

FURNISHING PLAN  
FOR THE  
BISHOP WHITE HOUSE

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Prepared by

Staff

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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December 1961

SIGNATURE SHEET

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Chief, Eastern Office, Div. of Design & Construction Date \_\_\_\_\_

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PART A.

STATEMENT OF INTERPRETIVE PURPOSE

Prepared by Historian David A. Kimball

STATEMENT OF INTERPRETIVE PURPOSE

From 1787 until 1836 the house at 309 Walnut Street was the home of William White, first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania, Chaplain of the Second Continental Congress and of the Senate of the United States, and leader in organizing the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. The proposed refurnishing will provide an effective setting in which to tell the story of the Bishop and of his services to our country. It will also illustrate the way of life of an outstanding Philadelphian.

PART B.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Prepared by Historian David A. Kimball

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In 1787 Bishop White moved into the new house at 309 Walnut Street which was to be his home for nearly fifty years.

Throughout these years the Bishop presided over a large and active household. At first, this household consisted of the Bishop, his wife Mary Harrison White, daughters Elizabeth (11) and Mary (10), sons Thomas (8), William (3) and Henry (2), and three servants. Henry died in 1788 at the age of 3, William died in 1797 at the age of 13, and Mrs. White also died in 1797. The three remaining children grew to maturity in the house.

Both William and Thomas began their education while living in the house, and must have had such school equipment as books, pencils, slates, and so forth. Since the Bishop was instrumental in founding the Episcopal Academy, and other relatives served on its board, there can be little doubt that Thomas attended that institution.<sup>1</sup> The two girls probably received at least an elementary education, and at sixteen or seventeen made their formal entry into Philadelphia Society. They were frequently in attendance at parties, dances, and other social functions given by such family friends as the Powells, the Rushes, and the Chews, and must also have held similar affairs in their own home.

In 1803, at the age of 27, Elizabeth married General William Macpherson. These events reduced the household to the Bishop, twenty-six year old daughter Mary, twenty-four year old son Thomas, and the three servants.

But while the Bishop's children grew up, his family did not, for soon the house was filled with grandchildren. Both Mary and Thomas married in 1804. Mary left the Walnut Street house to make a home for her husband, Enos Bronson, but Thomas brought his bride, Mary Heath, to the house and in it during 1805 their first child was born. Four more children were born to the couple before Mary Heath White's death in 1814, and in 1813, upon the death of General Macpherson, Elizabeth White Macpherson and her two daughters returned under the Bishop's roof.<sup>2</sup> On February 11, 1826, the Bishop sent an account of his family to his friend, the Bishop of Nova Scotia:

It consists, under my Roof, of my Daughter Macpherson, known to you as Elizabeth White, now a Widow, and her two Daughters, young Ladies; and of my Son, with his two Daughters, young Ladies also, and his two Sons, 15 and 13 years of age. My daughter, Mary Bronson, a Widow also, has four Daughters and a Son.<sup>3</sup>

Mrs. Bronson died shortly after this account was written and her five children became part of the Bishop's household. Thus, at the end of the year 1826, the household consisted of the Bishop, his son, his daughter, eleven grandchildren, and three or four servants.<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth White Macpherson died in 1831 and some of the grandchildren died or married, but at the time of the Bishop's death there were still seven grandchildren living with him.

Moreover, the household was frequently augmented by guests. Clergy visiting the city on church matters and the Bishop's many friends must always have been welcome for more or less extended periods of time. Mary Wilson, daughter of James Wilson, made her home in Bishop White's house for two years after her father's death, and Eleanor Lewis, daughter of Nelly Custis, was a frequent visitor at the Bishop's during her school days.<sup>5</sup>

Fortunately, Bishop White could well afford to maintain a large household. While he was not a rich man, the evidence available to us indicates that he was certainly in comfortable circumstances throughout his life.

Much of the Bishop's wealth was inherited. His father, Thomas White, had accumulated a large estate and his father's sisters, all unmarried, also possessed some wealth.

As the Bishop noted in his autobiography, his share of his father's estate was diminished by the effects of inflation:

My Father, being an exact Judge of the Value of his Lands, whenever he could sell any of them to Advantage, brought the Proceeds to this City [Philadelphia], and lent them on Bonds and Mortgages. It was discreet to do so, as he could not have foreseen the Losses, which would be the Result of the Depreciation of Paper Currency in an Event not then likely to happen, the War of the Revolution. It became a serious loss to his Children; although at his Death in Sep<sup>r</sup>. 1779 ... he left to them what was thought no inconsiderable Property at that Time ....

[Having referred to the Losses of my Father by the Depreciation of Paper Money, I think it to the Purpose of these Notes to record that what with the Loss of almost all I possessed from his Bounty at the Time of my Marriage, & of M<sup>rs</sup> Whites Share of her Father's Fortune; and with my Proportion of the Loss sustained by my Father during his Life, I have always supposed, that I suffered by the said Disaster, not less than to the Amount of ten thousand Pounds, as Money was then called.]<sup>6</sup>

However, despite these losses the Bishop inherited considerable property. Upon the death of his surviving aunt, he received some £3000 Sterling;<sup>7</sup> and since his aunt's will was not probated until 1780 and the money could not have been transferred from England to Philadelphia until

after the Revolution, this sum was not subject to depreciation. Upon the death of his mother in 1790, he inherited at least \$3500.<sup>8</sup> These two inheritances totaled nearly \$20,000, a considerable sum for the period.

To the proceeds of inheritances must be added the salary White received from various sources. Upon his appointment as assistant Rector of the United Churches of Christ Church and St. Peter's in 1772, he received a salary of £150 per year. When, late in 1772, the rector announced his intention of adding £100 to be divided among his two assistants, White insisted that the entire sum go to his colleague, Thomas Coombe.<sup>9</sup> In 1780, after his appointment as rector of the United Churches, this salary was increased to £400 per annum. At no subsequent time did White's salary as rector exceed \$2300 per year, and he received little additional income as Bishop of Pennsylvania.<sup>10</sup> During the years 1777-1783 he received about \$1085 continental, equivalent to at most \$400 in specie, annually for his pay and subsistence as chaplain to the Continental Congress, and from 1790 until 1800 he received \$500 per year for his services as chaplain of the United States Senate.<sup>11</sup>

Extant papers shed only an occasional glimmer of light on the way in which the Bishop's wealth was invested and the income derived from it. He loaned his brother-in-law, Robert Morris, \$5000 early in the 1790's; this loan was comparatively well secured and the Bishop may have recovered his money from the wreckage of the Morris fortune.<sup>12</sup> In 1801 he sold nearly 3000 acres of land in Bedford County for \$3 an acre, although he was still trying to collect final payment twenty years later.<sup>13</sup>

