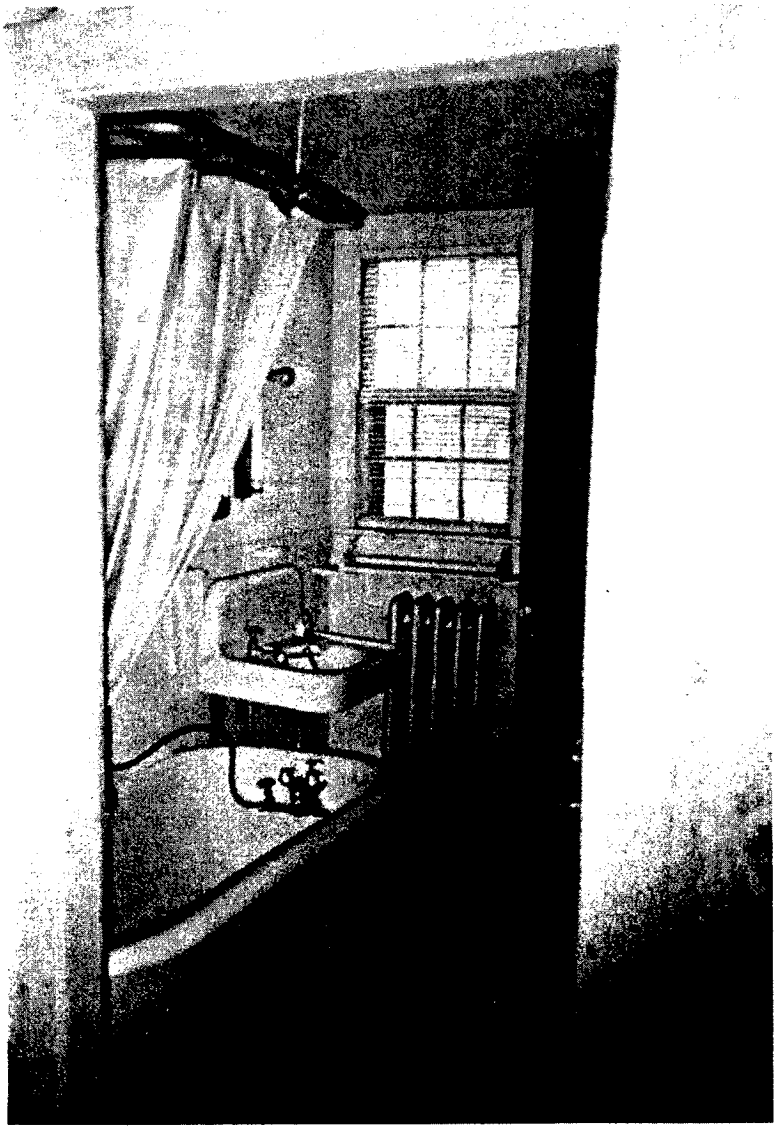

**Figure 44.** Bathroom (Room 205): view looking northwest, April 2002.

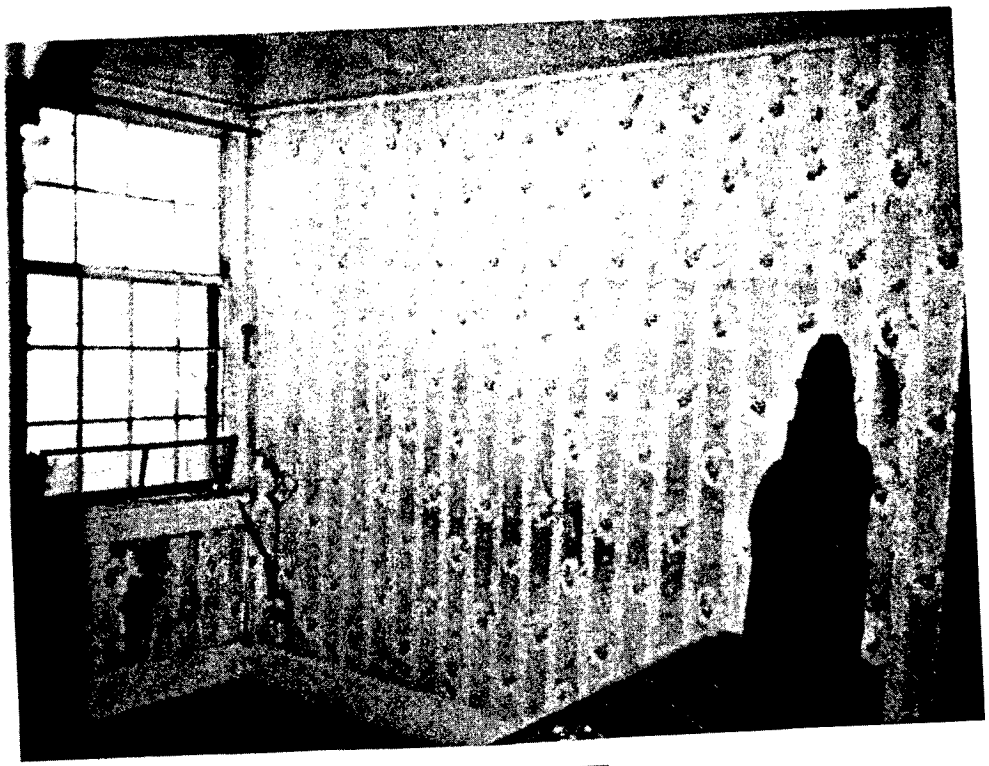

**Figure 45.**

(Above)
Back chamber (Room 206): view looking northeast, April 2002.

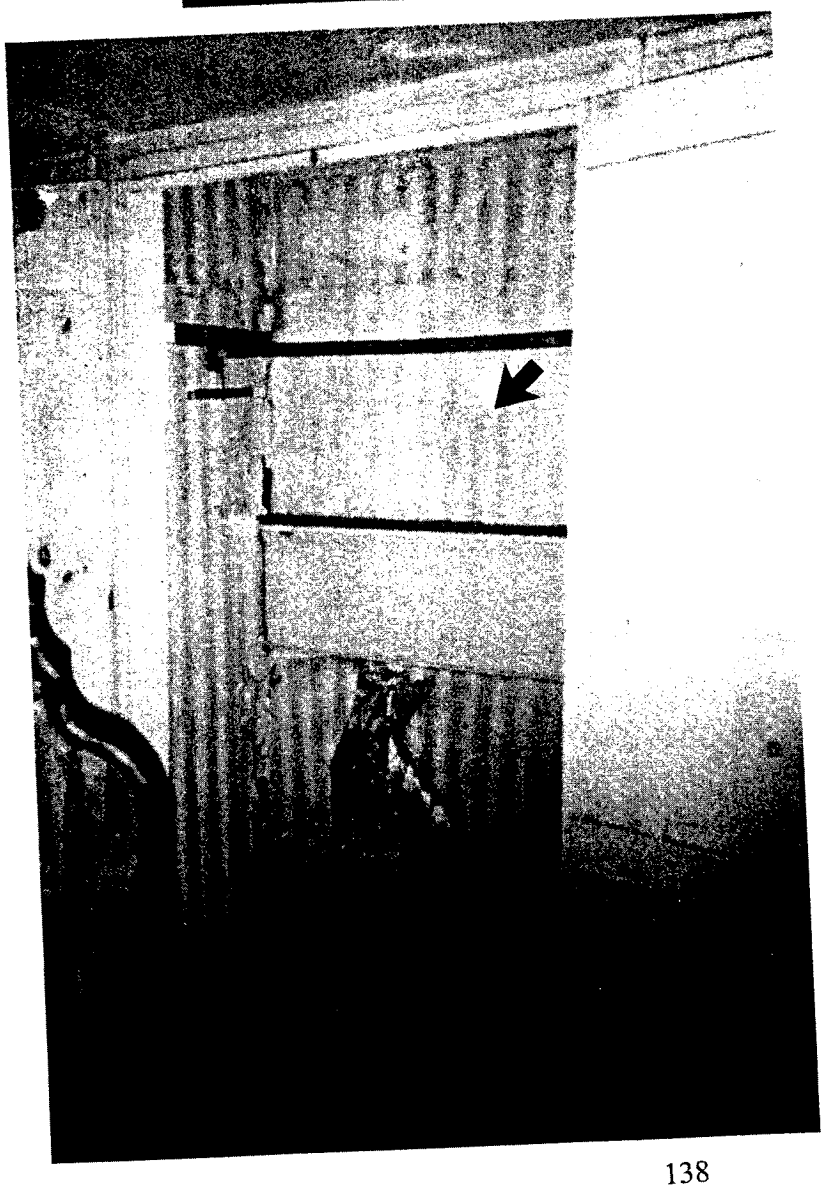

**Figure 46.**

(Left)
Back chamber (Room 206): closet concealing the chimney stack at the south wall. Patch at a former stove-pipe hole is indicated by an arrow (added). April 2002.

**Figure 47.**

(Above)
Second-story kitchen (Room 208): view looking southwest, April 2002.

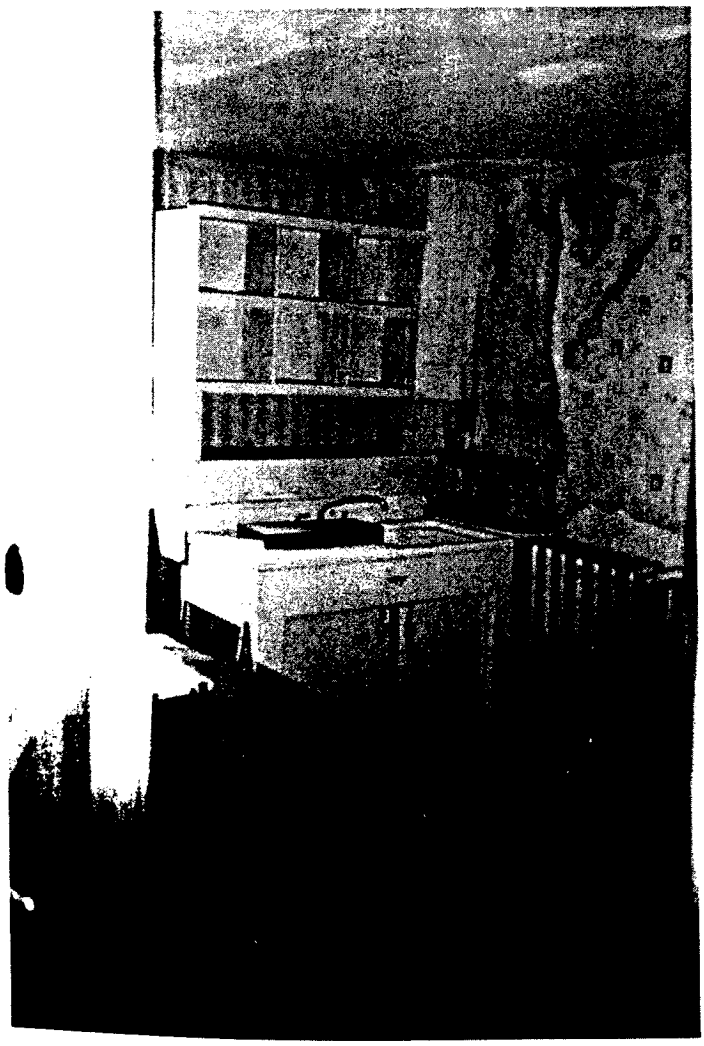

**Figure 48.**

(Left)
Second-story kitchen (Room 208): view looking northwest, April 2002.

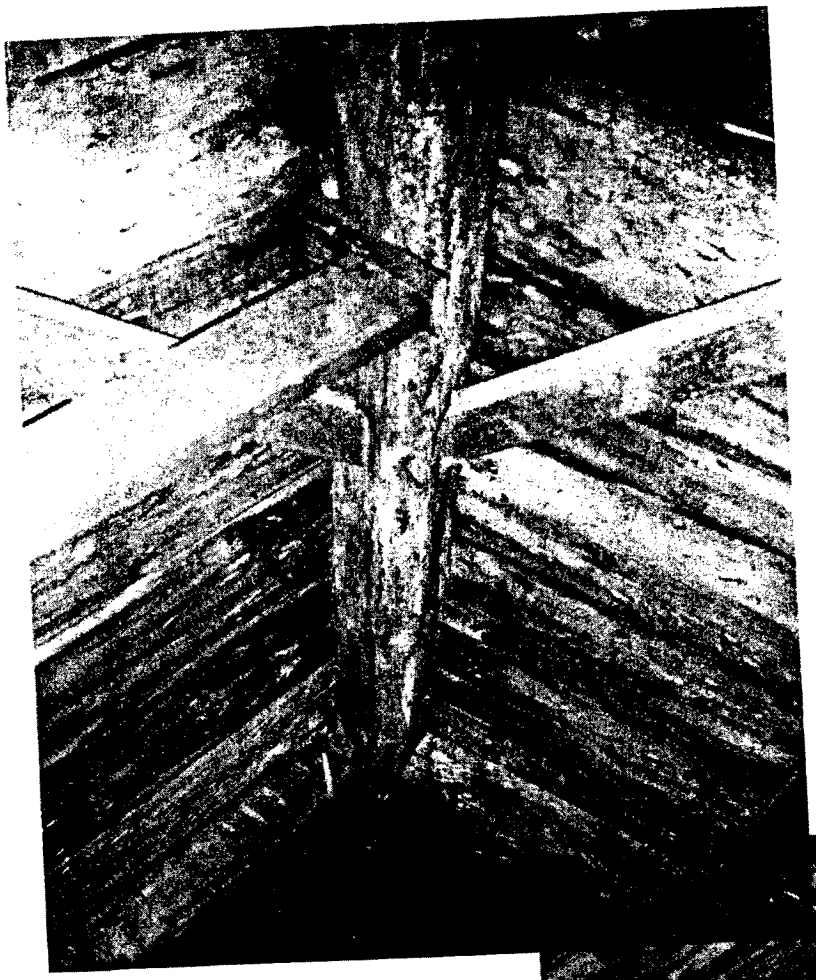

**Figure 49.**

(Left)
Attic (Room 301): view showing the pentagonal ridge pole of the roof, April 2002.

**Figure 50.**

(Right)
Attic (Room 301): view looking east, April 2002.

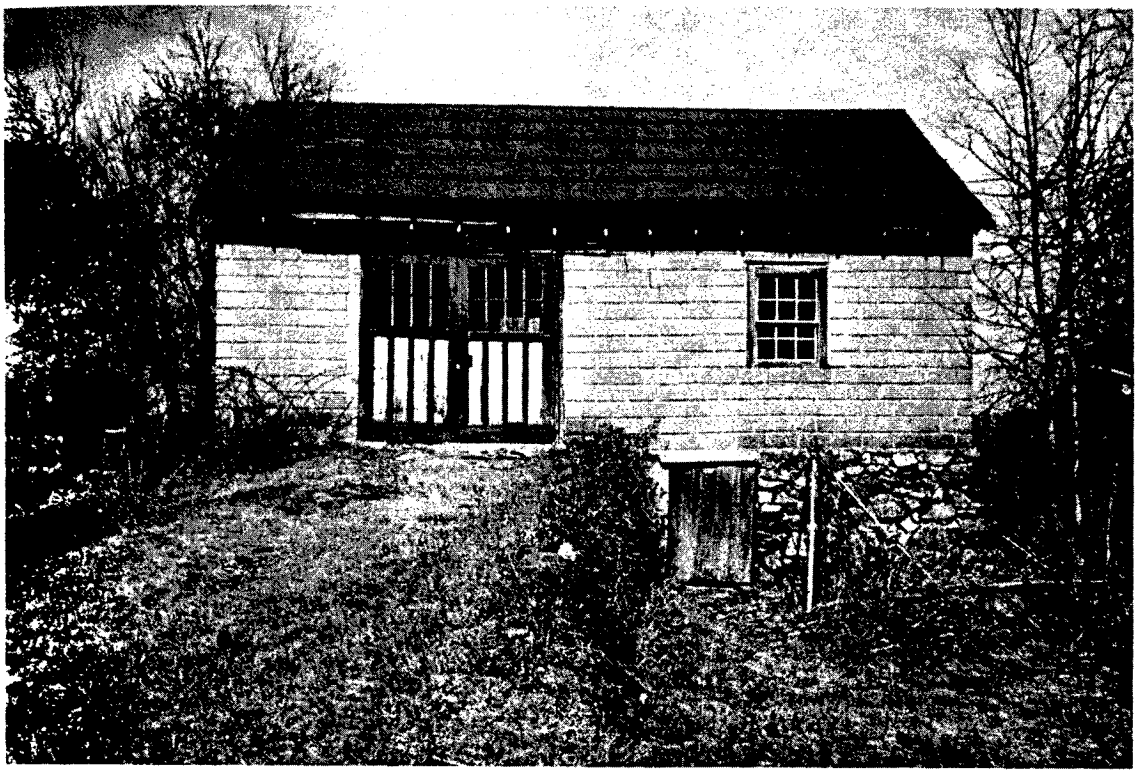

**Figure 51.** Barn: front façade, April 2002.

**Figure 52.** Barn: north and west elevations, April 2002.

# MISSING BUILDINGS

## Early Stow House

The location of the original house constructed by Nathaniel Stow circa 1684-89 remains unknown. It was in this old family home that Olive Stow and her two children are believed to have been living on April 19, 1775. While it is possible that the existing Olive Stow House was constructed on the site of the old, no obvious remnants of an earlier structure were identified during the architectural investigation. The constraints of the natural terrain suggest that the old house had been sited in the same general vicinity as the existing house: on high ground, above the marshes to the east, and close to the road. Outcroppings of what may be the remains of an earlier stone foundation may be seen today only a short distance from the house on the northwest side. Likewise, the foundation ruins of a missing shed to the north may incorporate some portion of an earlier structure.