By 1833 he owned stock in various banks and canal companies valued at \$13,670. During the period April 1, 1830-April 16, 1831, he received rental and dividend payments totaling \$531.08; in 1831-32, \$607.57; in 1832-33, \$756.85; in 1833-34, \$1405.61; in 1834-35, \$2911.15; and in 1835-36, \$1928.45.<sup>14</sup> His estate was valued at \$36,000 in 1836.<sup>15</sup>

While Bishop White did not rank among the wealthiest Philadelphians, he did belong to the upper strata of Philadelphia society. As with his wealth, his social position was in part inherited. His father had attained a prominent place in Maryland society before moving to Philadelphia and his mother was a member of the well-connected Hewling family of New Jersey. His half-sister, Sophia Hall, married a prominent Maryland planter, Aquila Hall, and his sister Mary married the rising young entrepreneur, Robert Morris. The family's social standing was such that when, in 1770, William left for London to seek admission to Holy Orders he carried with him warm letters of recommendation from Joseph Galloway, Speaker of the Assembly and the most influential figure in the political life of the province.<sup>16</sup> Armed with such references the young man soon made the acquaintance of the leading Anglican churchmen and of such laymen as Samuel Johnson and Oliver Goldsmith.

Upon his return to Philadelphia White married Mary Harrison, daughter of a former mayor of the city and a young woman of social position in her own right. The friends of the young couple read like a "Who's Who" of Philadelphia. As a young man, White had joined Benjamin Franklin and Francis Hopkinson in helping Elizabeth Shewell elope to become the bride of Benjamin West, and Hopkinson remained his intimate

friend. James Wilson was a dear friend of the White's, and Mrs. White had pleaded Wilson's cause with his fiancée, Rachel Bird.<sup>17</sup> Benjamin Rush was a friend as well as the family physician. Mayor Samuel Powel, one of the wealthiest and perhaps the most cultured Philadelphian of his era, was so close a friend as to supervise the building of the Bishop White House.<sup>18</sup>

And to the social status conferred upon the Bishop by birth and economic well-being must be added the status derived from his services to his country, to his church, and to his city.

During the dark days in September 1777 between the capture of Philadelphia by the British and the announcement of Burgoyne's surrender, White accepted appointment as chaplain to the Continental Congress and continued to serve in this capacity until 1783. This service, and the fact that he was the only minister of his faith in Pennsylvania to remain loyal to the cause of the colonies, earned him the respect and affection of that generation of American statesmen. His later service as chaplain to the United States Senate renewed his ties with the statesmen of the Revolution and created new ties with the statesmen of the new generation. John Adams and John Marshall, among others, became his friends and Washington became his friend, his parishioner, his frequent host, and, upon occasion, his dinner guest at the house on Walnut Street.<sup>19</sup>

Upon the surrender of Cornwallis in 1781, White turned his attention to the problems confronting his church and in 1782 published The Case of the Episcopal Churches in the United States Considered, in which he analyzed the problems confronting the church and offered

solutions for them. This pamphlet had a profound influence on the establishment of an American Episcopal Church and placed its author in the forefront of the movement to establish it.<sup>20</sup> White took an active role in the organization of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States and became its Presiding Bishop in 1795. This office, together with his hold on the affections of his co-religionists, established the Bishop as the unquestioned head of his church in the United States.<sup>21</sup>

His place in the affection and esteem of his fellow citizens was equally secure. The Bishop remained in Philadelphia during the yellow fever epidemics of the 1790's and the cholera epidemic of 1832, and his services in these crises were not forgotten. He helped organize and served as president of such beneficial organizations as the First Day Society, the Philadelphia Bible Society, the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, the Magdalen Society, the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, the Philadelphia Dispensary, and the Provident Society. No public occasion, whether it be a reception for General Lafayette or the dedication of a new synagogue by the Congregation Mikveh Israel, was complete without his presence. Probably no Philadelphian, with the exception of Franklin, contributed more to the welfare of his city and, with the possible exception of Franklin, none was so universally esteemed.

Active in community affairs as he was, the Bishop's principal interests lay in the church he served. Bird Wilson, the Bishop's biographer, quotes the recollections of one of his childhood playmates as to his early piety. "Billy White was born a Bishop. I never could persuade him to play anything but Church. He would tie his own or my

persuade him to play anything but church. He would tie his own or my apron round his neck, for a gown, and stand behind a low chair, which he called his pulpit; I, seated before him on a little bench, was the congregation; and he always preached to me about being good." Upon his return from England in September 1773, White entered on duty as assistant rector of the United Churches of Christ Church and St. Peter's. In 1778, Rector Jacob Duche and Assistant Rector Thomas Coombe went with the retreating British and left White as the only Episcopal minister in Pennsylvania. To his responsibilities as rector of the United Parish was added, upon his consecration in 1787, responsibility for the diocese of Pennsylvania and, with his emergence as the elder statesman of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, the task of guiding his church and its members throughout the nation. The zeal with which he met these increasing responsibilities is reflected in his published writings, which include, in addition to The Case of the Episcopal Churches Considered, four books, twenty-four sermons, and over fifty addresses, essays and opinions.<sup>22</sup>

Although his life was devoted to serving his church, the Bishop, a true son of the eighteenth century, had a wide, if somewhat superficial, range of interests. Apparently he had some interest in literature, for while in England he made the acquaintance of Samuel Johnson and Oliver Goldsmith and took advantage of the opportunity to visit Drury Lane Theatre and see David Garrick as Hamlet.<sup>23</sup> He evinced an early and continued interest in education, becoming a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania in 1773 and continuing in that capacity

until his death. He also was instrumental in founding the Episcopal Academy and was a leading exponent of Sunday Schools. He took an active part in public affairs, voting in every election and, although never becoming involved in political controversy, on three occasions presided at public meetings.<sup>24</sup> He was long a member, and for years Vice President, of the American Philosophical Society although his interest in science does not seem to have been particularly deep and he attended meetings infrequently. He was on intimate terms with the English scientist and reformer, Joseph Priestly. His interest in the public welfare is indicated by the long list of societies which he served as president.

These many activities, coupled with the tasks involved in presiding over his parish, his diocese, and his church, occupied much of his time, but the Bishop found time to enjoy the society of his fellows. He entertained frequently, even to the extent of permitting dancing in his house, and particularly enjoyed the presence of young people. Equally frequently, he was entertained by others; he often dined with President Washington and with the Powells, the Hopkinsons, and his many other friends.

As to his personal habits we have little evidence. His published works show the marks of careful scholarship and he must have spent much time with the books in the quiet study at the second floor rear of his home. According to a descendant, he " ... adhered tenaciously to wearing small clothes. He was careful in his diet. His regular allowance of cigars was four a day."<sup>25</sup> The contents of his drain and the

allowance of cigars was four a day.<sup>25</sup> The contents of his drain and the presence of a wine cellar in his basement indicate that he enjoyed a regular glass of Maderia.

Of his taste we have better evidence. His extant furniture and plate and the fragments of glassware and china recovered from his cellar drain establish the Bishop's taste for fine but not ostentatious furniture, china, and glassware. They are of the highest craftsmanship, but are less ostentatious than that of such contemporaries as Robert Morris.

#### HISTORIC FUNCTION OF ROOMS

The functions of the two second floor rooms, one a study and the other a bedroom, are established beyond question by the painting made by John Sartain about 1836. No such documentary evidence exists with regard to the other rooms. Moreover, the wealth of architectural and archeological evidence which should shed light on the functions of the basement and first floor of the kitchen wing have not yet been fully reported on.

Bishop White's residence was a substantial in-row house of a widely used plan. The many extant estate inventories in the Office of the Register of Wills furnish detailed room by room inventories which establish a pattern of room use in this house type, a pattern which almost certainly held true for the Bishop's house. Twenty-one of these inventories are included as appendixes A-U of this report. Almost invariably, the two first floor rooms served as a parlour and a dining room, and the third floor and garret rooms, as well as the chamber over the kitchen, served as bedrooms.

In the case of the Bishop White house, the function of the first and second floor rooms probably remained unchanged throughout the fifty years of family occupancy. Undoubtedly the third floor and garret rooms were used as bedrooms throughout the period. However, the occupants of the bedrooms, and consequently their furnishings, must have changed as the Bishop's children grew up, died or married, and returned to the house with their children. We feel that the refurnishing of these rooms should reflect the presence in the house of the Bishop's three children and of his grandchildren as well. One of the house's most appealing and characteristic aspects was conferred upon it by their presence in various ages and stages of development. In all but a few of the fifty years spent here by the Bishop there were children living in these bedrooms.

Basement, South Room (Wine Cellar)

This room was the Bishop's wine cellar and should be refurnished as such. See Appendix K, for an inventory of the contents of a comparable wine cellar.

Basement, North Room

There is no direct evidence as to the use of this room. In houses similar to the Bishop's it served as an area for storing wood, etc. and we recommend that it be refurnished to indicate this use, using as a guide the items listed in Appendixes.

Basement, Back Building (Scullery)

The vaulted sub-cellar and cold well for food storage under the floor of this room suggest that the room was used as a place to prepare

food for cooking and as a scullery where the family washing was done. It should be refurnished to reflect these uses, using Appendixes I, J, K, and Q, as a guide.

South Room, First Floor (Front Parlor)

Contemporary usage varied but, in most instances, this room was the parlor. It should be refurnished as a parlor.

North Room, First Floor (Back Parlor)

This room should be refurnished as a dining room.

First Floor, Back Building (Kitchen)

Unless and until conclusive evidence is adduced to place the kitchen in the basement, this room should be furnished as a kitchen. In almost all of the room by room inventories thus far found, the kitchen was located in the first floor of the kitchen wing.

South Room, Second Floor (Bishop's Bedroom)

Bishop White slept here.

South Room, Third Story (Front Chamber), North Room, Third Story (Back Chamber), South Room, Fourth Story (Front Garret, North Room, Fourth Story (Back Garret.

These rooms should be refurnished as bedrooms, In them will be recaptured the presence of Bishop White's sons and daughters in childhood and adulthood and his grandchildren as growing youngsters.

Entry, First Floor

Entries in houses similar in size and arrangement to the Bishop White House frequently contained furniture and may have served as reception rooms. [See Appendixes A, I, J, K, M, and P]. The outer entry of the

rooms. [See Appendixes A, I, J, K, M, and P]. The outer entry of the Bishop White House should be refurnished as a room in which the Bishop's parishoners could wait.

Piazza

This structure served only to contain the stairs and to provide access between the front house and the kitchen.

Necessary

The first floor of this structure served as a necessary, and should be restored as such. The use of the second floor room is not clear, and no recommendations for its refurnishing can be made at present.

1. Enrollment records of the Academy for this period are no longer extant.
2. Thomas H. Montgomery, "The Descendants of Col. Thomas White," in Account of the Meeting of the Descendants of Colonel Thomas White of Maryland (Philadelphia, 1879), 150-177.
3. Montgomery, "The Descendants of Col. White," 158.
4. According to the records of the United States Census, by 1830 there were four servants living on the premises. Presumably, one or more of them had quarters over the stable which stood across Harmony Street from the rear of the house.
5. Montgomery, "Descendants of Col. White," 132, 172. Eleanor Lewis died in Philadelphia in the autumn of 1820 and was buried in Bishop White's vault in Christ Church Yard.
6. Walter H. Stowe, ed., "The Autobiography of Bishop William White," in Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church, XXII (1953), 395-396. The "Bounty at the time of my Marriage" amounted to £3033..6..8, and was deducted from the Bishop's share of his father's estate (Codicil to Will of Thomas White, Will Book R, in Register of Wills of Philadelphia, 300). For the purposes of this report, it should be noted that this sum was available and not yet depreciated at the time when the Bishop would have been purchasing furniture to set up housekeeping with.
7. William White, "Narrative of His Ancestors," in Walter H. Stowe, ed., The Life and Letters of Bishop William White (New York, 1937), 265.

8. On January 24, 1791, Robert Morris received \$3524.53 as "my [wife's] half in certain certificates of Public Debt being part of the Estate of the Late Mrs. Esther White..." (Receipt of Robert Morris, 15 April 1792, in James A. Montgomery Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania). The other half went to Bishop White.
9. Walter H. Stowe, "The Presbyter" in Life and Letters, 38.
10. Bird Wilson, Memoir of the Life of ...William White,... (Philadelphia, 1839), 282. The additional income received by White as Bishop came from the interest on \$4,000 bequeathed the diocese by Andrew Doz.
11. Journal, Treasury Office and Auditor of Accounts, April 16, 1776, to Sept. 20, 1781, MSS in Record Group 39, National Archives, 307. This salary was supplemented in 1779 by \$500, equivalent to \$34.07 specie, which the Bishop won with ticket number 4872 in the Second Class of the United States Lottery (Account No. 6113, Miscellaneous Treasury Accounts of the General Accounting Office, MSS, in Record Group 217, National Archives).
12. William White to Robert Morris, April 20, 1797, and William White to Thomas Hall, August 1, 1801, in the Montgomery Papers.
13. Business Correspondence, 1794-1823, in the Montgomery Papers.
14. Receipt Book for Dividends & Interest rec<sup>d</sup> for and paid Bishop White, MSS in Christ Church Archives. We cannot explain the rise in dividend and rental receipts between 1830-31 and 1834-35.