The old Stow house may have been replaced by the existing circa-1786 house for a number of reasons. The house would have been about one hundred years old by this time and may have been considered cramped and out of style. Deterioration caused by rot and insect infestation, common to wood-framed structures, may have also been a factor. A calamity may have occurred, caused by fire or some weather-related incident. Certainly the need for space to house Ebenezer and Sarah Hardy's large and extended family would have been an incentive to build anew. Future archeological investigations may locate the site of the missing old house and determine the reason for its demise.

## Outbuildings

### Barn

A barn was an important component of a working farm, providing shelter for livestock and covered storage for feed and farm implements. The earliest recorded reference to a barn on the property is found in the probate inventory of Nathaniel Stow dated May 17, 1724, in which the "barn" was assessed for £30. Subsequent estate inventories dated 1772 and 1827 listed the barn, as did the tax assessment records of 1826 to the present day. Two barns are mentioned in an auction notice dated 1873, although the second barn may in fact have been some other outbuilding such as a shed. The existing barn of 1945 appears to have replaced an earlier barn that had fallen into disrepair, as suggested by lessening valuations of the barn in the tax assessment records.[103] Whether or not the farm's original barn survived until 1945, or had been rebuilt in subsequent years, is not known. The location of the missing early barn was likely the same as the existing small barn, which appears to have been built using the foundation stones of an earlier structure. Other stones that may be the foundation ruins of the older, larger, barn may also be seen north of the existing barn.

### Shed(s)

Various sporadic references to a "shed" or "sheds," along with a barn, are found in the tax assessment records beginning in 1826. Such a structure could have had a number of uses, such as storing wood and/or incorporating an outdoor privy. The stone ruins of what may be

[103] From 1911 to 1937 a barn and shed were assessed for $600; in 1938 and 1939 the barn alone was assessed for $350; and from 1940 to 1944 the barn assessment had dropped to $150.

the foundation of the missing shed are located not far from the house on the back (north) side. This structure appears to have been in dilapidated condition by 1935, judging by a partial view recorded in a photograph of that date (fig. 3). The shed had disappeared from the tax records by 1947.

**Store**

A "store" valued at $100.00 is recorded in the tax assessment records for the years 1934-1939 only. The owner from 1934-36 was farmer Biagio Cacciola, who may have used the "store" to sell home-grown produce. The store appears to have been removed by 1940, when it disappeared from the tax records. Where it was located is not known.

# CONCLUSIONS

## General Conclusions

The existing Olive Stow property consists of two buildings standing on 16.67 acres of land in Concord, Massachusetts. These include a 20th-century, concrete-block barn, and a wood-frame house commonly believed to have been constructed circa 1760. A definite date of 1945 was assigned to the construction of the barn, based on the date "June 30, 1945" found scribed in a cast-concrete doorway sill during the architectural investigation and supported by the tax-assessment records. Although no similar note from the past was uncovered at the Olive Stow House, evidence provided by the archival documentation and physical evidence of the house itself indicate that the house was constructed by Olive Stow's son-in-law, Ebenezer Hardy, around 1786. The style of the house can be best described as transitional Georgian-Federal, with later alterations dating to the Greek Revival period.

The existing house appears not to have incorporated the earlier 17th-century Stow house, the exact location of which has not been identified. The house remains on its original site, and retains features and architectural materials dating to circa 1786. The basic shape and massing of the 2 ½-story dwelling, supported by a scribe-rule, post-and-beam frame, are unchanged today. The antiquity of the house is evident from its symmetrical façade, classical pedimented front doorway, large center chimney, and selected windows with early 8-over-12 sashes. Inside, the best preserved room is the southwest chamber (Room 201). Damage caused by a fire circa 1830s appears to have resulted in the remodeling of the southeast chamber (Room 203), and the second-story rooms in the back part of the house (Rooms 204-207), in the Greek-Revival style. Twentieth-century alterations have included the installation of central steam heating, electrical wiring, plumbing fixtures, and a complete remodeling of the first-story rooms in the back of the house (Rooms 104-108).

The earliest known view of the Olive Stow House is an exterior photograph dated circa 1935 (fig. 3). No photographs documenting the interior appearance of the rooms have been found. No early architectural drawings are known to exist, other than schematic plans of the first and second floors dated 1972 (figs. 9 & 10).

The National Park Service gained possession of the Olive Stow property in October 2000. The house and barn have both sat vacant and unused since that time.

## Character-Defining Features

"Character-defining features" (CDFs), are defined in *NPS-28* as follows:

> A prominent or distinctive aspect, quality, or characteristic of a historic property that contributes significantly to its physical character. Structures, objects, vegetation, spatial relationships, views, furnishings, decorative details, and materials may be such features.[104]

By this definition, a CDF can date from any period in the history of a property. In the case of a building, this could span the time period from its date of construction to the present day.

[104] NPS-28, Cultural Resources Management Guideline, Release No. 4, Appendix A, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, NPS, History Division, 1994, p. 188.

A more restrictive definition is cited in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, in which CDFs are tied to the "historic character" of a building:

> Character-defining features . . . those architectural materials and features that are important in defining the building's historic character . . . . The character of a historic building may be defined by the form and detailing of exterior materials, such as masonry, wood, and metal; exterior features, such a roofs, porches, and windows; interior materials, such as plaster and paint; and interior features, such as moldings and stairways, room configuration and spatial relationships, as well as structural and mechanical systems.[105]

"Historic character" is thereby tied to historical significance, which NPS-28 defines as "the meaning or value ascribed to a structure, landscape, object, or site based on the National Register criteria for evaluation. It normally stems from a combination of association and integrity."[106]

The Olive Stow House has previously been deemed historically significant for being a "witness house," or a house that had been standing at the time of the running battle of April 19, 1775. This historic structure report has since determined, however, that the existing Olive Stow was in fact built circa 1786, or approximately 11 years after the battle. The house nevertheless retains significance as the later 18th-century home of a witness family—Olive Stow and her two children. Although of later construction, its symmetrical styling with center chimney was a common house design that endured for many years, both before and after 1775. The house is therefore not incongruous with a historic setting of 1775.

The following is a list of character-defining features of the Olive Stow House that are important in defining its historic *18th-century* character.

**Exterior CDFs**

- stone foundation walls, incorporating a large granite paver at the front doorway;
- 2-1/2 structure, supported by a post-and-beam frame, and covered with wide sheathing boards on the walls and roof;
- gable roof featuring a center brick chimney;
- skived clapboards in short lengths with narrow exposures;
- riven roofing shingles;
- symmetrical fenestration in the south, east, and west elevations;
- hooded windows with 8-over-12 sashes, divided by wide muntins;

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[105] Kay E. Weeks and Anne E. Grimmer, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings*, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, NPS, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Historic Preservation Services, 1995, p. 63.

[106] NPS-28, Appendix A, p. 193.

- front doorway with pedimented surround, transom, and paneled door;
- side doorway with hood, transom, and paneled door;
- close proximity of the Farwell Jones House to the west: the childhood home of Olive Stow, and the later home of Olive Stow's brother Farwell Jones;
- close proximity of the house to the road;
- a gnarled tree (ash) in the front lawn of the house, estimated by dendrochronology experts to be approximately 250 years old (circa 1752).

**Interior CDFs**

- full cellar, featuring a large chimney base with arched passage and brickwork storage shelves;
- large rooms flanking a center stair hall in the front portion of the house, first and second stories;
- full, walk-up attic, with exposed hand-hewn and sawn framing;
- three stairs: two connecting the first and second stories, one other leading to the attic;
- five fireplaces, including a large kitchen fireplace with bake oven offset to the side;
- two surviving wooden mantels: one in the kitchen (Room 105), the other in southwest chamber (Room 201);
- wide wood floorboards;
- exposed wall posts, encased in woodwork;
- plaster-finished walls and ceilings on accordion lath;
- plank partition walls (back rooms);
- wooden-molded ceiling cornices at the fireplace walls, in the southwest and southeast rooms (Rooms 101 and 103);
- raised-panel doors with hand-planed finish;
- hand-wrought hardware: nails, door hinges (strap and H-L), and one original surviving Suffolk latch.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Ultimate Treatment

The approved ultimate treatment for the Olive Stow House, as described in the 1990 *General Management Plan* for Minute Man National Historical Park, is restoration of the exterior of the house to its 1775 appearance, and adaptive reuse of the interior as a residence. The research for this historic structure report has discovered, however, that the existing Olive Stow House did not exist in 1775, having replaced an earlier dwelling circa 1786. It was also determined that although the house post-dates the battle of April 19, 1775, its original circa-1786 appearance would not be incongruous with the earlier time period.

A meeting to discuss the treatment of the Olive Stow House was held at the house on June 23, 2002. In attendance from Minute Man National Historical Park were Superintendent Nancy Nelson, Deputy Superintendent Dan Dattilio, Curator Terrie Wallace, and Facilities Manager Bruce Firth. Staffers from the Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, included Chief Stephen Spaulding, Project Manager David Bittermann, Historical Architect Millan Galland, and Architectural Conservator Barbara Yocum. It was decided in this meeting to *restore* the exterior of the house to its original 18th-century appearance; *stabilize* the stone foundation, brick chimney, and structural frame; *upgrade* the mechanical and utility systems; and *install* fire detection and protection systems. No decision has yet been made on the ultimate use of the structure. The following recommendations support this treatment approach.

## Physical Investigation

Additional information on the original appearance of the house needs to be obtained before a restoration of the exterior can be executed. Because there is no known archival documentation of the exterior appearance (such as drawings, sketches, or written descriptions), this will need to be accomplished by close examination of the building itself. Physical evidence of original features and materials should be recorded with photographs and written descriptions, which are keyed to architectural drawings (Appendix E). The following additional work is recommended:

<u>Remove</u>

- north shed enclosure at the cellar entrance;
- shingle siding;
- roofing materials;
- storm enclosure at the north-west doorway;
- window casings, trim, and sashes, from the first-story windows in the south, east, and west elevations (W-101 through W-106, and W-111);
- all windows in the rear elevations (W-107 through W-110, and W-108 through W-210);
- all windows in the attic story (W-301 and W-302);
- the southwest door frame, shed roof, casing, trim, and door (D-104); and
- concrete stoops and platforms from the north and west sides of the house.

**Identify and Record**

- physical evidence of the original cellar-stair enclosure;
- surviving remnants of original clapboards and trim;
- surviving remnants of wood roofing shingles;
- locations and dimensions of surviving original window frames in the first story of the south, east, and west elevations;
- locations and dimensions of original window (and doorway?) openings in the rear elevation; and
- original painted finishes, based an analysis of samples removed from surviving exterior elements.

## Preserve

The exterior and interior "character-defining features" of the Olive Stow House, described on pages 148-49 of this report, should be preserved. These are the features of the house that impart its historic *18th-century* character. Selected samples should also be removed and saved of the original clapboard siding, and wood roofing shingles, any other historically significant building materials. These should be cataloged and placed in the building archives. The recommended location for Olive Stow House building artifacts is the attic.

## Stabilize

Stabilization of the wood frame, stone foundation, and brick chimney is required, as follows:

**Post-and-Beam Frame**

- Reinstall at least two missing posts.
- Reinforce summer beams.
- Reconfigure existing cellar shoring.
- Reconfigure existing attic rafter shoring.
- Evaluate rafter and purlin loading, and reinforce if required.
- Evaluate sills and replace as required (and/or reconfigure to original profiles).

**Foundation**

- Remove cement parging from exterior side of foundation.
- Repoint using an historically appropriate mortar mix.

**Chimney**

- Disassemble chimney stem to the level of the roof.
- Rebuild chimney using old bricks, if possible, and an historically appropriate mortar mix.

## Restore

The exterior of the house will be restored to its original, circa-1786, appearance, based on the findings of the physical investigation. In general, this will involve the following work:

- Install historically appropriate clapboard siding and trim.
- Install historically appropriate roofing.
- Install windows in their historic locations.
- Install an historically appropriate enclosure at the exterior cellar stair.
- Paint the exterior doors with mustard-yellow paint; the remainder of the exterior was unpainted in 1786 (see Appendix B).

## Upgrade Systems

The heating, electrical and plumbing systems of the house need to be upgraded. The following work is recommended:

### Heating System

- Replace the existing oil-fueled boiler with a new boiler.
- Reline boiler flue, if required.
- Repair existing cast-iron radiation system, as required.

### Electrical System

- Replace existing electrical service (overhead wires) with new 200-Amp underground service.
- Install new main panel.
- Disconnect/abandon in place all existing electrical branches.
- Install new branches to heating plant, fire-alarm panels, and four 20-Amp maintenance branch (one quadplex receptacle per floor).

### Plumbing System

- Disconnect/abandon in place all existing domestic plumbing (supply and drain).
- Upgrade domestic water service to accommodate future residential fire-suppression system.

## Fire Detection and Protection

A fire detection system, and the infrastructure for a basic fire protection system, should be installed in the house. The following work is recommended:

### Fire Detection

- Install a fire-detection system that includes detectors, annunciator, pull station, panel, and direct notification dialer.

**Fire Protection**

- Install main fire suppression valve and branch to serve cellar only.

## Completion Report

The work described in the previous sections should be documented in a completion report. This report would include written descriptions, annotated architectural drawings, photographs, sketches, field notes, diaries, materials sources, treatments records, and recommendations for future work.

## Archeology

Archeological monitoring will be required for any work causing ground disturbance at the Olive Stow House property. Archeological investigation may also uncover the remnants of the original 17th-century Stow house that was standing in 1775, the barn, and other early site features.

## Wayside Sign

Finally, corrections need to be made to an interpretive sign located northeast of the Olive Stow House on the Battle Road Trail. This sign includes a photograph of the house and the following narrative:

> Widow Olive Stow House: Note in the distance the Widow Olive Stow House. On the day of the battle, 48-year-old Olive Stow lived here with her two teenaged children, Sarah and Nathaniel. Her husband, Joseph, died suddenly in 1772 at the age of 60, leaving Olive to manage the farm and raise their children.

**Corrections**

- Olive Stow and her children lived on this property, but in an earlier (now missing) dwelling. The existing house was constructed circa 1786.

- Olive Stow was born on September 24, 1724, making her 50 (not 48) on the day of the battle April 19, 1775.

  Joseph Stow was born on February 19, 1692, making him 80 (not 60) when he died in 1772. No documentation has been found of his death being "sudden."

- Since the existing house was constructed circa 1786 by Olive Stow's son-in-law Ebenezer Hardy, a more appropriate name for the house would be the "Stow-Hardy House."