15. Inventory of Estate of William White, Will No. 132, 1836, in Register of Wills, Philadelphia.
16. William S. Perry, "Ancestry and Early Life [of Bishop White]," in Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church, VI (1937), 24. Perhaps more interesting, though a less sure indication of the family's social status, is the fact that White also carried a letter of introduction to Franklin from the latter's wife.
17. "You will be surprised when I tell you that Mr. Wilson has again renewed his addresses, but wether he will meet with success or not is yet unknown to me: he visited me constantly while he was in town and begged me to write in his favour which I did,..." (Polly [Mary] Harrison to William White, 1771, in Independence National Historical Park Collection).
18. "Mr. Powell is indefatigable in hurrying the Workmen about the House, ..." (Mary White to William White, November 27, 1786, quoted in Montgomery, "Descendants of Col. White," 165.
19. John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., The Diaries of George Washington (Boston, 1925), IV, 289.
20. Walter H. Stowe, "The Presbyter," in Stowe, Life and Letters, 35-93.
21. Louis C. Washburn, "The Bishop," in Stowe, Life and Letters, 96-142.
22. E. Clowes Chorley, "Bibliography," in Stowe, Life and Letters, 287-94.
23. Perry, "Ancestry and Early Life," in Stowe, Life and Letters, 33.
24. "On three occasions--and I know of no others--at all connected with political affairs, he consented to preside at large public meetings.

They were called for the following purposes: one to promote the establishment of the American Colonization Society,...a second to consider what measures were proper to be adopted to express the sympathy of our Citizens for our Christian brethren, the Greeks, struggling...against the tyranny of the Turks,...and the third,... for the purpose of...memorializing Congress,...in reference to the Cherokee and other nations of Indians,..." (Wilson, Memoir, 286).

25. J. Brinton White, "Bishop White and his descendants," in Account of the Meeting of the Descendants of Colonel White, 38.

PART C.

DOCUMENTED ACCOUNTS OF HISTORIC FURNISHINGS

Prepared by Historian David A. Kimball

DOCUMENTED ACCOUNTS OF  
HISTORIC FURNISHINGS

Our knowledge of specific pieces of furniture present in the Bishop White House is derived from documentary sources, from the Sartain painting, and from extant furnishings located and examined by Museum Curator Charles G. Dorman. This knowledge can be supplemented by the estate inventories of contemporaries of an economic and social position comparable to the Bishop's and living in houses similar to his.

Of the sources of knowledge as to specific pieces of furniture present in the house, only the Sartain painting relates the furniture to a particular room or rooms. It shows the following pieces:

In the Study

1. Three mahogany bookcases with solid paneled doors. Two of these have been secured on loan from the Philadelphia Divinity School. (See Illustration Nos. 38 and 39). The third is unlocated.
2. Mahogany stained pine ledger cabinet. Inherited by L. P. White. (See Illustration No. 40).
3. Three Chippendale side chairs. One of these is now the property of Mr. George Robins; the other is the property of Arthur DeBerdt Robins. (See Illustration No. 35). The third is unlocated.
4. A Chippendale desk on frame. This piece is now owned by Christ Church. (See Illustration No. 45).
5. A Windsor, low back armchair. An identical chair, signed "Letchworth" is now owned by William White, Jr. (See Illustration No. 34).
6. Books. Two hundred of the books from the Bishop's library have been secured on loan from the Philadelphia Divinity School. (See Illustration Nos. 38 and 39). Two books have been presented to Independence National Historical Park by R. Norris Williams, a descendant. Another has been purchased for Independence National Park. Other books from the Bishop's library are in the possession of Mrs. F. A. Barbour, the American Philosophical Society, Dr. Hugh Montgomery, and others.

7. Two Sermon chests. These are now owned by Mrs. F. S. Barbour and William White, Jr. (See Illustration Nos. 36 and 37).
8. Two bamboo Windsor side chairs. Unlocated.
9. An Empire easy chair. Unlocated.
10. An engraving of Bishop Seabury. A duplicate of this engraving is now in the Independence National Historical Park Collection. (See Illustration No. 43).
11. A tole box. Unlocated.
12. A Sheffield chamber stick. Unlocated.
13. A smoking stand. Unlocated.
14. A reading stand. Unlocated.
15. A pair of scissors. Unlocated.
16. A thermometer. Unlocated.
17. An engraving of Moses with the Tablets of the Law. Unlocated.
18. Five unidentified engravings.
19. Miscellaneous. Christ Church has some sixty paper bound manuscript sermons written by the Bishop in this room.

#### Bishop White's Bedroom

1. A mahogany chest of drawers, by Jonathan Gostelowe. Now the property of Mrs. Starin. (See Illustration No. 30).
2. Two Chippendale side chairs. Unlocated.
3. Canton matting on floor. Unlocated.

In addition to that furniture shown in the Sartain painting, many other pieces are in the hands of organizations with which the Bishop was associated or of descendants and are regarded by them as having belonged to the Bishop. Such traditional attributions are often open to question. However, in this case, we feel that they should be accepted

unless and until evidence to the contrary appears. These pieces are all sufficiently early stylistically to have been in the house, there are not more "Bishop White" pieces than the house could contain, and the Bishop's place in history was so firmly established before his death as to lead his immediate descendants to cherish his furniture and pass it on to their heirs. These pieces and the rooms to which Mr. Dorman has tentatively assigned them are as follows:

#### Study

1. Bishop White's cane, owned by Christ Church.

#### Front Parlor

1. Hepplewhite-Sheraton sofa, owned by Mrs. F. A. Barbour. (See Illustration No. 8).
2. Chippendale style mahogany Chest-on-chest, with desk drawer. Top owned by Dr. Hugh Montgomery. Bottom owned by Dr. Raymond B. Montgomery.
3. Tripod base mahogany wine stand, owned by Mrs. F. A. Barbour. (See Illustration No. 9).
4. Early cut glass wine decanter, owned by Mrs. Elmer Baily.
5. Oil portraits of Bishop White's grandfather and grandmother, by Godfrey Kneller, owned by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. (See Illustration Nos. 5 and 6).
6. Miniature portrait of Bishop White, owned by Mrs. F. A. Barbour.
7. Miniature portrait of Mary White Bronson, owned by Mrs. F. A. Barbour.
8. Sheraton mahogany card table, owned by Miss Anne Wurts. (See Illustration No. 11).
9. Chippendale Philadelphia gothic splat side chair, owned by St. Peter's Church. (See Illustration No. 10).