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Tax records are on microfilm in Special Collections, Concord Free Public Library. Only those records that were examined for this report are listed.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
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| Box 3, Roll 10 | " | " | 1785-1797 |
| Box 3, Roll 11 | " | " | 1798-1809 |
| Box 3, Roll 12 | " | " | 1810-1825 |
| Box 2, Roll 9 | " | " | 1826-1847 |
| Box 2, Roll 8 | " | " | 1848-1869 |
| Roll 010 | " | " | 1870-1877 |
| Roll 011 | " | " | 1878-1886 |
| Roll 012 | " | " | 1887-1894 |
| Roll 013 | " | " | 1895-1901 |
| Roll 014 | " | " | 1902-1907 |
| Roll 015 | " | " | 1908-1912 |
| Roll 016 | " | " | 1913-1916 |
| Roll 017 | " | " | 1917-1920 |
| Roll 018 | " | " | 1925-1928 |
| Roll 019 | " | " | 1929-1931 |
| Roll 021 | " | " | 1932-1933 |
| Roll 022 | " | " | 1934-1938 |
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# APPENDIX A:

# OWNERSHIP SUMMARY: 1684-PRESENT

## Ownership Summary

| | |
|---|---|
| 1684 | Nathaniel Stow inherits property in the East Quarter of Concord from his father Nathaniel Stow. (Nathaniel Stow probate #21771) |
| 1689 | Nathaniel Stow acquires 4 acres of east adjacent "swamp" from Thomas Woolly. The parcel is described as being "in the East Quarter of the Town of Concord near the said Nathaniel Stow's House." (Deed Book 25, p. 380) |
| 1724 | The "old homstead" is left by Nathaniel Stow to his son Joseph Stow. (Joseph Stow probate #21772) |
| 1772 | Joseph Stow dies, leaving the estate to his wife Olive Stow and their two children Sarah and Nathaniel. (Joseph Stow probate #21765) |
| Circa 1781-82 | Ebenezer Hardy marries Sarah Stow, thereby acquiring 1/3 lifetime interest in the Stow estate. (No record of marriage has been found. Ebenezer and Sarah's first child, Joseph, was born Aug. 26, 1782) |
| 1811 | Olive Stow dies; her 1/3 interest goes to her son Nathaniel Stow. (No documentation; however, later probate records show Nathaniel Stow as having 2/3 interest.) |
| 1822 | Ebenezer Hardy loses his 1/3 interest in his home property to Silas Piper, Jr., of Acton, in execution of a judgement for an unpaid debts owed to Piper. Silas Piper is the husband of Sylvia (Jones) Piper, a cousin of Sarah Hardy. (Deed Book 239, p. 405) |
| 1822 | Silas Piper, Jr., of Acton, sells his 1/3 interest in Ebenezer Hardy's home property to Abel Moore, gentleman. (Deed Book 243, p. 220). |
| 1826 | Ebenezer Hardy dies; his 1/3 interest held by Abel Moore reverts to Hardy's widow Sarah. |
| 1828 | Isaac Hardy, son of Sarah and the late Ebenezer Hardy, buys his uncle's (Nathaniel Stow's) 2/3 interest in the home property at auction. (Deed Book 334, p. 182) |
| 1829 | Isaac Hardy of Concord mortgages the home property to Benjamin Draper of Boxborough. (Deed Book 289, p. 84) |
| 1832 | Isaac Hardy of Concord purchases the remaining 2/3 interest in his deceased uncle Nathaniel Stow's estate at auction. (Deed Book 318, p. 346) |
| 1832 | Isaac Hardy of Concord mortgages the home property to Nathan Brooks of Concord. (Deed Book 318, p. 348) |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1834 | Isaac Hardy of Concord acquires the east adjacent parcel containing 140 rods +-. (Deed Book 334, p. 183) |
| 1834 | Isaac Hardy and his mother Sarah Hardy, both of Concord, sell the Hardy farm to Nathaniel Rice and Ephraim Meriam of Concord. (Deed Book 334, pp. 184-86) |
| 1835 | John M. Walkup of Concord acquires from Rice and Meriam. (Deed Book 340, p. 11) |
| 1838 | Charles Bartlett of Dorchester acquires from John Walkup of Concord. (Deed Book 340, p. 13) |
| 1841 | Lewis P. Bartlett of Cambridge acquires from Charles Bartlett of Concord. (Deed Book 406, p. 80) |
| 1862 | Joseph Breck of Chelsea acquires from Charles Bartlett. (Deed Book 896, p. 485) |
| 1863 | George Clark 2nd of Chelsea acquires from Joseph Breck of Chelsea. (Deed Book 904, p. 165) |
| 1864 | Wright Smith of Concord acquires from George Clark 2nd. (Deed Book 924, p. 165) |
| 1872 | Joseph A. McArthur of Concord acquires from Wright Smith of Concord. (Deed Book 1200, p. 152) |
| 1873 | George T. Smith of Lexington acquires the farm of the late Joseph A. McArthur at public auction. (Deed Book 1264, p. 633) |
| 1873 | Wright Smith of Concord acquires from George T. Smith of Lexington. (Deed Book 1264, p. 639) |
| 1884 | Frank S. Smith of Concord acquires his father's farm at public auction. (Deed Book 1662, p. 571) |
| 1887 | Charles A. Sawyer of Concord acquires from Frank Smith. (Deed Book 1821, p. 324) |
| 1899 | Merton Carty of Concord acquires from Charles Sawyer of Concord. (Deed Book 2790, p. 282) |
| 1917 | George Williams of Concord acquires from Merton Carty of Waltham. (Deed Book 4136, p. 131) |
| 1927 | Joseph Tavilla of Everett acquires from George Williams of Concord. (Deed Book 5083, p. 537) |
| 1928 | Biagio Cacciola of Lexington acquires from Joseph Tavilla of Everett. (Deed Book 5187, p. 78) |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1936 | Mary Tavilla acquires the farm of Biagio Cacciola at auction (foreclosure sale). (Deed Book 6013, p. 10) |
| 1945 | Sarah and Hagop Hovagimian of Hudson acquire from Mary Tavilla. (Deed Book 6868, p. 337) |
| 1961 | Title is conveyed to Hagop and sons Edward and Albert Hovagimian from Hagop and Sarah Hovagimian, "being unmarried." (Deed Book 9976, p. 68) |
| 1961 | Title is conveyed from sons Edward and Albert Hovagimian to their father Hagop Hovagimian. (Deed Book 9976, p. 69) |
| 1975 | The United States of America acquires the property of Hagop Hovagimian, allowing a 25-year tenancy for the family. (Deed Book 12885, p. 742) |

# APPENDIX B:

# EXTERIOR PAINT ANALYSIS

## Objective

The objective of doing an exterior paint analysis at the Olive Stow House was to determine, if possible, the original (circa-1786) exterior paint colors.

## Methodology

Eleven (11) paint samples were removed for analysis from selected exterior painted elements of the Olive Stow House during phase I of the project on April 17, 2002. An additional fourteen (14) samples were obtained during phase II, on October 17, 2002, when scaffolding was available and removal of the later shingle siding had commenced. Samples were extracted using an X-Acto knife fitted with a number –18 blade. Each sample was placed in a separate labeled envelope. The samples were microscopically analyzed by architectural conservator Barbara Yocum at the paint laboratory of the Northeast Cultural Resources Center, National Park Service, in Lowell, Massachusetts. Each sample was examined in cross section using a binocular microscope at 10 to 63 times magnification. The microscope is a Nikon, model SMZ-2T.

Certain characteristics of each paint layer were noted and recorded, such as the paint color and the presence/absence of lead. Lead paints were identified by a spot chemical test using a solution of diluted sodium sulfide and distilled water. Dirt layers, and/or poor adhesion between paint layers, were useful in distinguishing primer coats from finish paint layers.

A log number containing three parts was assigned to each paint sample. The first sample, for example, was designated "MIMA 3-120-A P01." "MIMA" signifies Minute Man National Historical Park; "3-120-A" is the LCS structure number; the letter "P" indicates that the sample is paint; and the number "01" denotes the first sample.

Dating of the paint layers was based on the known or conjectural dates of construction and remodeling of the Olive Stow House. The front doorway of the house, for example, is believed to be an original feature dating to circa 1786, while a later doorway in the west elevation is thought to have been installed by the Hovagimian family in the 1950s.

## Existing Conditions

The exterior of the Olive Stow House is currently painted brown and white. Brown paint (or stain), applied sometime after circa 1935, finishes the shingle siding. White paint is on the trim, doors, and window sashes. The house was last painted sometime before the National Park Service took possession of the house in October 2000. The paint finishes and their wood substrates are in generally poor condition today.

## Paint-Sample Locations

The locations of the paint samples removed from the Olive Stow House exterior are described on the chromochronology charts on the following pages.

## Paint-Sample Chromochronologies
## (Chart 1 of 4)

| | MIMA 3-120-A P01 | MIMA 3-120-A P02 | MIMA 3-120-A P03 | MIMA 3-120-A P04 | MIMA 3-120-A P05 | MIMA 3-120-A P06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Element: | Wood shingles, front façade | Clapboards under later wood shingles | Front 6-panel door (D-101) | Trim at front doorway (D-101) | Pilaster at front doorway (D-101) | 8-panel door at side doorway, west elevation (D-103) |
| Substrate: | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood |
| Circa Date: | 1892 | 1786 | 1820s? | 1786 | 1786 | 1786 |
| 1786 | | | | | | **mustard yellow*** |
| | | | | | | dark red* |
| | | | | | | brown-yellow |
| | | | dark green* | | | dark green* |
| 1820s? | | | yellow* | | | |
| | | | -varnish- | | | |
| | | | green* | | | green* |
| | | | gray* | | | gray-white* |
| | | *-dirt--* | pink* | | | pink* |
| | | cream* (resinous) | green* | | | green* |
| 1850 | | white* | gray* | *-dirt-* | *-dirt-* | gray* |
| | | white* | green* | cream-white* | | green* |
| | | yellow* (traces) | pink-beige* | white* | white* | pink-beige* |
| | | white* | white* | white* | | white* |
| | | *-shingle siding-* | green* | white* | | green* |
| 1892 | | | green | white* | | green |
| | | | white | | | cream |
| | | | white | | | white |
| 1950 | brown | | white | white | white | white |
| | | | white | white | white | |
| | | | white | white | white | white |
| | | | | | | |

**Key:*** Denotes lead content.

## Paint-Sample Chromochronologies
## (Chart 2 of 4)

| Paint Sample: | MIMA 3-120-A P07 | MIMA 3-120-A P08 | MIMA 3-120-A P09 | MIMA 3-120-A P10 | MIMA 3-120-A P11 | MIMA 3-120-A P12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Element: | Trim at original side doorway in west elevation (D-103) | Trim at later side doorway in west elevation (D-104) | Window trim in first story of front façade (W-101) | Window sill in second story of front façade (W-205) | Original window sashes (8/12) in second story of front façade (W-205) | Original clapboards beneath later shingles, front facade |
| Substrate: | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood |
| Circa Date: | 1786 | 1950s | 1892 | 1786 | 1786 | 1786 |
| 1786 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1820s | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | *-dirt-* |
| 1850 | | | | | | cream* (resinous) |
| | | | | | | white* |
| | | | | | | |
| | *-dirt-* | | | | *-dirt-* | yellow-orange* |
| | white* | | *-dirt-* | *-dirt-* | cream-white* | white* |
| 1892 | white* | | white* | white* | white* | *-shingles-* |
| | white* | | | | white* | |
| | white | | white | | | |
| 1950 | white | white | white | | | |
| | white | white | white | | | |
| | white | white | | *[wood filler]* | | |
| | white | white | white | white | white | |

**Key:** * Denotes lead content.

## Paint-Sample Chromochronologies
## (Chart 3 of 4)

| Paint Sample: | MIMA 3-120-A P13 | MIMA 3-120-A P14 | MIMA 3-120-A P15 | MIMA 3-120-A P16 | MIMA 3-120-A P17 | MIMA 3-120-A P18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Element: | Front doorway (D-101): top molding of pilaster | Front doorway (D-101): lower portion of pediment | Front doorway (D-101): dentils of pediment | Front doorway (D-101): molding above dentils | Front doorway (D-101): transom | Original window in east elevation (W-202): lintel below dentils |
| Substrate: | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood |
| Circa Date: | 1786 | 1786 | 1786 | 1786 | 1786 | 1786 |
| 1786 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1820s | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | *-dirt-* | *-dirt-* | *-dirt-* | *-dirt-* | *-dirt-* | *-dirt-* |
| 1850 | | cream* (resinous) | cream* (resinous) | cream* (resinous) | red (traces) | cream* (resinous) |
| | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* |
| | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* |
| | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* |
| | | | | cream-white* | cream-white | cream-white* |
| 1892 | | | | cream-white* | | white* |
| | | | | cream-white* | | white* |
| | | | | | | |
| 1950 | white | white | white | white | white | |
| | | | | | white | |
| | | | | | | |
| | white | white | white | white | white | red |

**Key:** * Denotes lead content.

## Paint-Sample Chronochronologies
## (Chart 4 of 4)

| Paint Sample: | MIMA 3-120-A P19 & P20 | MIMA 3-120-A P21 | MIMA 3-120-A P22 | MIMA 3-120-A P23 | MIMA 3-120-A P24 | MIMA 3-120-A P25 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Element: | Original window in second story of front facade (W-202): dentils & molding above dentils | Original window in second story of front facade (W-201): upper sash | Original window in second story of front facade (W-203): window frame formerly covered by shingle siding | Soffit of front facade, above window W-202 | Sheathing boards of north elevation, formerly covered by missing wing, and most recently by siding shingles | Sheathing boards of north elevation, upper northwest corner, most recently covered by siding shingles |
| Substrate: | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood | Wood |
| Circa Date: | 1786 | 1786 | 1786 | 1786 | 1786 | 1786 |
| 1786 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1820s | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | *-dirt-* | *-dirt-* | *-dirt-* | *-dirt-* | | *-wood is a weathered,silver color-* |
| 1850 | cream* (resinous) | cream* (resinous) | cream* (resinous) | cream* (resinous) | | *[no finishes]* |
| | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | red (traces) | |
| | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | yellow & green | |
| | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | cream-white* | whitewash | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1892 | | white* | *-shingle siding-* | white* | *-shingle siding-* | |
| | | white* | | white* | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1950 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

## Paint Analysis Conclusions

### Circa-1786 Exterior Paint Colors

The physical evidence strongly suggests that the exterior of the Olive Stow House was unpainted circa 1786, except for the doors. This is based on the heavy weathering and accumulation of dirt and grime on the exterior woodwork of the house, including the original clapboards, trim at the doorways and windows, window sashes, cornice, and soffit. Unpainted sheathing boards also appear to have served as the original siding on the rear elevation of the house, based on the severely weathered condition of these boards and the absence of nail evidence for early clapboards or shingles. Early paint was found, however, on the one original exterior door, located in the west elevation (D-103)--a mustard-yellow paint containing lead. The missing original front door was also likely painted this mustard-yellow color.

### Circa 1820s: New Front Door

The existing 6-panel door in the front doorway is believed to have replaced the original door circa 1820s, based on its style and applied moldings. The earliest finish on this door is a dark green paint containing lead, which was also applied to the original side door. The remainder of the house appears to have remained unpainted at this time.

### Circa 1850: First Comprehensive Painting

The first complete painting of the exterior appears to have occurred sometime in the 19th century, perhaps at late as 1850. The siding, trim, and window sashes were then finisned with a resinous, cream-color paint containing lead. This may have been a white paint originally that has since discolored to cream due to yellowing of the oil medium. Although it is difficult to say with certainty what the corresponding paint color was on the doors, this may have been a green lead-based paint, typically used in the Greek Revival period.

### Circa 1892: Exterior Remodeling

A comprehensive remodeling of the exterior occurred circa 1892, when wood shingles were applied over the original clapboards and the windows in the first story were enlarged. The new wood shingles appear to have remained unpainted at this time. White, lead-based paint was applied to the trim of the doorways and windows, and to the window sashes. The corresponding door color is again difficult to surmise, although green lead-based paint was the likely finish.

### Post-1935

Painting of the exterior shingles with brown paint (or stain) commenced sometime after circa 1935, judging by a photograph of that date that shows what appears to be unpainted shingle siding. This may have been initiated by the last owner of the house, Hagop Hovagimian, beginning around 1945-50. White, non-lead paint finished the trim, doors, and window sashes. The house retained this brown-and-white paint scheme when it was acquired by the National Park Service in October 2000.

# APPENDIX C:

# WALLPAPER SURVEY

## Objective

The objective of undertaking a wallpaper survey was to determine how much, if any, 18th-century wallpaper survives in the Olive Stow House.

## Methodology

The first step of the wallpaper survey was to record the existing wallpapers that remain exposed in the rooms today. These were noted as part of the existing conditions site notes of the interior rooms recorded by architectural conservator Barbara Yocum in April 2002 (see "Architectural Elements: Interior Rooms" beginning on page 68 of this report).

Next, unused rolls of wallpaper found stored on a table in the attic were removed in September 2002 to the laboratory of the Building Conservation Branch of the Northeast Cultural Resources Center (BCB/NCRC) in Lowell, MA. Here the characteristics of the papers were recorded such as paper type, paper width, design and printing method. A circa date was assigned to each paper. Representative samples were cut from the rolls and encapsulated in mylar with identifying labels, which were placed in the wallpaper collection of the BCB/NCRC. The wallpaper rolls were then wrapped in protective paper, labeled, and transported to Museum Curator Terrie Wallace for inclusion in the artifact collections of the Olive Stow House at Minute Man National Historical Park.

Samples of wallpaper sandwiches were also removed in September 2002 from rooms where the papers were poorly adhered to the walls. Rooms from which samples were taken include the southwest room (Room 101), the front entry (Room 102), the southeast room (Room 103), and the second-story kitchen (Room 108). Wallpapers were also found on, and removed from, a piece of original kitchen wainscot that had been reused as a sheathing board on the north elevation and covered with siding shingles circa 1950s. Wallpaper layers were separated using warm water applied with a spray bottle and a metal scalpel. The damp separated layers were dried on sheets of acid-free blotting paper. After air drying, each layer was labeled, encapsulated in mylar, and placed in the wallpaper collection of the BCB/NCRC.

Log numbers were assigned to each wallpaper pattern found stored in the attic, and to each wallpaper sample removed from the rooms and the reused kitchen wainscot. The first sample, for example, was designated "MIMA 3-120-A W01." "MIMA" signified Minute Man National Historical Park; "3-120-A" is the LCS structure number for the Olive Stow House; the letter "W" indicates that the sample is wallpaper; and the number "01" denotes the first sample.

## Existing Conditions

The walls of 11 rooms/areas are currently finished with wallpapers that appear to have been installed by the last owner of the house circa 1945-50s. These include the southwest room (Room 101), the front entry and stairway (Rooms 102/202), the dining room (Room 104), the toilet room (Room 108), the southwest chamber (Room 201), the southeast chamber (Room 203), the northeast chamber (Room 204), the back chamber (Room 206), the back hall (Room 207), the second-story kitchen (Room 208), and the attic stairway. The

papered walls of the southeast room (Room 103) are covered by later paneling. The exposed wallpapers are body papers with no borders that are adhered to the plaster walls and/or board partitions. There is no ceiling paper. Eleven different wallpaper patterns, also dated circa 1945-50s, were identified among the extra rolls found in the attic.

## Wallpaper Samples

Sixteen wallpaper samples were cataloged from the Olive Stow House. Of these, 11 were single layers removed from the attic (W01 – W011), and five were wallpaper sandwiches removed from the rooms and reused kitchen wainscot board (W012 – W16).

**MIMA 3-120-A W01**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | One roll of unused body wallpaper |
| Paper Type | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Paper Width | 19 1/4 inches |
| Design | Floral bouquets, pink and yellow flowers, arranged between white stripes, on a cream ground |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | "U.W.P.C. of N.A.," "Water Resisting," "Union Made," and "1833 Run 4" |
| Other Information | Corresponds to top layer of wallpaper in southwest room (Room 101)—see W12 |
| Circa Date | 1950s |

**MIMA 3-120-A W02**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | One roll of unused body wallpaper |
| Paper Type | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Paper Width | 29 1/8" |
| Design | Embossed grasscloth with open basketweave design |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | "Morgan Wallpaper Mill" and "Union Made" |
| Other Information | Corresponds to top layer of wallpaper in the front entry and main stair hall (Rooms 102-202)—see W13 |
| Circa Date | 1945 |

**MIMA 3-120-A W03**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | One roll of unused body wallpaper |
| Paper Type | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Paper Width | 19 ¼" |
| Design | Stylized floral bouquets, embossed, in colored gold-brown and orange on a plain paper ground |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | "U.W.P.C. of N.A." and "Union Made" |
| Other Information | Corresponds to the third layer of wallpaper from the top in the southeast room (Room 103)—see W14 |
| Circa Date | 1945 |

**MIMA 3-120-A W04**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | Two rolls of unused body wallpaper |
| Paper Type | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Paper Width | 18 ½ inches |
| Design | Scenic print, featuring George Washington's Mount Vernon |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | "J.C. Eisenhart W.P. Co." and "Made in U.S.A." |
| Other Information | Corresponds to the top layer of wallpaper in the dining room (Room 104) |
| Circa Date | 1950s |

**MIMA 3-120-A W05**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | Two rolls of unused body wallpaper |
| Paper Type | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Paper Width | |
| Design | Swans and irises on a pink ground |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | No selvedge |
| Other Information | Corresponds to the top layer of wallpaper in the toilet room (Room 108) |
| Circa Date | 1950s |

**MIMA 3-120-A W06**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | Three rolls of unused body wallpaper |
| Paper Type | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Paper Width | 19" |
| Design | Bouquets of white flowers set in medallions, printed on a blue background with white diamond pattern. Resembles a mid-19th-century block-printed pattern. |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | "U.W.P.C. of N.A.," "Union Made," "Mountville Washable," and "Run IIIIII" |
| Other Information | Corresponds to the top layer of wallpaper in the southwest chamber (Room 201) |
| Circa Date | 1950s |

**MIMA 3-120-A W07**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | Two remnants of rolls of unused body wallpaper |
| Paper Type | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Paper Width | Unknown |
| Design | White geometric motif in vertical stripes on a pink ground |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | "U.W.P.C. of N.A." and "Union Made" |
| Other Information | Corresponds to the top layer of wallpaper in the southeast chamber (Room 203) |
| Circa Date | 1950s |

**MIMA 3-120-A W08**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | Loose scraps |
| Paper Type | Mechanical Wood pulp |
| Paper Width | Unknown |
| Design | Floral-and-stripes design on a blue-gray background |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | "Mountville Washable" |
| Other Information | Corresponds to top wallpaper in the back chambers and hall (Rooms 204, 206, and 207) |
| Circa Date | 1950s |

**MIMA 3-120-A W09**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | One roll of unused body wallpaper |
| Paper Type | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Paper Width | |
| Design | Scenic kitchen tiles design |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | "U.W.P.C. of N.A.," and "U.S. Patent No. 1950 9" |
| Other Information | Corresponds to top layer of wallpaper in Room 208—see W16 |
| Circa Date | 1950s |

**MIMA 3-120-A W10**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | Large remnant of body wallpaper |
| Paper Type | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Paper Width | 29 inches |
| Design | Pattern is an embossed stylized floral/damask, with subtle coloring in green and rose |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | None |
| Other Information | Room where paper was hung has not been identified |
| Circa Date | 1945 |

**MIMA 3-120-A W11**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Attic |
| Description | Large remnant of body wallpaper |
| Paper Type | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Paper Width | 29 ¾ inches |
| Design | Pattern is an embossed stylized floral/stripe, with monochromatic gold finish |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | None |
| Other Information | Room where paper was hung has not been identified |
| Circa Date | 1945 |

**MIMA 3-120-A W12**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Southwest room (Room 101): sample removed from the east plaster wall, north of fireplace |
| Description | Sandwich of four wallpaper layers (all body papers) |
| Paper Types | All mechanical wood pulp |
| Designs | Layers:<br>1. (Top) Floral bouquet (see also W01)<br>2. White embossed<br>3. "Worm" design<br>4. Floral (rose) on a silver ground |
| Design Applications | All machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | No selvedge |
| Other Information | One extra roll of the top wallpaper was found in the attic (W01) |
| Circa Dates | 1920s-1950s |

**MIMA 3-120-A W13**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Front entry (Rooms 102-202): sample removed from the north plaster wall of the stairway |
| Description | Sandwich of two wallpaper layers (both body papers) |
| Paper Type | Both mechanical wood pulp |
| Designs | Layers:<br>1. (Top) Embossed grasscloth (see also W02)<br>2. Scenic landscape |
| Design Applications | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | Layer 1: see W02 |
| Other Information | One extra roll of the top wallpaper was found in the attic (W02) |
| Circa Date | 1945-50s |

## MIMA 3-120-A W14

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Southeast room (Room 103): sample removed from the north plaster wall, beneath pressboard paneling |
| Description | Sandwich of five wallpaper layers (all body papers) |
| Paper Types | Mechanical wood pulp |
| Designs | Layers:<br>1. (Top) Floral medallions<br>2. Plain brown (lining for #1?)<br>3. Stylized floral bouquets (see also W03)<br>4. White embossed<br>5. Remnants only—no design |
| Design Application | Machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | See W04 |
| Other Information | One extra roll of layer #3 was found in the attic (W01) |
| Circa Date | 1930s-50s |

## MIMA 3-120-A W15

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Kitchen (Room 105): sample removed from a piece of original kitchen wainscot reused circa 1950s as an exterior sheathing board on the north elevation |
| Description | Sandwich of eight wallpaper layers |
| Paper Types | All mechanical wood pulp |
| Designs | Layers:<br>1. (Top) Floral/Art Nouveau<br>2. Geometric<br>3. Pinstripe on yellow ground<br>4. Green clovers<br>5. Foliate in olive green and white<br>6. Foliate in shades of yellow<br>7. Floral in yellow and white<br>8. Floral in maroon, cream, and brown |
| Design Application | All machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | No selvedge |
| Other Information | Narrow horizontal samples only of the kitchen wallpapers (approx. inches wide) survive on this reused wainscot board |
| Circa Date | 1860s-1930s |

**MIMA 3-120-A W16**

| | |
|---|---|
| Location | Second-story kitchen (Room 208): sample removed from the east plaster wall |
| Description | Sandwich of four wallpaper layers, two with borders |
| Paper Types | All mechanical wood pulp |
| Designs | Layers:<br>1. (Top) Kitchen tiles (see also W09)<br>2. Blue-and-silver stripes, with narrow striped border<br>3. Abstract "worm" design, with narrow diamond-pattern border<br>4. Foliate in brown and cream |
| Design Applications | All machine printed |
| Printing in Selvedge | See W09 |
| Other Information | One extra roll of the top wallpaper layer was found in the attic (W09) |
| Circa Date | 1920s-50s |

## Conclusions

Of the 16 wallpaper samples cataloged from the Olive Stow House, 11 were single wallpaper patterns found in the attic (of 11 different designs), and five were wallpaper sandwiches removed from four rooms and one reused kitchen wainscot board. These attic samples were assigned log numbers MIMA 3-120-A W01 through W11. All of the unused rolls of attic wallpapers were observed to be mechanical wood pulp papers with machine-printed designs. These papers were presumably left by the last owner of the house, the Hovagimian family, and have been dated circa 1945-50s.

The five wallpaper sandwiches were found to contain from as few as two wallpaper layers to as many as eight wallpaper layers. These samples were assigned log numbers MIMA 3-120-A W12 through W16. The most layers (eight) were removed from the kitchen wainscot board that had been reused as an exterior sheathing board. The wainscot also contained the earliest wallpaper layer, dated circa 1860s. The four room samples contained wallpapers found in the attic, three applied as the top (exposed) wallpapers.

No wallpapers dating to the 18th century have yet been found at the Olive Stow House. There is a good possibility, however, that wallpaper was the original wall finish in the one room that is known to retain its original plaster on accordion lath—the southwest chamber (Room 201). Here the plaster walls are unpainted beneath the later wallpapers, suggestive of the removal of earlier wallpaper finishes. A comprehensive physical investigation of the interior rooms, involving complete removal of the existing non-historic wallpapers and woodwork trim, may uncover remnants of the 18th-century wallpapers.

# APPENDIX D:

# DENDROCHRONOLOGY STUDY

## Introduction

*The following introduction was excerpted from an article entitled "Tree-Ring Dates Offer Insight on Massachusetts Buildings" by Michael Steinit, from the Spring 2002 edition of the Preservation Advocate, a publication of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.*

"In the realm of early American architecture, Massachusetts has few rivals in the number and variety of its surviving 17th- and early 18th-century examples. It is widely recognized that Massachusetts has by far the greatest concentration of early, timber-framed buildings in the country. What is less well known, however, is how tentative and imprecise our understanding of this extraordinarily significant collection of early buildings remains. For owners, researchers, and preservationists alike, a perpetual stumbling block has been the great difficulty in establishing precise construction dates for more than a small percentage of these properties. Documents and records that provide exact construction dates of these earliest buildings rarely exist, and the assignment of dates on the basis of stylistic features or construction techniques remains an inferential process that often involves circular arguments. More often than not, there has been no means to verify traditionally attributed dates. Recent successful research efforts to establish dendrochronology as a scientific means to date buildings in New England will soon change all this.

"Dendrochronology, or tree-ring dating, is a well-established method of determining the age of both living and felled timber and by extension a means of precisely identifying the construction dates of buildings and other timber structures. The method depends on an analysis of the patterns of annual growth rings in trees, patterns that are largely reflective of climate variations from year to year. Wider or narrower annual rings reflect favorable or unfavorable growing conditions, and over the years, trees of a given species in a given region will develop signature patterns of ring development that reflect shared variations in their annual growth. Comparing, or cross-matching, the patterns of rings in living trees with those of older timbers in buildings or archaeological artifacts allows the development of an overlapping, composite, 'master chronology' of tree-ring patterns for a region that can extend back over several centuries or even millennia. Once a master chronology has been established, it can be used to date timbers of a particular species within a region by comparing their ring patterns with that of the master chronology with the aid of computer-based statistical analysis.

"While extensive work has been underway to use dendrochronology to date early buildings in Europe, Britain, and even in the Chesapeake region of the U.S. over the past two decades, New England has lagged behind. Efforts to tree-ring date 17th-century New England buildings were initiated by Abbott Lowell Cummings of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA) from 1968 to 1975, but many of the samples taken at that time had too few rings, and current computer-based analysis techniques had not yet become available. The potential for a breakthrough occurred in 1997 with the discovery of a stand of old-growth Northern Red Oak on the slope of Mt. Wachusett in Princeton, Massachusetts. Tree species vary in the degree to which they display annual growth, but oak in particular is characterized by very distinctive and definable annual growth rings that make it an excellent species for dendrochronological dating. Most importantly, oak

was also widely used in the construction of early buildings in this region. Cores taken from the Mt. Wachusett trees produced a 325-year master chronology that extended back to 1672 and set the stage for an effort to link this living tree chronology to the virtual forest of historic oak architectural timber in the early buildings of eastern Massachusetts.

"The first effort to take advantage of this living tree chronology was undertaken at the National Park Service's Saugus Iron Works site in 1999. Samples taken at the First Period Iron Works House and of various archaeological timbers at the site were successfully cross-dated against core samples that had been taken from five other 17th-century buildings in the 1970s, but there was insufficient overlap of the samples to link this six-building composite chronology to the Wachusett tree-ring data. Cross-dating with the historically dated 1683 Parson Capen House in Topsfield did, however, provide a provisional 1690 date for the Iron Works House at Saugus.

"The next research effort was initiated by SPNEA architectural historian Anne Grady, with funding from a Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant to the SPNEA. Dendrochronologists Paul Drusic and Ed Cook undertook a systematic effort to establish a link between the Mt. Wachusett data and historic architectural timbers in the winter of 2000-2001. The project involved taking core samples from six study buildings in eastern Massachusetts with well established construction dates spaced 20 to 30 years apart in the 17th and 18th centuries. The target properties were: Old Ship Meetinghouse, Hingham (1681, with 1729, 1755 and 1793 additions); Rumney Marsh Meetinghouse (now Revere Community Counseling Center), Revere (1710); United Church of Christ Congregational, Burlington (1732); Old South United Presbyterian Church, Newburyport (1756); Harvard Hall – Harvard University, Cambridge (1764); and Rocky Hill Meetinghouse, Amesbury (1785). The buildings included many of the region's earliest meetinghouses—relatively large buildings with surviving heavy-timbered, oak roof framing that would provide good sample cores with long ring series. The staggered dates provided a series of overlapping chronologies that would hopefully link to the living tree data. In fact, of the 65 samples taken for the project, 44 linked to the Mt. Wachusett chronology, increasing the sample depth of the earliest part of that chronology and extending it back to 1513. The result of the project was the establishment of a standard tree-ring master chronology for oak in eastern Massachusetts that immediately allowed the assigning of a precise 1689 date to the Saugus Iron Works House and a confirmation of the 1683 date of the Parson Capen House, where timbers were identified to have had 1681 and 1682 felling dates.

"With the successful completion of this work based on large buildings with well-established construction dates, the stage has been set to begin to examine early domestic buildings where extracting sufficient samples may be more challenging and where precise construction dates have not been established. A second MHC Survey and Planning Grant to SPNEA is currently helping to support work by British dendrochronologists Dan Miles and Michael Worthington of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory to undertake this work. MHC has also provided support to Historic Deerfield, Inc., to initiate development of a tree-ring chronology for pitch pine in western Massachusetts, where this species was a more common building material than oak. . . . "

## Dendrochronology Results: Olive Stow House

*A visit was made to the Whittemore House and the Olive Stow House in Minute Man National Historical Park by Daniel Miles and Michael Worthington of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory on April 17, 2002, for the purpose of extracting wood samples for a dendrochronology study of those two buildings. The preliminary results of that study, excerpted below, were written in an email from dendrochronologist Dan Miles to Anne Grady dated July 7, 2002.*

"Olive Stow House, Concord. Here we took fewer samples [than the Whittemore House], 17 in all, mainly because the two houses were thought to be broadly contemporary. These samples matched less well, but we did 13 of them to match together and form a 97 year site master. This dated, but not as well as the Whittemore House, spanning the years 1689-1785. The samples were [removed] from the small studs at both gable ends [of the attic], as well as from the purlins. We had 9 precise felling dates, ranging from winter 1784/5, spring and summer 1785, and winter 1785/6. This would suggest construction commencing during 1786. . . . "

## Sampling Methodology

*The following methodology is extracted from an unpublished report entitled "Development of Standard Tree-Ring Chronologies for Dating Historic Structures in Eastern Massachusetts, Phase II," by Daniel Miles, Michael Worthington, and Anne Grady, dated May 31, 2002.*

". . . Those timbers which looked most suitable for dendrochronological purposes with complete sapwood and/or reasonably long ring sequences were selected. *In situ* timbers were sampled through coring, using a 16mm hollow auger [electric]. . . . The dry samples were sanded on a bench-mounted belt sander, or linisher, using 60 to 1200 grit abrasive paper, and were cleaned with compressed air to allow the ring boundaries to be clearly distinguished. They were then measured under a x10/x30 microscope using a traveling stage electronically displaying displacement to a precision of 0.01 mm. Thus each ring is represented by its measurement which is arranged as a series of ring-width indices within a data set, with the earliest ring being placed at the beginning of the series, and the latest or outermost ring concluding the data set."