Dining Room

1. Ten mahogany Hepplewhite shield-back side chairs upholstered over the rails. Owned by Mrs. Vincent Vermooten, Mr. William White, Jr., Mr. Joseph Reed and others. (See Illustration No. 14). Two arm chairs unlocated.
2. A silver coffee pot by Richard Humphries, owned by J.A. Montgomery, Jr.
3. A silver chocolate pot by Abraham DuBois, owned by Miss Anne Wurts. (See Illustration No. 12).
4. A pair of English silver corinthian column candlesticks, owned by Miss Anne Wurts. (See Illustration No. 12).
5. A pair of silver bread plates by John Myer, owned by Mrs. F.A. Barbour. (See Illustration No. 15).
6. A six piece silver tea and coffee service made by Joseph Lownes and given by the Bishop to his daughter Mary when she married Enos Bronson.
7. A silver cake basket by E. Lownes, owned by Mrs. Paul Washburn. (See Illustration No. 19).
8. A silver sweetmeat dish, owned by Mrs. V. Vermooten. (See Illustration No. 12a).
9. A Lowestoft reticuled fruit bowl and tray, and a silver gravy ladle, owned by Mr. George Robins, (See Illustration No. 23).
10. Six silver teaspoons, six soup spoons, and two ladles, owned by William White, Jr. (See Illustration No. 16).

Entry

1. Engraving after Lorraine, Evening, owned by Mrs. Starin. (See Illustration No. 3).
2. A Chippendale side chair, owned by Christ Church. (See Illustration No. 45).
3. Windsor arm chair, inherited by Lawrence P. White. See Illustration No. 2).

Front Chamber, Second Floor

1. Mahogany chest of drawers, serpentine front, four graduated drawers, owned by William White, Jr. (See Illustration No. 31).

2. Leather covered bureau box, owned by Christ Church.  
(See Illustration No. 46).
3. Two small leather bound trunks, owned by Miss Anne Wurts,  
(See Illustration Nos. 44 and 54).
4. An upholstered Boston rocker, owned by Miss Gertrude Brinckle.

Back Chamber, Third Floor

1. A small walnut chest of drawers, owned by Mr. Arthur DeBerdt Robins.  
(See Illustration No. 49).

Front Chamber, Third Floor

1. Small walnut chest of drawers, owned by Mr. Arthur DeBerdt Robins.  
(See Illustration No. 52).
2. A Sheraton mahogany sewing stand, owned by Mrs. Paul Washburn, a counterpart of which is in the Independence National Historical Park Collection.<sup>1</sup> (See Illustration No. 50).

The pottery shards taken from the basement of the Bishop White House have been subjected to careful analysis by Museum Curator Charles Dorman. These shards indicate that the Bishop's china, glassware and pottery included at a minimum:

- 12 Nanking dinner plates. (See Illustration No. 24).
- 12 Nanking soup plates. (See Illustration No. 24).
- 12 Nanking dessert plates
- 12 Canton dinner plates. (See Illustration No. 24).
- 12 creamware, molded rim, dinner plates. (See Illustration No. 25).
- 6 Nanking platters. (See Illustration No. 26).
- 12 Nanking covered custard cups.
- 12 stemmed wine glasses.
- 12 etched glass punch cups.
- 4 blue and white export porcelain plates.

- 1 Manking butter dish.
- 12 Lowestoft tea cups and saucers
- 1 Lowestoft cider jug. (See Illustration No. 22).
- 1 Lowestoft spoon tray.
- 1 Whieldon red ware tea pot.
- 1 decorated Whieldon sugar bowl
- 4 large Pennsylvania red ware bowls, slip decorated.  
(See Illustration No. 27).
- 6 Pennsylvania slip ware pie plates. (See Illustration No. 27).
- 2 mocha ware handled mugs
- 6 redware bean pots
- 6 assorted creamware bowls
- 12 plain creamware dinner plates
- 12 plain creamware soup plates
- 4 slip ware meat dishes. (See Illustration No. 27).

In addition to the furniture shown in the Sartain painting and that in the hands of descendants, we know of only two other items present in the house during the Bishop's lifetime. The manuscript account books of the Philadelphia silversmith, Joseph Richardson, Jr., contain an entry "William White (Bishop) to repairing a Sugar tongs -- 1/6" in 1800. The will of his aunt, probated on February 8, 1780, provided that "his [William White's] picture, now hanging up in my parlour, may be carefully packed up, and sent to my niece his wife." This picture was, in 1879, in the hands of a Mrs. Wiltbank.<sup>2</sup>

More data on the books to be found in the house can be gathered from subscription lists. The Bishop is listed among the subscribers to

More data on the books to be found in the house can be gathered from subscription lists. The Bishop is listed among the subscribers to John Churchman, An Explanation of the Magnetic Atlas or Variation Chart ... (Philadelphia, 1790) and to Robert Proud, History of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, 1797-98), so both works were present in the house. We do not suggest that a search for subscription lists be undertaken on a project basis, but as such lists come to light they should be examined and any books to which the Bishop subscribed should be purchased for the house. Also, a copy of each edition of all the Bishop's works should be obtained for inclusion in the refurnished study,

For data on the other furniture to be found in the Bishop's house, we must rely on inventories of the estates of persons living in similar houses. Twenty-two such inventories are included in this report as Appendixes A-V.

So far as can be determined, only one of the houses whose contents are listed in these inventories, that of Joseph Galloway (Appendix B), was larger than the Bishop White House.<sup>3</sup> Pemberton's house (Appendix A), was almost exactly the same size as the Bishop's; the others were equal in size or smaller.<sup>4</sup> Of the people who owned the furniture inventoried, Pemberton, Galloway, J.D. Sergeant, Murray, Mrs. Kenple, Mifflin, Rush, Truxton, and McEuen belonged to the Bishop's strata of society.<sup>5</sup> Galloway, Mifflin and McEuen were probably wealthier than the Bishop, and Pemberton thought he was at the time he built and furnished his house (he went into bankruptcy soon after completing the house).<sup>6</sup>

Of all the persons for whose estates we have inventories, Dr. Benjamin Rush (Appendix N), probably comes closest to the Bishop in social position and wealth. Moreover, he was a close friend of the Bishop and for several years had been a neighbor of the Bishop.