## Summary Table: Olive Stow House

*A table summarizing the dendrochronology results for the Olive Stow House is included as the last page of this appendix. Definitions of the various categories within this table may be found in the unpublished report entitled "Development of Standard Tree-Ring Chronologies for Dating Historic Structures in Eastern Massachusetts, Phase*

*II," by Daniel Miles, Michael Worthington, and Anne Grady, dated May 31, 2002. These definitions are excerpted below.*

"**Sample number:** Generally, each site is give a two or three letter identifying prefix code, after which each timber is given an individual number. If a timber is sampled twice, or if two timbers were noted at time of sampling as having clearly originated from the same tree, then they are given suffixes 'a', 'b', etc. Where a core sample has broken, with no clear overlap between segments, these are differentiated by a further suffix '1', '2', etc."

"**Type** shows whether the sample was from a core 'c', or a section or slice from a timber 's'. Sometimes photographs are used 'p', or timbers measured *in situ* with a graticule 'g'."

"**Species** column uses the International Tree-Ring Data Bank (ITRDB) four-letter species codes. QUAL is the code for *Quercus alba*, or white oak, and QURU is for *Q. rubra* or red oak. FRNI is the code for *Fraxinus nigra* or black ash."

"**Timber and position** column details each timber sampled along with a location reference. This will usually refer to a bay or truss number, or relate to compass points or to a reference drawing."

"**Dates AD spanning** gives the first and last measured ring dates of the sequence (if dated)."

"**H/S bdry** is the date of the heartwood/sapwood transition or boundary (if present). This date is critical in determining an estimated felling date range if the sapwood is not complete to the bark edge."

"**Sapwood complement** gives the number of sapwood rings. The tree starts growing in the spring during which time the earlywood is produced, also known as spring growth. This consists of between one and three decreasing spring vessels and is noted as *spring* felling and is indicated by a ¼ C after the number of sapwood ring count. Sometimes this can be more accurately pin-pointed to very early spring when just a few spring vessels are visible. After the spring growing season, the latewood or summer growth commences, and is differentiated from the preceeding spring growth by the dense band of tissue. This summer growth continues until just before the leaves drop, in about October. Trees felled during this period are noted as *summer* felled (1/2C), but it is difficult to be too precise, as the width of the latewood can be variable, and it can be difficult to distinguish whether a tree stopped growing in *autumn* or *winter*. When the summer growth band is clearly complete, then the tree would have been felled during the dormant winter period, as shown by a single C after the sapwood compliment, if in white oak, *Quercus alba.* In red oak, *Q.Rubra,* only the 1/4C, 1/2C, or C symbols are used as no heartwood/sapwood boundary can be identified. Sometimes a sample will clearly have the complete sapwood, but due either to slight abrasion at the point of coring, or extremely narrow growth rings, it is impossible to determine the season of felling."

"**Number of rings** in the individual sample analyzed, and if the pith is included or near to the beginning of the sequence, this is indicated by a O symbol if the pith is included

in sample; Φ if within 5 rings of centre; and Ω if within 10 rings of centre. . . . 'N.M.' means rings not measured."

"**Mean width:** This, simply put, is the sum total of all the individual ring widths, divided by the number of rings, giving an average ring width for the series."

"**Standard deviation:** The mean scatter of a population of numbers from the population mean. The square root of the variance, which is itself the square of the mean scatter of a statistical population of numbers from the population mean. (Fritts 1976)."

"**Mean sensitivity:** A statistic measuring the mean percentage, or relative change from each measured yearly ring value to the next; that is, the average relative difference from one ring width to the next, calculated by dividing the absolute value of the differences between each pair of measurements by the average of the paired measurements, then averaging the quotients for all pairs in the tree-ring series (Fritts 1976). Sensitivity is a dendrochronological term referring to the presence of ring-width variability in the radial direction within a tree which indicates [if] the growth response of a particular tree is 'sensitive' to variations in climate, as opposed to complacency."

"**Felling seasons and dates/date ranges** is probably the most important column of the summary table. Here the actual felling dates and seasons are given for each dated sample (if complete sapwood is present). It will be noticed that often the precise felling dates will vary within several years of each other. Unless there is supporting archaeological evidence suggesting different phases [of building], all this would indicate is either stockpiling of timber, or of trees which have been felled or died at varying times but not cut up until the commencement of the particular building operations in question. When presented with varying precise felling dates, one should always take the *latest* date for the structure under study, and it is likely that construction will have been completed for ordinary vernacular buildings within twelve or eighteen months from this latest felling date (Cummings 1979b, 60; Miles 1997)."

# OXFORD DENDROCHRONOLOGY LABORATORY

# BOSTON DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT - PHASE III

## Summary of tree-ring dating for 2002

## OLIVE STOW HOUSE, CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

| Sample number & type | | Species | Timber and position | Dates AD spanning | H/S bdry | Sapwood complement | No of rings | Mean width mm | Std devn mm | Mean sens mm | Felling seasons and dates/date ranges |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| * *osc1* | c | QURU | Stud 1 from N, E attic wall | 1699-1755 | | | 57+25NM | 1.39 | 0.28 | 0.139 | After 1780 |
| * *osc2* | c | QURU | Stud 2 from N, E attic wall | 1728-1785 | | C | 58 | 1.16 | 0.16 | 0.108 | Winter 1785/6 |
| *osc3* | c | QURU | Stud 3 from N, E attic wall | - | | | 54 | 1.66 | 0.49 | 0.106 | |
| *osc4a* | c | QURU | Stud 4 from N, E attic wall | 1716-1779 | | | 64 | 1.21 | 0.45 | 0.114 | |
| *osc4b* | c | | ditto | 1724-1784 | | ½C | 61 | 1.23 | 0.26 | 0.111 | |
| * *osc4* | | | Mean of *osc4a* + *osc4b* | 1716-1784 | | ½C | 69 | 1.28 | 0.42 | 0.105 | Summer 1785 |
| *osc5* | c | QURU | Stud 5 from N, E attic wall | - | | ¼C | 55 | 1.44 | 0.33 | 0.121 | |
| * *osc6* | c | QURU | Stud 7 from N, E attic wall | 1711-1777 | | | 67 | 1.46 | 0.34 | 0.114 | |
| * *osc7* | c | QURU | Stud 8 from N, E attic wall | 1716-1776 | | | 61 | 1.39 | 0.29 | 0.106 | |
| * *osc8* | c | QURU | Purlin 3 from N, bay 4 N side | 1716-1784 | | ½C | 69 | 1.35 | 0.23 | 0.128 | Summer 1785 |
| * *osc9* | c | QURU | Purlin 4 from N, bay 4 N side | 1697-1754 | | | 58 | 1.74 | 0.36 | 0.132 | |
| * *osc10* | c | QURU | Purlin 4 from S, bay 3 S side | 1706-1784 | | ¼C | 79 | 1.17 | 0.38 | 0.104 | Spring 1785 |
| * *osc11* | c | QURU | Stud 1 from S, W attic wall | 1702-1784 | | ¼C | 83 | 0.98 | 0.21 | 0.125 | Spring 1785 |
| * *osc12* | c | QURU | Stud 3 from S, W attic wall | 1705-1784 | | ¼C | 80 | 1.02 | 0.20 | 0.109 | Spring 1785 |
| *osc13a* | c | QURU | Stud 4 from S, W attic wall | - | | | 37 | 1.81 | 0.38 | 0.132 | |
| *osc13b* | c | | ditto | - | | | 34 | 1.66 | 0.24 | 0.125 | |
| * *osc14* | c | QURU | Stud 5 from S, W attic wall | 1707-1784 | | ¼C | 78 | 1.17 | 0.21 | 0.104 | Very early spring 1785 |
| * *osc15* | c | QURU | Stud 6 from S, W attic wall | 1706-1784 | | ¼C | 79 | 1.15 | 0.31 | 0.115 | Spring 1785 |
| *osc16* | c | QURU | Stud 7 from S, W attic wall | - | | | 43 | 2.01 | 0.40 | 0.137 | |
| *osc17a* | c | QURU | Purlin 4 from S, bay 1 S side | 1689-1760 | | | 72 | 1.50 | 0.41 | 0.121 | |
| *osc17b* | c | | ditto | 1714-1785 | | C | 72 | 1.29 | 0.25 | 0.108 | |
| * *osc17* | | | Mean of *osc17a* + *osc17b* | 1689-1785 | | C | 97 | 1.39 | 0.40 | 0.115 | Winter 1785/6 |
| * = OSC Site Master | | | | **1689-1785** | | | **97** | **1.34** | **0.40** | **0.083** | |

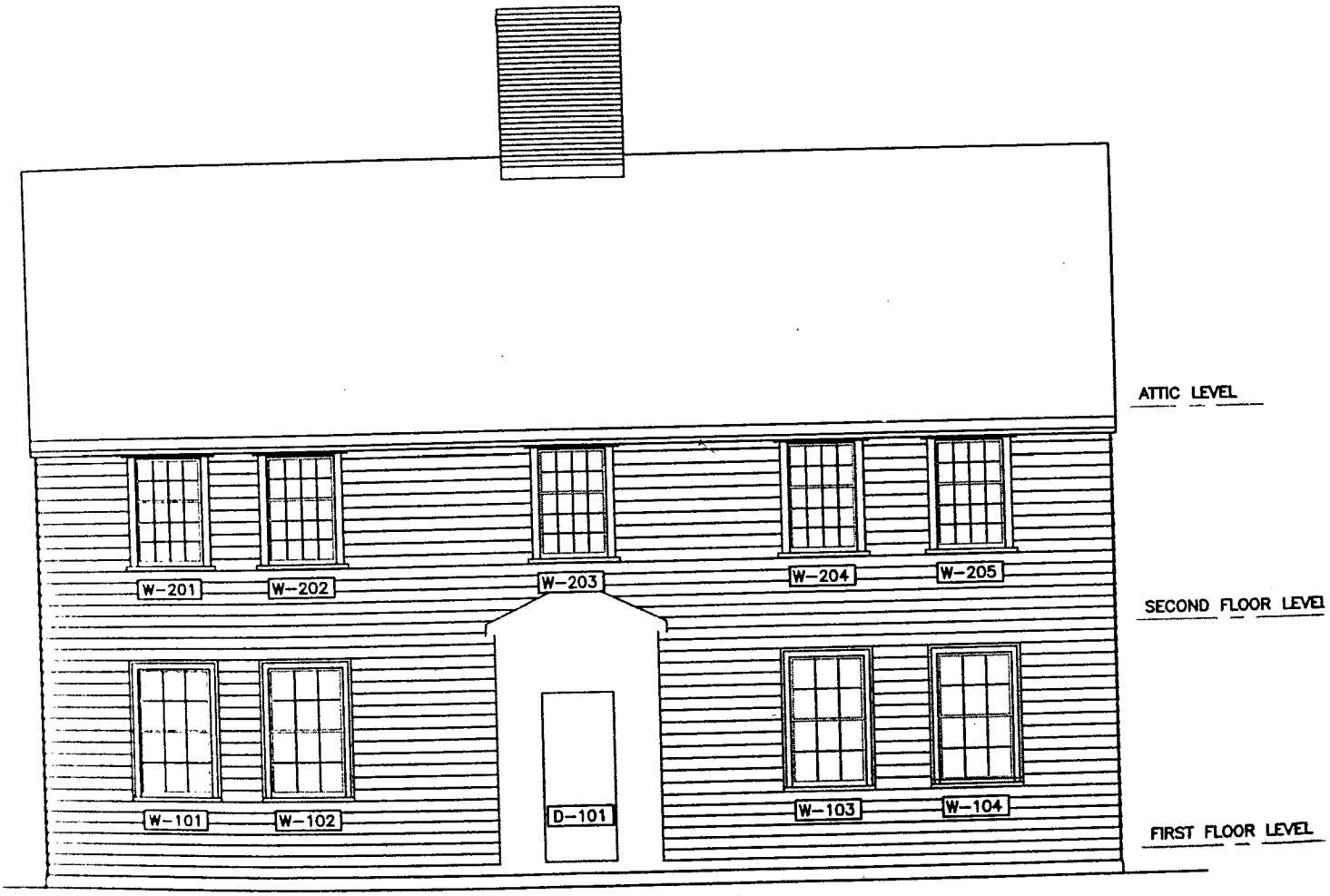
Key: *, †, § = sample included in site-master; c = core; mc = micro-core; g = graticule; Θ = pith included in sample; Φ = within 5 rings of centre; Ω = within 10 rings of centre; ¼C, ½C, C = bark edge present, partial or complete ring: ¼C = spring (ring not measured), ½C = summer/autumn, or C = winter felling (ring measured); H/S bdry = heartwood/sapwood boundary - last heartwood ring date; std devn = standard deviation; mean sens = mean sensitivity; QUAL = *Quercus Alba* (White oak), QURU = *Q Rubra* (Red oak)

Summary: Of the 17 timbers sampled, thirteen matched together to form the 97-ring site master ***OCS***. This matched consistently with the established reference chronologies, spanning the years 1689-1785. Nine precise felling dates were produced, ranging from the very early spring of 1785 to the winter of 1785/6, suggesting construction took place during 1786. All timbers were found to be of red oak, and most were sawn from larger trees.

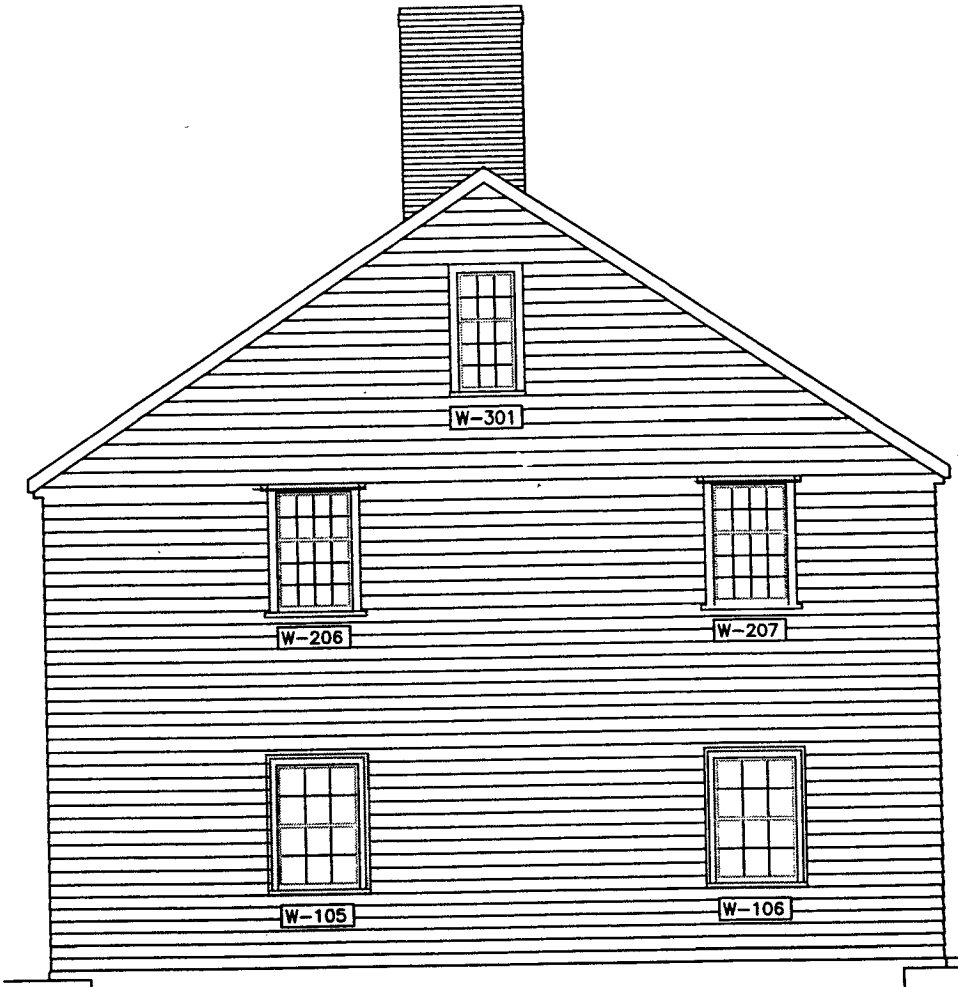
# APPENDIX E:

# ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS, 2002

*The following architectural drawings of the Olive Stow House were prepared in 2002 by Stephen Pisani, Historical Architect with the Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center.*

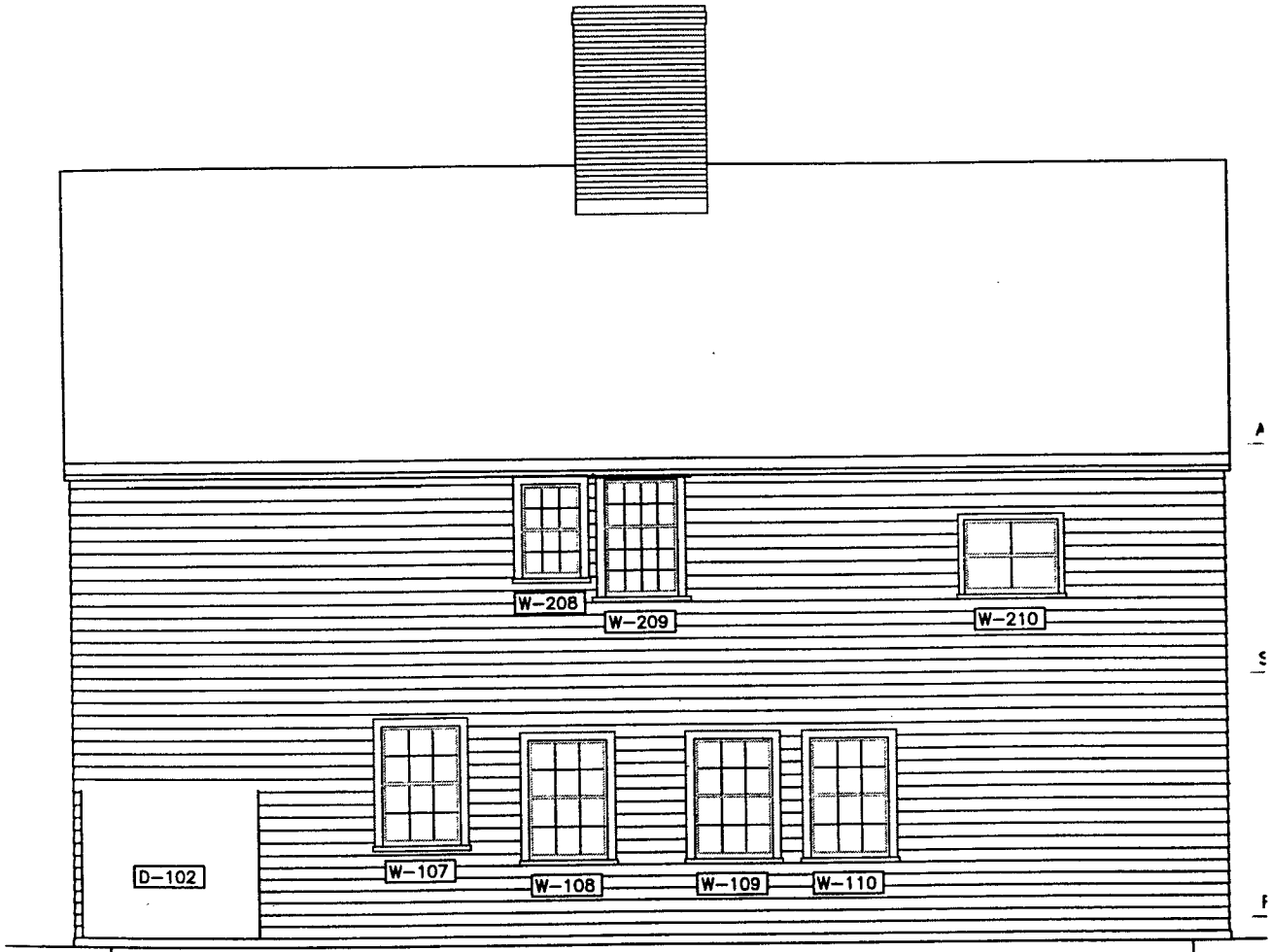



SOUTH ELEVATION
OLIVE STOW HOUSE
MINUTE MAN NHP
NORTHEAST CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER
BUILDING CONSERVATION BRANCH
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE



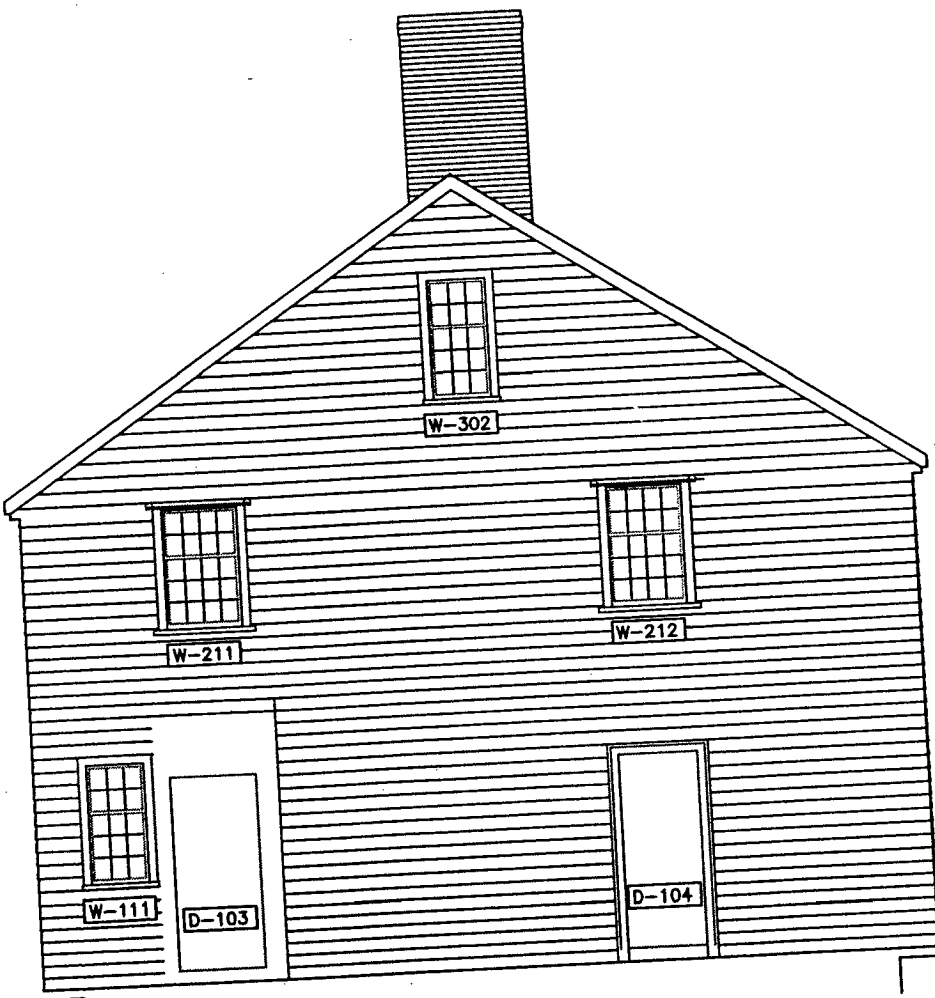

EAST ELEVATION
OLIVE STOW HOUSE
MINUTE MAN NHP
NORTHEAST CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER
BUILDING CONSERVATION BRANCH
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

RESS PRINT



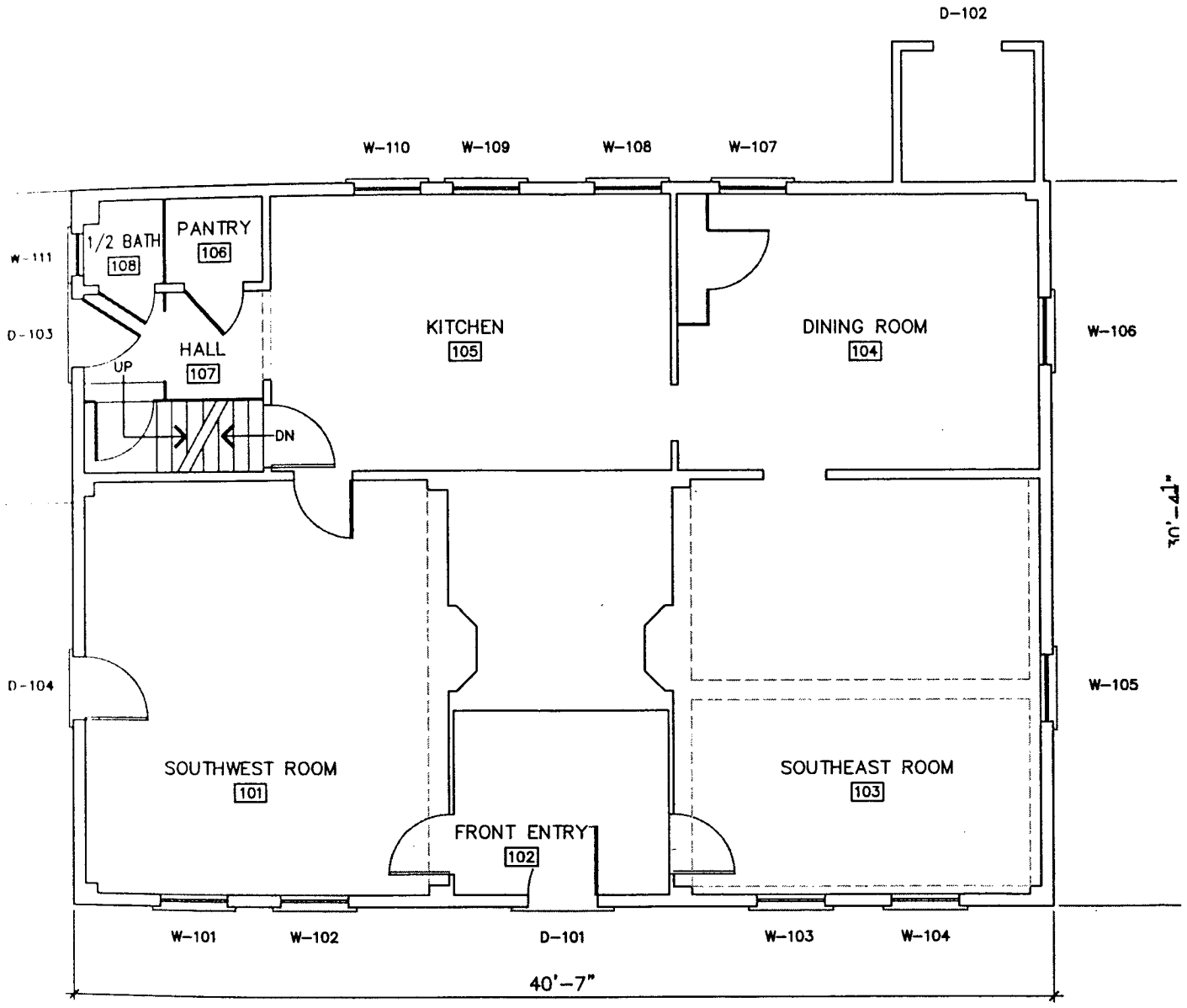

NORTH ELEVATION
OLIVE STOW HOUSE
MINUTE MAN NHP
NORTHEAST CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER
BUILDING CONSERVATION BRANCH
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

PRO



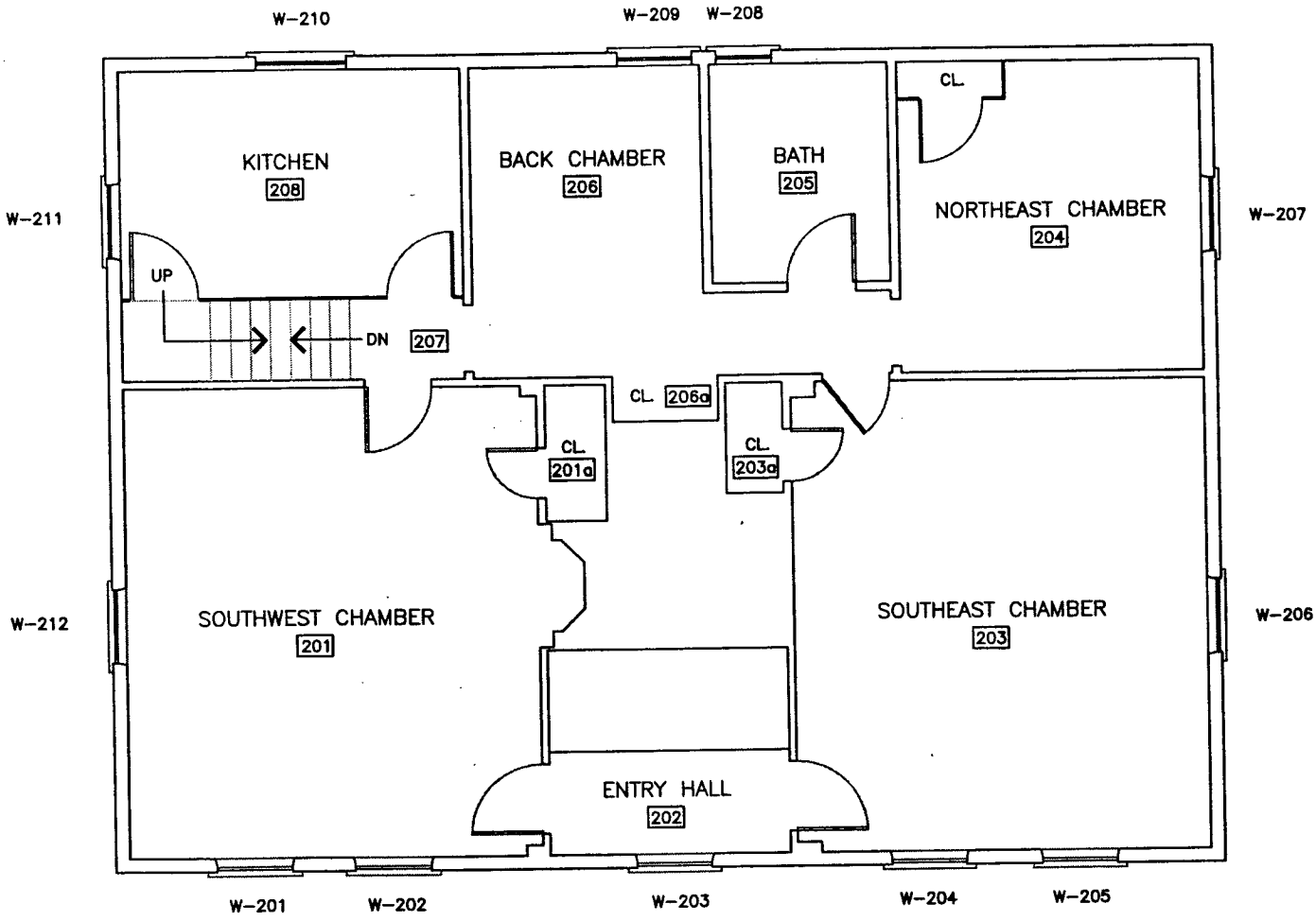

WEST ELEVATION
OLIVE STOW HOUSE
MINUTE MAN NHP
NORTHEAST CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER
BUILDING CONSERVATION BRANCH
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

PROGR




FIRST FLOOR PLAN

PROGR




SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SS PRINT

# APPENDIX F:

# CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT, 2002

# CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

**by Milland Galland, Historical Architect**
**and Barbara Yocum, Architectural Conservator**

**May 2002**

## INTRODUCTION

The condition of the Olive Stow House is fair, considering the lack of periodic maintenance by the previous owner. The siding is in good condition for the most part, but leaking of the roof and selected windows has damaged interior plaster and wallpaper in isolated areas. Some windows are in good condition, while others have problems with flashing and missing glazing. The roof covering is worn, with openings between the layers of roll roofing. The roof structure has sagged over time, but vertical posts added to the rafters in the attic has alleviated this condition. Perhaps as a consequence, many of the second-story plaster ceilings have cracked. Several second-floor beams have deflected (sagged) over time. The basement is in fairly good condition, with the majority of the foundation masonry and first-floor framing solid.

## STRUCTURAL FRAMING

The post-and-beam frame of the house is an original feature dating to circa 1786. Although a thorough assessment of the structural frame was not possible due to the covering of exterior wall cladding and interior wall materials, it was nevertheless possible to determine that the frame is in generally fair condition. Most of the ground sills, and the majority of the floor framing in the first story, were replaced with new materials sometime in the 20th century. Severe deflection has occurred to the center pine beams in the floors of the southeast chamber (Room 203), and the northeast chamber (Room 204), resulting in the removal of the plaster ceilings in the rooms below and repositioning of the joists. Two wall posts are completely missing in the first story: one in center of the east elevation, the other removed for a window in the north elevation. Insect damage has reduced the structural integrity of the two-story post in the northeast corner of the house. Additional insect damage will undoubtedly be found as the walls are opened during the next phase of this project. Sagging of the roof rafters has occurred over time, necessitating the addition of vertical supports in the attic (fig. E-1). Resultant pressures bearing on the attic floor may be the cause of deflection and cracking of the plaster ceilings observed in the southwest and southeast chambers (Rooms 201 and 203—fig. E-2). Surface charring of the framing is also evident in the attic in the vicinity of the chimney, caused by an early (circa-1830s) fire.