However, not even Rush's inventory can be taken alone as a guide to refurnishing the Bishop White House. A glance through the appendixes will show that no two houses had identical patterns of room use, and no two had more than roughly similar furniture. The inventories do, however, establish general patterns of room use and provide a guide to the type and amount of furniture to be found in the homes of people similar in wealth and social position to the Bishop.

Part C  
Notes

1. Documentation concerning the association of these pieces with Bishop White and the present location of them is in the Independence National Historical Park correspondence file.
2. "[This picture was] taken in his Gown and Bands, and during his first visit to England, 1770-72. It is now in the possession of Mrs. Wiltebank" (Joseph C. Chester, "Results of Investigations Concerning the Ancestry of the Right Reverend William White, D.D.," in Meeting of Descendants of Col. White, 123, n.).
3. The Galloway house was 31 feet front, 42 feet deep and 3 stories high with a garret. However, it included a 3 story back building 14 feet by 46 feet and a kitchen 14 feet by 30 feet (Survey of house of Alexander Stedman, Contributionship Survey #1133, November 4, 1766). As noted in the Historic Structures Report, Part II, on the Bishop White House, that structure was 26 feet by 44 feet, 3 stories high, with garret, and the back building was 16 feet by 26 feet, 2 stories high.
4. Surveys were located for the houses inventoried in Appendixes A, I, and S. Mrs. Kepple's house [Appendix H] may have been somewhat larger than the Bishop's.
5. The others do not appear in the Dictionary of American Biography, Scharf and Westcott's History of Philadelphia, or the Index to the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography; hence no attempt to assess their social or economic position has been made.
6. The inventories furnish all the data we have on the comparative wealth of these people. It is impossible to get more than a very rough idea of comparative wealth from them.

PART D.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PROPOSED FURNISHINGS

Prepared by Museum Curator Charles G. Dorman

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF  
PROPOSED FURNISHINGS

This furnishing plan consists of the following sections:

1. Entry and first floor hall
2. Parlor
3. Dining Room
4. Second floor hall
5. Bishop's bedroom
6. Study
7. Third floor hall
8. Third floor front bedroom
9. Third floor rear bedroom
10. Open cellar
11. Wine cellar
12. Kitchen
13. Scullery and laundry
14. Servant's room over kitchen
15. Cold cellar
16. Store room
17. Necessary
18. Necessary drain area

Each of the above divisions contains a statement of interpretive function, description, illustrations, footnotes, floor plan and elevations, and a list of suggested furnishings with estimated cost.

Plans for the rooms in the service wing are tentative, pending further architectural investigation of this portion of the house. Whatever changes may be made, however, will have little overall effect on the furnishings of this area.

The ground plans and elevations were drawn by Penelope Hartshorne, Architect, Eastern Office of Design and Construction, as a voluntary contribution to the project.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Windsor chairs
2. Windsor arm chair
3. Engraving "Evening"
4. Drawings for Entry and first floor hall
5. William White, by Kneller
6. Elizabeth Leigh White, by Kneller
7. Bishop White, by Stuart
8. Sheraton sofa
9. Wine stand
10. Chippendale side chair
11. Sheraton card table
12. Silver tea pot and candlesticks
- 12-A Silver sweetmeat dish
13. Drawings for Parlor
14. Shield back chair
15. Silver bread plates
16. Silver tablespoons 1
17. Silver tablespoons 2
- 17-A Silver tablespoon 3
18. Silver ladle and butterknife
19. Silver fruit bowl
20. Silver tea and coffee service
21. Sheffield tea pot
22. Cider jug
23. Fruit bowl and tray
24. Canton porcelain sherds
25. Creamware sherds
26. Nanking porcelain sherds
27. Pottery sherds
28. Drawings for Dining Room
29. Drawings for 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hall
30. Chest of drawers 1
31. Chest of drawers 2
32. Drawings for 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bedroom
33. Sartain painting
34. Sartain engraving
35. Chippendale side chair
36. Sermon chest with doors
37. Sermon chest with lid
38. Bookcase 1
- 38-A Bookcase 1, open
39. Bookcase 2
- 39-A Bookcase 2, open
40. Ledger cabinet
41. Windsor arm chair

- 42. Jamb hook
- 43. Bishop Seabury, engraving
- 44. Large leather trunk
- 45. Desk and chair
- 46. Writing box and utensils
- 47. Drawings for Study
- 48. Drawings for 3<sup>rd</sup> floor hall
- 49. Walnut chest of drawers 1
- 50. Sewing stand
- 51. Drawings for 3<sup>rd</sup> floor front bedroom
- 52. Walnut chest of drawers 2
- 53. Leather document box
- 54. Small leather trunk
- 55. Drawings for 3<sup>rd</sup> floor rear bedroom
- 56. Drawings for wine cellar
- 57. Drawings for open cellar
- 58. Drawings for Kitchen
- 59. Drawings for Scullery and Laundry
- 60. Drawings for servant's room
- 61. Drawings for cold cellar
- 62. Drawings for store room
- 63. Drawings for Necessary
- 64. Drawings for Necessary drain area
- 65. Monticello curtains 1 Appendix X
- 66. Monticello curtains 2 " "
- 67. Monticello curtains 3 " "

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
ENTRY AND FIRST FLOOR HALL: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

It is suggested that this area serve the visiting public in the same manner that it originally served the Bishop's guests, primarily as a reception and waiting area. Since the original front door has survived and the general outline of the brass door knocker is known, it is suggested that entrance to the house be obtained in the eighteenth century fashion, by using the door knocker.

As present day visitors will so far exceed in number those of the eighteenth century, it is suggested that the hall be used primarily for passage, but that reproduction Windsor furniture be placed there so that, when necessary, visitors may wait for a tour of the house to begin, just as an eighteenth century visitor would have awaited the appearance of the Bishop himself.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE ENTRY AND FIRST FLOOR HALL

The door of 89 Walnut Street was opened to all who would knock. An old piece of Philadelphia doggerel relates that a rat, caught and sent as a prank to various prominent Philadelphians, eventually got to the Bishop's door; whereupon: "Bishop White, free from sin, Opened the door and took it in."<sup>1</sup>

The Bishop commanded the respect of his fellow citizens and though he was ready to receive them in his home, propriety and the manners of the time provided a polite but recognized difference between the various stations of class. Friends, clergymen and other ladies and gentlemen would have been received in the parlor, or, for an intimate conversation, in the second floor study. A messenger from Congress, an apprentice inquiring about a Sunday School schedule, or the deserving poor seeking assistance would be no less welcome, but they would certainly have waited for the Bishop in the Entry and would probably have been received there as well.

The house, though well-appointed was not an opulent establishment, and the Bishop would have had good Philadelphia Windsor chairs and a settee in his Entry as was the custom at this time.<sup>2</sup> To provide additional comfort he could have had cushions on these chairs,<sup>3</sup> a practice he followed in his second floor study and one which would have met with the approval of the ladies of the Bishop's household in an age when needlework was one of the recognized diversions of gentlewomen.

The Entry floor covering for the Winter season could be a painted floor cloth, done in a design of black and white squares, simulating marble.

Part D  
Illustration No. 1



Three types of Philadelphia Windsor chairs used at Mount Vernon, shown with the original cushions made by the ladies of the household. Photo courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union. IMP neg. #7288.

Part D  
Illustration No. 2



Philadelphia Windsor armchair, originally in the Bishop White House. Inherited by Lawrence P. White. See Entry, footnote #2, and Entry floor plan and elevations. INHP neg. #7221-N.

Part D  
Illustration No. 3



"Evening," engraving after a painting by Claude Lorraine.  
London, c.1770. Originally in the Bishop White House.  
Inherited by Mrs. Arthur Starin. IHP neg. #4139.

Such floor cloths are found in eighteenth century paintings, Philadelphia household inventories and newspaper advertisements.<sup>4</sup> They provide a protection for the floor and a change in floor covering from the Canton matting customarily used during the summer. Almost behind the front door probably stood a commodious umbrella and cane rack,<sup>5</sup> ample for such a large household and for the variety of canes used by the Bishop.<sup>6</sup> For decoration in this part of the hall two engravings might be used. One engraving of a pair, "Evening" after Claude Lorraine, has survived in the White family and was originally in the house.<sup>7</sup>

The rear hall and piazza were primarily passageways and should be relatively bare of furnishings. In the corner across from the stairs there should be a large candlestand provided with silver and brass chambersticks<sup>8</sup> so that members of the household could light their way to the bedrooms on the upper floors. By the side entrance door could be some provision for the temporary storage of outer clothing. This calls for peg boards, one at a proper height for adults, and a lower one for the multitude of children and grandchildren. The closet under the stair should also be provided with peg boards. A servant would have assisted guests with their coats and hats and placed them properly in the closet; but members of the household may have used the peg boards in the hall during the day's activities in and out of the house.

Lighting halls and stairwells of eighteenth century historic house museums presents the double problem of authenticity and public safety. From a study of the Philadelphia household inventories assembled by Historian

Much in the manner of Moreau de St. Mery's description<sup>3</sup> "...all the silver one owns is displayed on the sideboard in the dining room.", the sideboard in the Bishop's dining room contained not only the silver he had purchased, but also pieces his wife had inherited from her mother, and, in later years, a large tea and coffee service which returned to the house upon the death of the Bishop's daughter Mary Bronson. Two engravings by Benjamin West, are suggested for above the sideboard: "Penn's Treaty with the Indians" and "The West Family." These are suggested as appropriate because Bishop White as an eighteen year old youth had assisted Betsy Shewell, West's fiancée, to escape from her brother's house in Philadelphia so that she could join her intended husband in London. It is quite possible the Whites received early strike-offs of engravings of West's paintings of American interest from the artist himself. The only out-of-style item of furniture suggested for this room is the Chippendale style slab table placed between the windows. Such an item could have been inherited by the Bishop from his father, who during long years of confinement to his house as a cripple, was in the habit of daily receiving his gentlemen friends for an afternoon of conversation and good wine.

In summer it is suggested that the curtains in the Dining Room be removed, the chair seats be provided with a slip cover and a white paper fly trap<sup>4</sup> be hung above the dining table.

1. "Jack Sprat caught a rat  
Behind the Miller's door;  
The Miller ran with all his men  
And sent the rat to William Penn.

Mr. Penn got a dish  
and sent the rat to Mr. Fish;  
Mr. Fish, the biscuit baker  
Sent the rat to Moll the Quaker.

Moll the Quaker, full of spite  
Sent the rat to Bishop White;  
Bishop White free from sin  
Opened the door and took it in.

Old Time doggerel from Philad<sup>a</sup>"

This was copied and placed by William White Montgomery, grandson of Bishop White, in his own copy of the Rev. Bird Wilson's Memoir Of The Life of the Right Reverend William White, D.D., Phila., 1839.

2. "At Woodford, now one of the historic house museums in Fairmount Park...8 Windsor Chairs ranged along the passageway. At Peel Hall, which was burned by the British during the Revolution, there were '18 Windsor Chairs' in the 'Hall, stair Case & Upper Hall.' In the Entry of the William Fisher residence there were 'Windsor Chairs'." Hornor, p. 299.
3. "In late Colonial days, when Dr. Thomas Graeme of Graeme Park at Horsham, turned over his city residence to his daughter, the talented Lady Fergusson, it included '12 Windsor Chairs with Green Cushions.' in the 'Front Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> Story.' ... William Fisher was another who was able to afford the more expensive mahogany if he wished; but he preferred to have '1 Windsor Settee and Cushion, 2 d[itt]o Chairs and Cushion' in his back parlour'." Hornor, p. 298.

4. "In the Entry... A Painted Canvas Entry Cloth & a smaller D[itt]o  
... £1-15-0" Inventory of the Joseph Pemberton house, 1776.

Appendix A, page 1. Also, appendices T,K,P, and Q.

Samuel Johnston, North Carolina member of Congress, at home mending his political fences, wrote to his sister in Philadelphia on May 26, 1793: "I now beg you will procure a painted floor cloth for our Passage, as the shape of it is somewhat irregular I enclose a pattern of it which you will be pleased to explain to the man who makes them he lives in Pine Street near the New Market,..." Charles E. Johnston Coll., P.C. 232, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, N. C.

A conversation-style instruction book for new housekeepers printed in 1828 informs the reader: ... "Perhaps your servants may tell you that milk and water, or soap and water, improve the polish of oil-cloth; but this is not the case. Oil-cloth should be washed with warm water and a flannel. Soap, instead of improving it, takes the paint off; and milk gives it a streaky and greasy appearance, and deprives it of its glossiness. Bee's wax, rubbed on with a brush, gives a good polish, and prevents the paint from wearing off, but it renders it slippery, and dangerous to walk upon." From Domestic Duties, or Instructions to Young Married Ladies, on the Management of Their Households, and the Regulations of Their Conduct in the Various Relations and Duties of Married Life. Mrs. William Parkes. The "first American edition from the third London edition, with notes and alterations adapted to the American reader." Quoted from Winterthur Newsletter, Vol. VII, No. 1, January 27, 1961.