# EXTERIOR

## Site Features

### Stone Wall

A dry-laid stone retaining wall of unknown date runs parallel to the east elevation, approximately 4 feet from the house. Its height varies, but it is generally approximately 2 feet high. Many of the stones are displaced

### Concrete Pads

A large non-historic concrete platform, approximately 12-feet square, occupies the north side of the west elevation, abutting the house, in front of the secondary entrance, with a smaller concrete pad set on the west side of the larger pad. The large pad has settled differentially, resulting in cracking. Some of the cracks have been patched with mortar.

Another non-historic concrete pad is located near the west side of the north elevation, abutting the house, approximately 5 feet square. It is cracked, with some mortar patching.

## Foundation

The historic stone foundation suffers from several conditions. Several of the individual stones are loose, and there are areas of excessive mortar patching in the east elevation. Concrete appears to have been used as parging over the stone foundation in the north elevation. A modern asphalt sheet strip covers most of the foundation below the wood siding in the south elevation, except for a small portion on the east side. The exposed stone foundation is red from over-spraying of the siding in the south and east elevations.

## Siding

The siding is painted or stained wood shingles applied over earlier (original?) clapboards and sheathing boards. The majority of the shingles in the east elevation are cupped, with a small proportion askew or missing. There is a separation of the siding, and also possibly the sheathing, from the northeast corner post, extending up several feet from the bottom. The siding of the north elevation exhibits several areas of patching with stapled/nailed vinyl and building felt (fig. E-3). A section of shingles adjacent to the basement entryway is severely deteriorated, presumably from roof runoff (off the basement entryway). An outward bulge in the siding appears on the west side of the north elevation, approximately 7 feet vertically, and 8 feet 6 inches from the west corner. This appears to correspond to the location of an interior wall. A non-historic, wood-framed shed covers the exterior entrance to the cellar. This structure is in poor overall condition, with improper flashing where it abuts the house.

## Doorways

**Historic Front Door (D-101).**

The lower stile of the door is loose. Lack of paint has resulted in severe weathering of the bottom of the door and frame. The sill is unpainted with gaps at the juncture to the jamb trim. The surrounding trim has areas of deterioration, with missing trim, and ill-fitting patches. The putty is loose at the transom. Flashing at the pediment is a metal of undetermined type and condition. A light fixture on the west jamb has corroded, staining the paint below (fig. E-4). The door and transom appear slightly racked, with the east side of the top portion lower than the west.

**Historic Side Door (D-103).**

A roughly constructed wood enclosure is nailed to the door trim, equipped with a storm door (fig. E-5). The original transom has some damaged and loose muntins and loose trim at the bottom.

## Windows

**Cellar Story**

The wood frames of the four cellar windows suffer from various degrees of deterioration, primarily at the sills and jambs.

**Upper Stories**

Historic and non-historic windows are located in the first, second, and third stories of the house, as described in the "Architectural Elements" section of the historic structure report. General conditions common to most or all of the windows include the following. Worn and peeling paint has exposed the wood of the casings, trim, and sashes to the weather. The wood casings have checked sills, open joints, some missing trim, non-historic aluminum head flashings in various states of disrepair, and embedded staples from former plastic storm sheeting. The wood sashes suffer from loose and weak joints, warped and damaged muntins, inappropriate sheet-metal repairs, deteriorated and missing putty, cracked glass, modern replacement glass, and broken or missing sash cords. Non-historic storm and screen sashes of wood or aluminum cover the windows, which are both ill-fitting and in deteriorated condition. Obsolete metal hooks from an earlier generation of non-historic storm and screen sashes remain attached to many of the window casings.

## Roofing

The roof covering was not available for close inspection. Cursory observation found that existing modern asphalt roll roofing is worn, and it covers another roof layer. There are numerous areas in the interior that indicate the presence of water infiltration through ceilings and/or wall surfaces (fig. E-2).

### Chimney

The original brick chimney appears to be in generally fair condition, with a few exceptions. There is a vertical separation at the west elevation about 4-inches wide at the top, and approximately 15 courses in height, continuing as a crack. There is also a small horizontal crack on the south side. The north side reveals several areas where the brick appears displaced, with missing mortar. The east side also has a large vertical crack, approximately 2 inches wide at the top, extending down approximately seven courses. There is an open horizontal joint, 3 units wide, on the north side, near the roof line. The flashing is generally loose and open at the juncture of the flashing to the roof, and has been patched with a silver compound.

## INTERIOR

### Cellar

The condition of the cellar is good overall, with isolated areas of water damage or structural deficiencies. There is a sump pump and pit, but the pump is prone to malfunction if the float is off center. A stubbed-off, 4-inch drain, located at cellar floor level, may be allowing water to enter the cellar.

### Floors

The floor of the cellar is modern poured concrete; the floors in the first-story consist of mostly 20th-century oak and pine floorboards; and the floors in the second story and attic are wide (presumably original) floorboards. The concrete floor in the cellar is in good condition. The modern floorboards in the first story are in fair but dirty condition, with some water staining in the southwest room (Room 101). The original painted floorboards in the second story are in worn condition, with some buckling observed in the upper hall (Room 202) in the area of a water leak. Patterned, felt-based flooring (circa-1950s) that covers many of the floors in the first and second stories is in soiled and cracked condition.

In the attic, surface charring of the unpainted floorboards is evident around the northeast corner of the chimney. There is a section of floor where the floorboards are missing. Many floorboards are incompletely nailed down. A floorboard midway between the chimney and the west wall has the following stenciled in black: "Kaplan Furniture, 91 Albany Street, Cambridge, Mass".

### Walls

The interior walls of the house consist of the following. The walls of the cellar are mortared stones: fieldstones in the lower walls and dressed stones in the upper walls. The walls in the first and second stories include stud walls finished with original plaster on accordion lath, stud walls finished with circa-1830s plaster on sawn lath, and original plank partition walls. Assessment of the plaster walls was difficult due to coverings of 20th-century materials, such as wallpapers, pine paneling, imitation wood paneling, and tileboard. Where visible, some plaster conditions were found to include buckling, cracking, and poor adhesion (fig. E-6). The original plank partitions are marred by knife marks in the front entry (Room 102), and covered by a thick buildup of paint in the side entry (Room 107). Non-historic

(circa 1940s-50s) wallpapers are applied in one or several layers to the unpainted plaster walls. These papers are in generally poor condition, being soiled, faded, detached, torn, cracked, and mended with duct tape. Pine paneling removed from the south wall of the kitchen (Room 105) during the architectural investigation revealed the original plaster walls in good condition, original wood wainscot, and the original kitchen fireplace (fig. E-7).

## Ceilings

The ceilings in the rooms of the first and second stories consist of original plaster on accordion lath, circa-1830s plaster on sawn lath, modern acoustical ceiling tiles, and 20th-century plasterboard. The plaster ceilings are in mostly fair condition, with a few notable exceptions. Water infiltration on the south side of the house has resulted in plaster loss and warped lath in the southwest chamber (Room 201), and in the upper hall (Room 202—fig. E-2). The plaster ceiling in the southeast chamber (Room 203) is severely cracked, likely due to the addition of later rafter supports bearing on the attic floor. Downward deflection of the center ceiling was also observed in Room 201, perhaps also caused by the rafter supports . Acoustical ceiling tiles were partially removed from the southeast room (Room 103) and the dining room (Room 104) for the architectural investigation. This revealed pronounced downward deflection of the center pine beams in those rooms, and physical evidence of missing lath and plaster ceilings (fig F-8). The modern plasterboard ceiling in the kitchen is in good condition; it is not known if an earlier plaster ceiling survives above this material.

## Doorways

The existing interior doors date from three periods: original construction (circa 1786), post-fire remodeling (circa 1830s), and 20th-century updating. Two of the original doorway openings have racked (connecting Rooms 101-102 and 202-203), resulting in wedges added to the upper doors (fig. E-9). Inappropriate hardware has been added to some of the original doors, such as Stanley spring hinges, Norfolk latches, and box latches with doorknobs. The one door that retains its original Suffolk latch (in the doorway between Rooms 201-202) is hung upside-down and hinged on the wrong side of the jamb. Most of the circa-1830s doors are in good condition, retaining their original cast-iron butt hinges and Norfolk latches with die-cast handles.

## Windows

Windows date to two periods: original construction and 20th century, with some post-fire modifications made circa 1830s. The exterior conditions of the windows and their sashes are described under "Exterior Windows." Modern hardware for window shades and curtains date to the 20th century. The interior painted finishes of the windows are in poor condition, most notably at the sashes.

## Fireplaces

There are five original fireplaces in the house in various states of disrepair. Four are in the principal rooms and chambers (Rooms 101, 103, 201, and 203), and one is in the kitchen. In the best condition is the fireplace in Room 201, where the original brick hearth, firebox, and wooden mantel survive relatively unaltered. The fireplaces in Rooms 101 and 103 have had their original hearths and mantels replaced with 20th-century materials. The

damper is missing from the flue in Room 101, and is loaded with debris in Room 103. The fireplace in Room 203 is missing its hearth; the wooden mantel is a circa-1830s replacement; and the opening is enclosed with plaster or plasterboard. The kitchen fireplace and adjacent bake oven were covered with pine paneling sometime in the 20th century, which was removed for the architectural investigation. This revealed an original wooden mantel with simple bead detail, two upper cabinets with raised-panel doors and missing hardware, and later brickwork enclosing the openings of the fireplace and bake oven. The condition of the kitchen-fireplace hearth is unknown, being covered with modern flooring.

### Chimney

The original interior chimney stack is exposed in the cellar, in the front hall, and in the attic. It appears to be in generally fair condition. In the cellar, a deteriorated brick that serves as the keystone in the brick arch on the east side of the chimney foundation, could lead to weakening of the arch unless corrected. The south face of the chimney stack in the front hall is finished with plaster in good condition and faded 20th-century wallpaper. In the attic, most of the north side and west sides of the chimney are covered with creosote. In addition, approximately ten bricks on the west side have deteriorated surfaces and have powdered. There are some deteriorated bricks on the east side as well.

## MECHANICAL AND UTILITY SYSTEMS

### Heating System

**Heating Equipment**. The house is equipped with an oil-fueled, steam-heating system in operable condition. The condition of the boiler is mixed. A new Beckett burner was installed in June 2000, but the combustion chamber and housing has patching material around the various access panels and components. The controls are dated (old). Cast-iron steam radiators are located in the rooms of the first and second stories.

### Electrical System

**Electrical Service**. The house is equipped with 60-amp electrical service. The condition of the electrical service varies. Some of the wiring is in conduit and some is unsheathed. The electrical panel in the cellar has had a branch circuit added without proper protection.

**Electrical Equipment**. Electric wall sconces, ceiling lights, and outlets are in operable condition.

### Plumbing System

**Water Service**. Water is supplied by the Town of Concord. The water service appears to be in fair condition. The meter is comparatively recent, and most of the supply piping is copper. The water entrance and meter are located on the west side of the south wall. An older 1-inch pipe is stubbed off, slightly to the east, midway up the wall.

**Plumbing Fixtures.** Plumbing fixtures in the first and second stories are in operable, but dated, condition. These are located in the first-story kitchen (Room 105) and toilet room (Room 108), and in the second-story bathroom (Room 205) and kitchen (Room 208).

## DETECTION EQUIPMENT

**Intrusion Alarm**. An intrusion alarm in operable condition has been recently installed in the house, activated by a control panel in the front entry (Room 102). The main panel is located near the electrical panel in the cellar, on the south wall.

**Smoke Alarms**. Battery-operated smoke alarms in operable condition are mounted to the ceilings of selected rooms. This system of fire protection is ineffective, however, since the house is currently unoccupied.

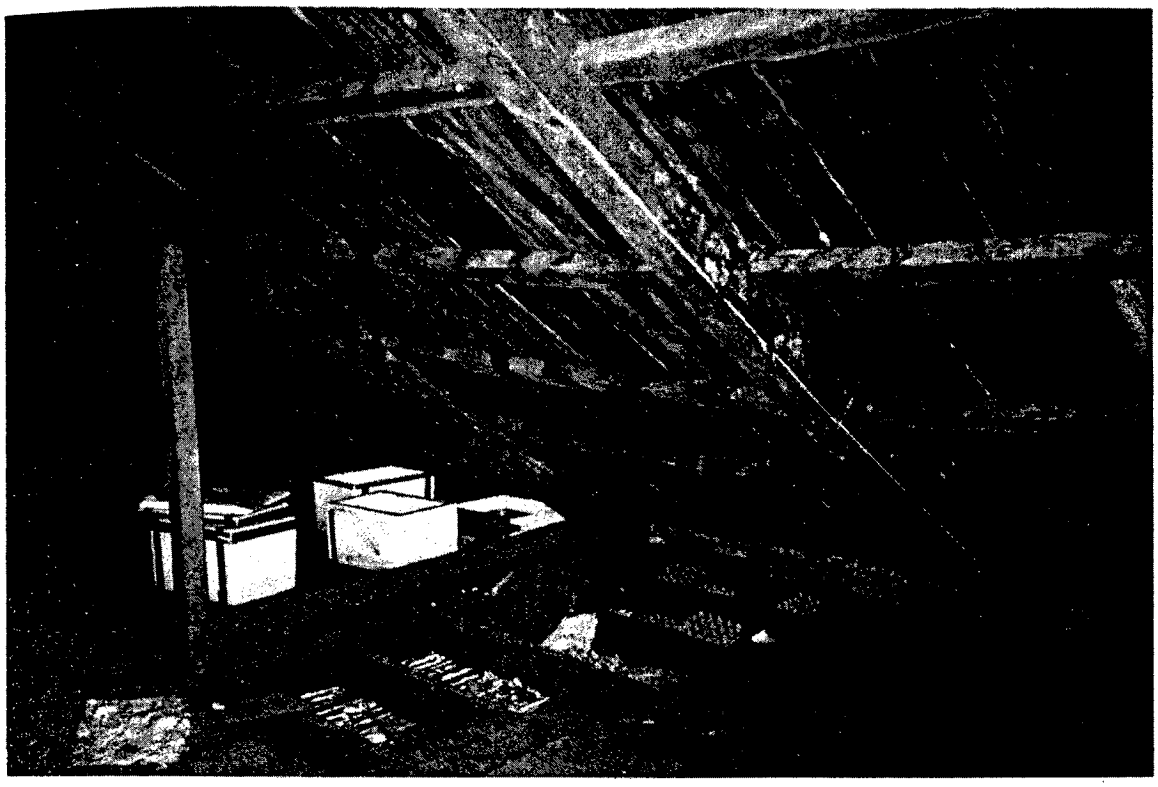


**Figure F-1.** Attic, southwest corner, showing intermediate-supported roof rafter (left side of photograph).

**Figure F-2.** Missing/damaged plaster ceiling, upper hall (Room 202).

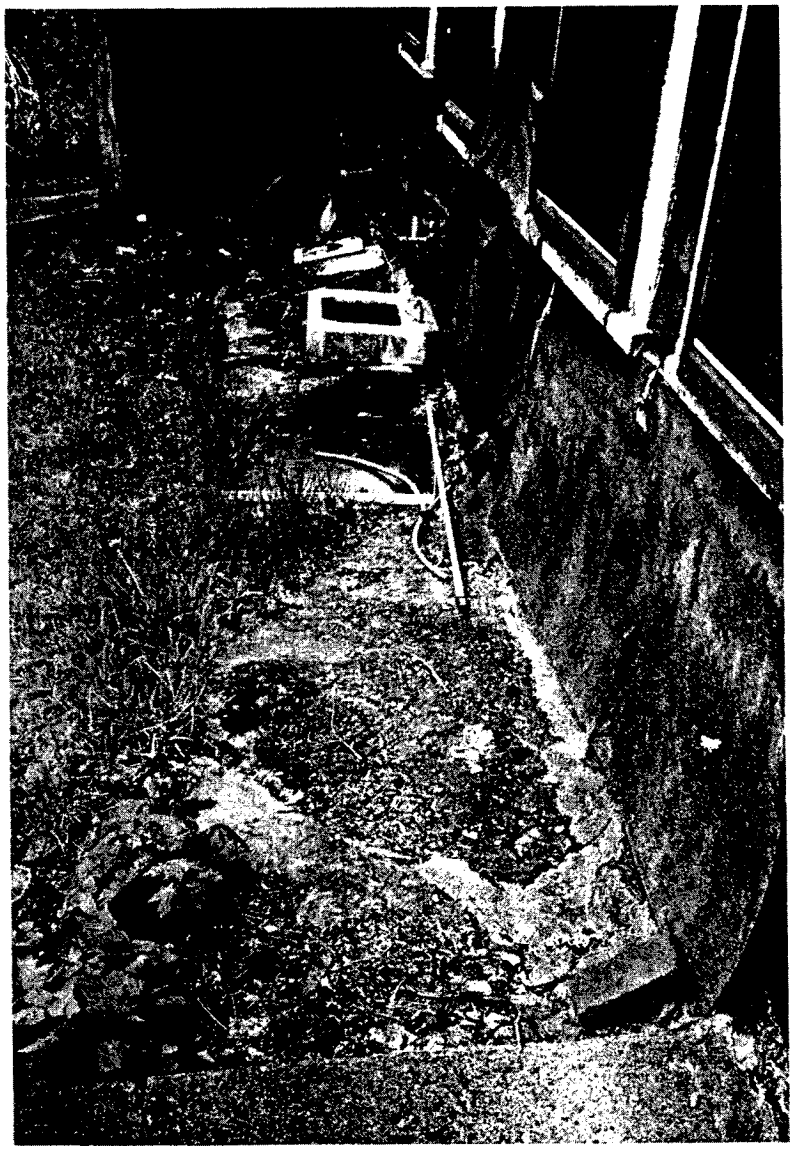


**Figure F-3.** North elevation: miscellaneous patching and non-historic materials.

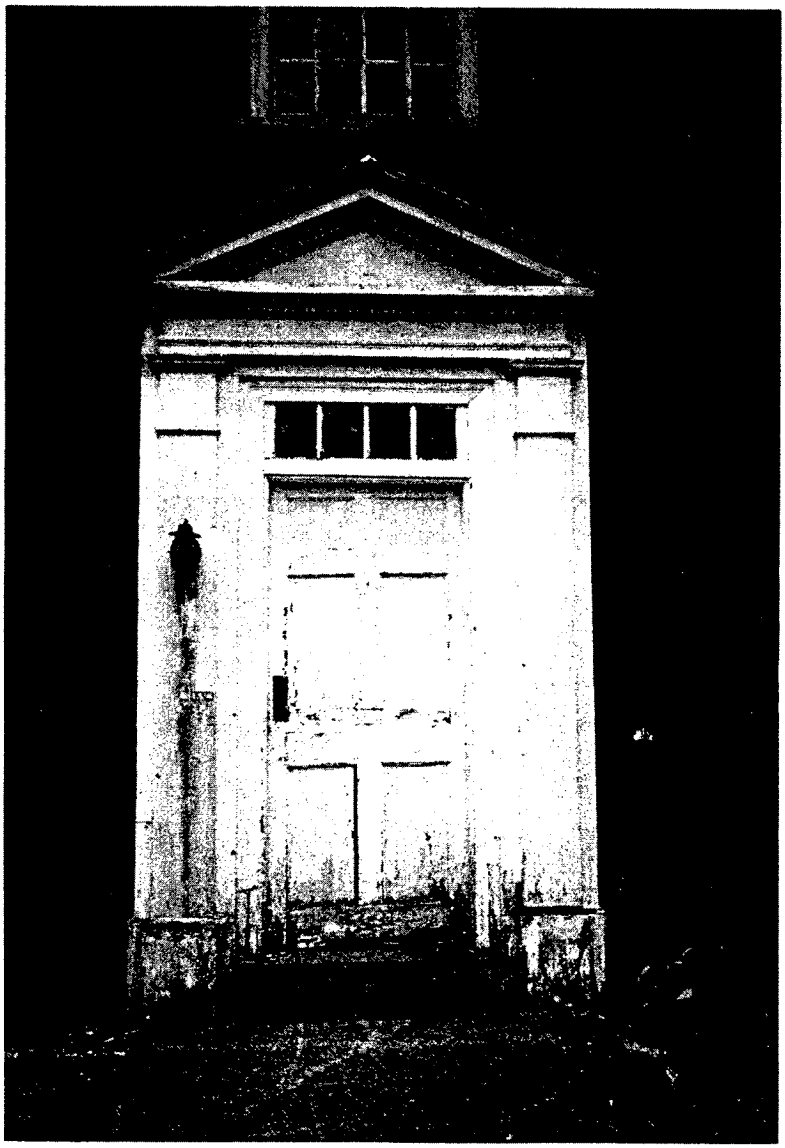


**Figure F-4.** Main entrance doorway (D-101) in the south elevation.

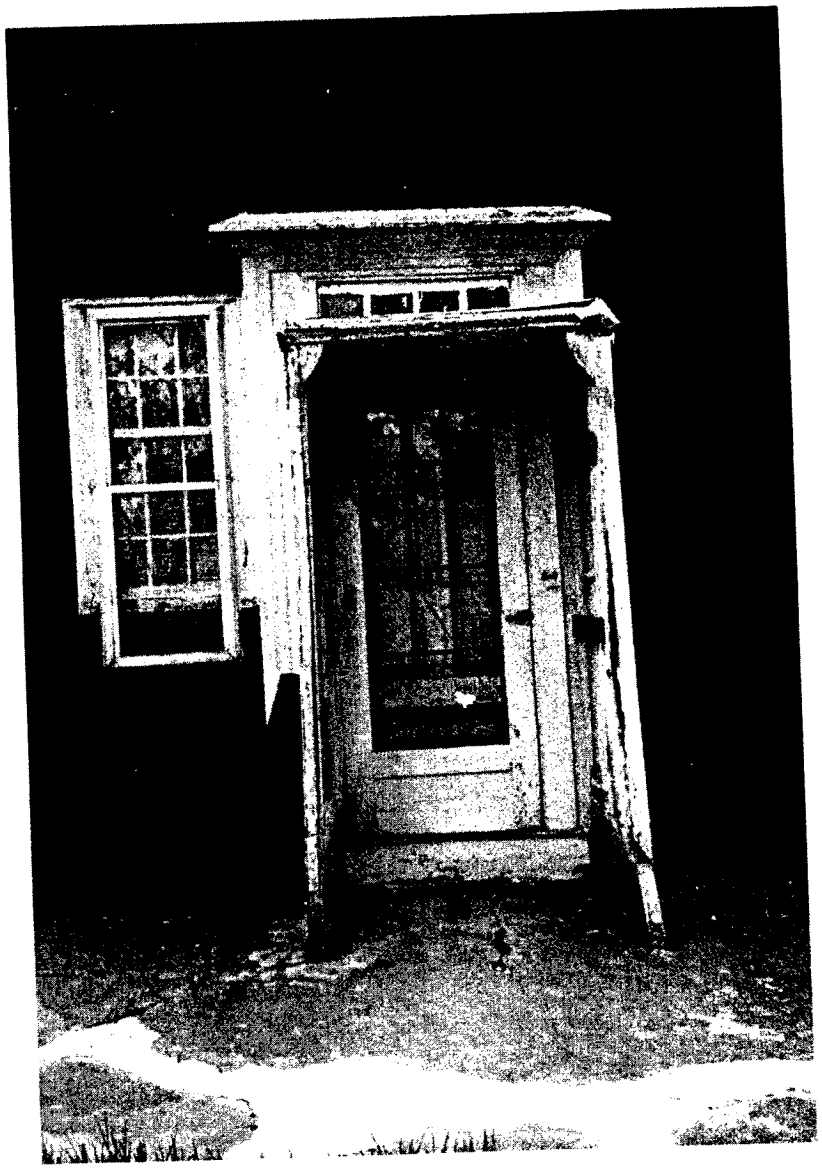


**Figure F-5.** Side doorway (D-103) in the west elevation.

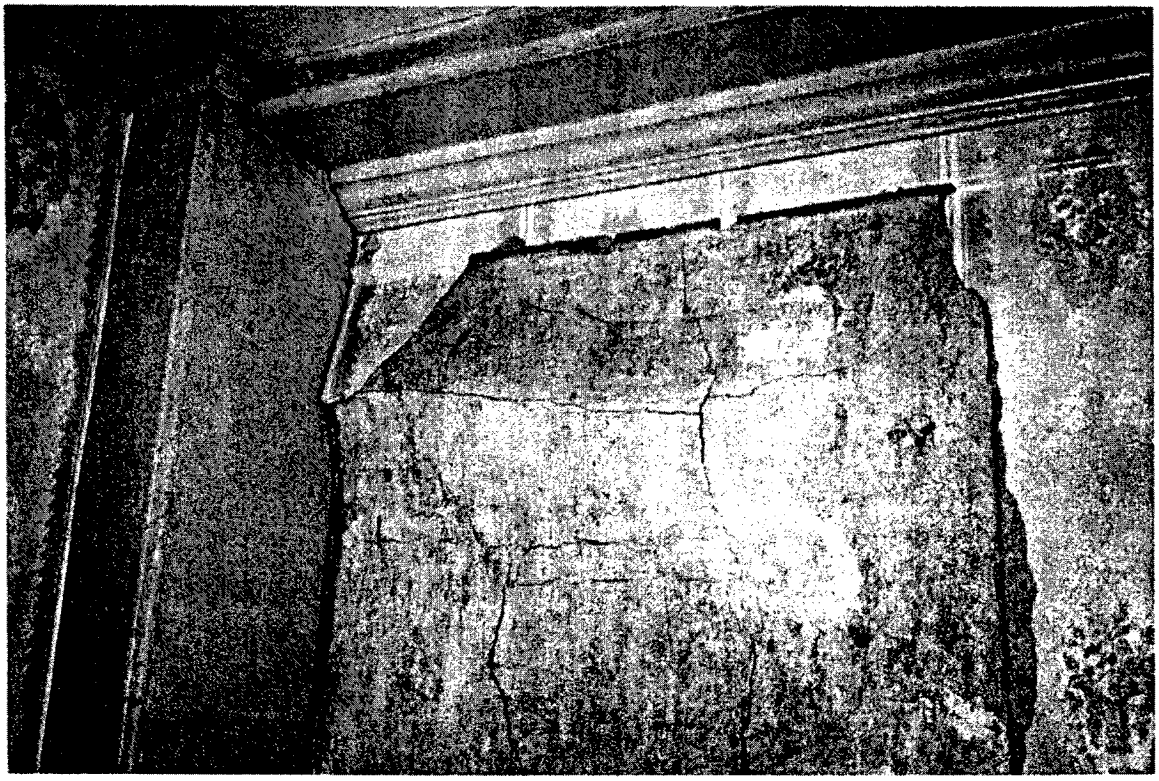


**Figure F-6.** Buckling plaster wall, northeast corner of the southwest room (Room 101).

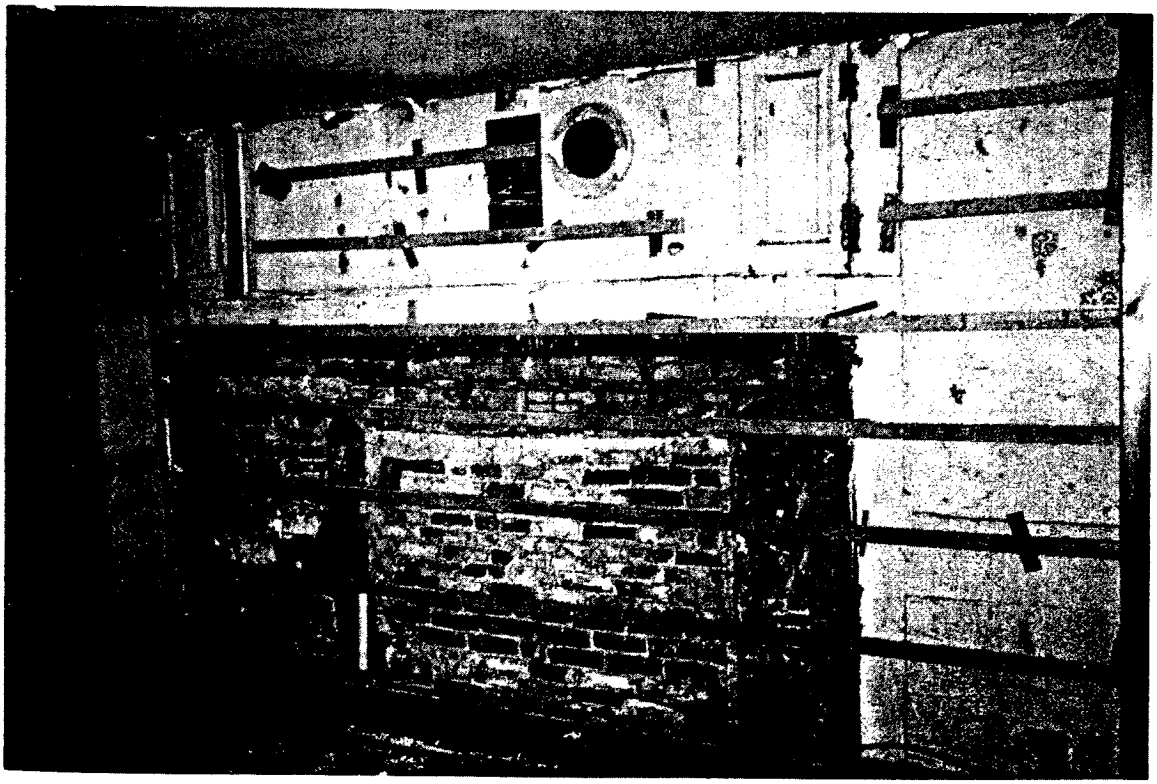


**Figure F-7.** Exposed original fireplace, south wall of the kitchen (Room 105).

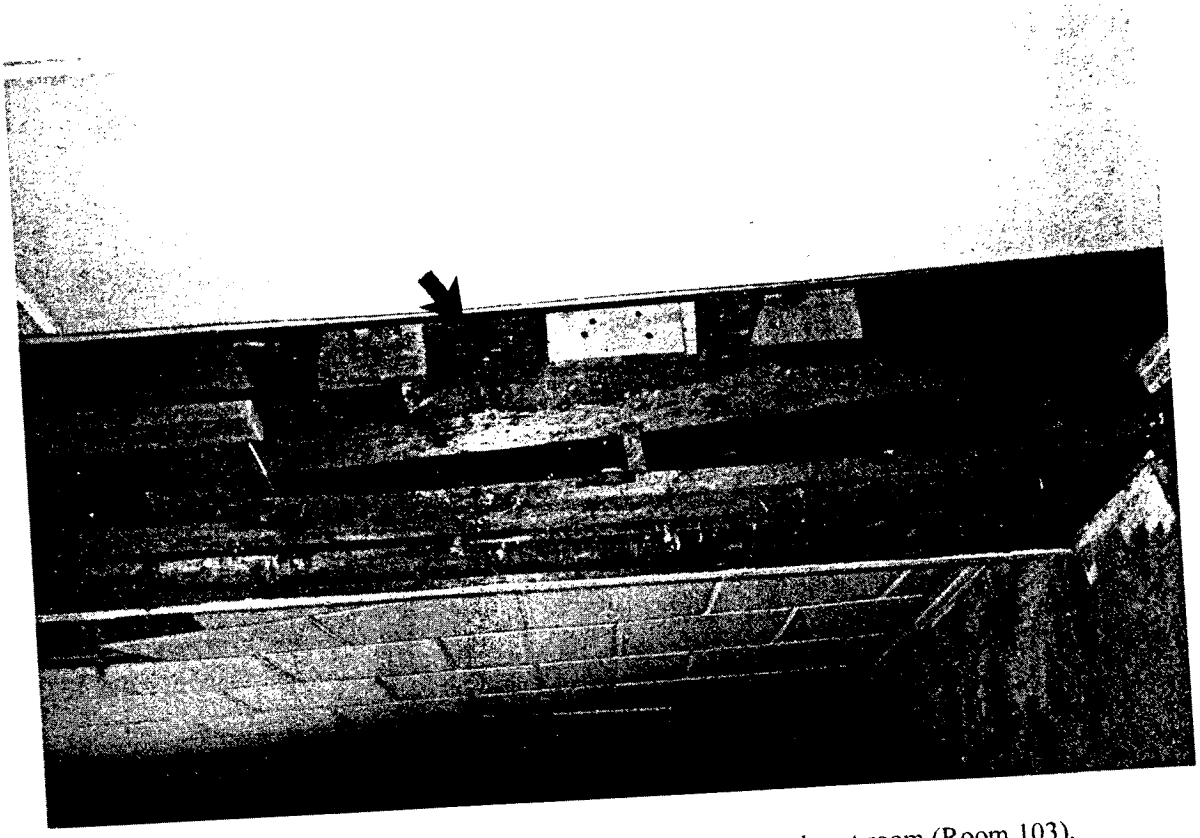


**Figure F-8.** Deflected beam in the ceiling of the northeast room (Room 103).

**Figure F-9.** Out-of-level door frame, east doorway of the southwest room (Room 101).