5. Arch Street Friends Meeting, Philadelphia, has a number of wood and iron racks of the period, 1810-1830.
6. Silver headed cane shown in Sartain's painting of the Bishop's Study. Carved wood cane in Christ Church Collection of Bishop White memorabilia; see also Newsam portrait.
7. Collection of Mrs. Arthur Starin, "School Lane House," Schoolhouse Lane, Germantown, Pa.  
  
The mate to this engraving, "Morning" has not been found, see illustration 3.
8. The Bishop's silver chamberstick is shown in the Sartain painting. One would expect the Bishop and his wife to retire to the second floor together, but another Sheffield chamberstick might have been available for a guest, and, after 1804, one also for the Bishop's son and daughter-in-law. The rest of the family could be satisfied with a brass chamberstick.
9. See Appendix V, p. 1.
10. Ibid., p. 9.
11. See Appendix K, p. 1.
12. See Appendix H, p. 1.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE ENTRY AND FIRST FLOOR HALL

List of furnishings, keyed to drawing  
 of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction    Antique

West wall, left to right:

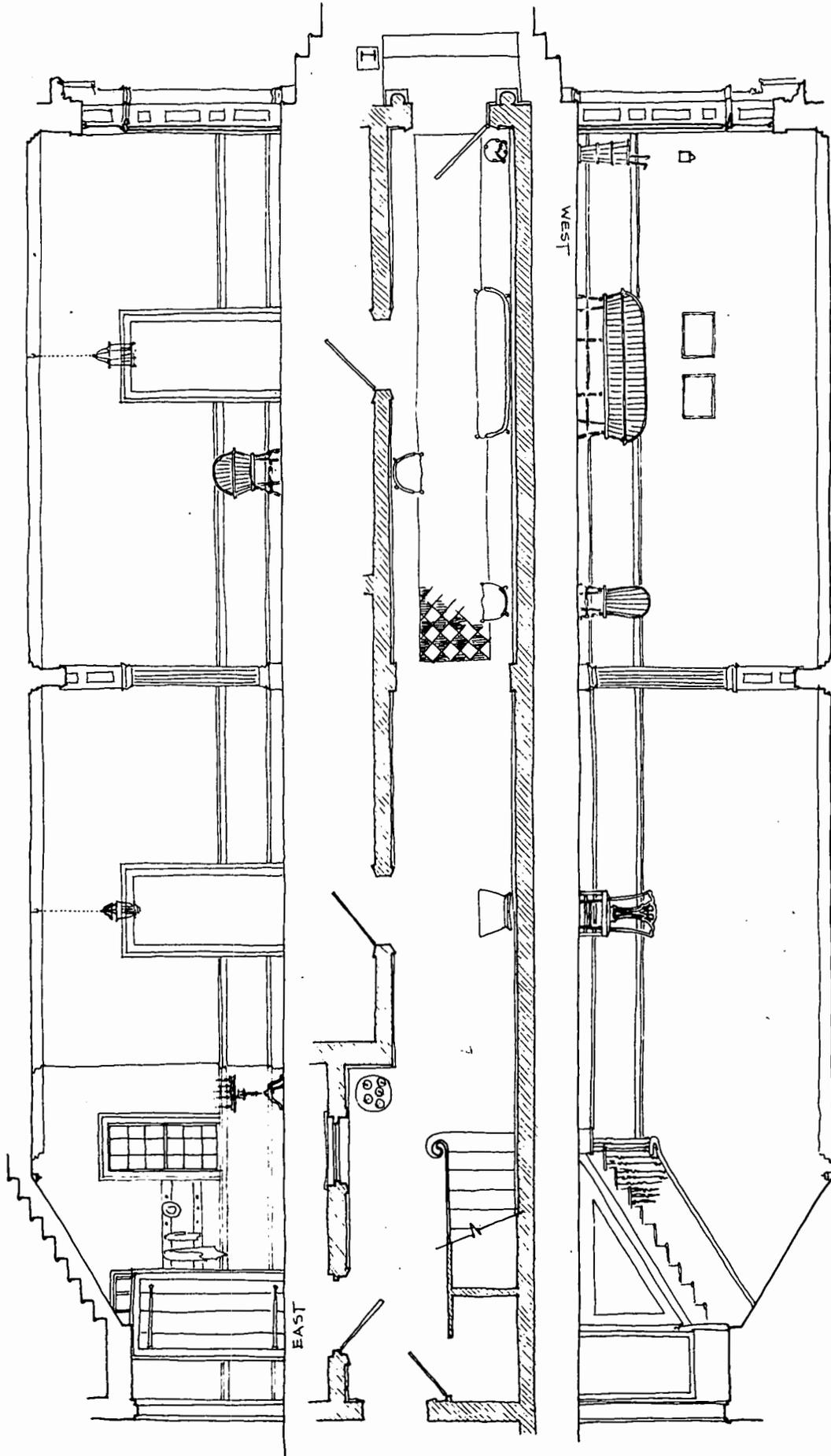
Umbrella and cane rack [Possible loan from Arch St. Friends Meeting]	Pos. loan \$ 20. or gift	
Wooden key box		\$ 35.
Philadelphia bow back Windsor side chair	40.	
Philadelphia 18 <sup>th</sup> century Windsor settee	300.	
Engraving "Morning" after Claude Lorraine		80.
Engraving "Evening" after Claude Lorraine	Pos. loan or gift	80.
Brass hall lantern, English, 18 <sup>th</sup> century		180.
Painted floor cloth	200.	
4 18 <sup>th</sup> & early 19 <sup>th</sup> century canes		50.
Umbrella, 18 <sup>th</sup> or early 19 <sup>th</sup> century		75.
Chippendale side chair [Christ Church]	Pos. loan or gift	300.
Glass bell type hall lantern		150.

East wall, left to right:

Philadelphia "Sack back" Windsor arm chair	40.	
Philadelphia walnut, dish top Candlestand		750.
1 Sheffield silver chamberstick, with snuffer and extinguisher		60.
2 Brass chambersticks with snuffers and extinguishers @ \$25.		50.

Estimated cost  
Reproduction    Antique

4	18 <sup>th</sup> century Pa. peg boards	@ \$25.	\$100.
3	18 <sup>th</sup> century wooden rain clogs for a man, woman and child	@ \$15.	45.
	Man's cloak, woman's cloak, child's cloak, Man's hat, woman's calabash, child's hat		200.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
 FIRST FLOOR HALL

C. G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
 P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.



INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
PARLOR: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This room should suggest, through furnishings and arrangement, the "best room" of a cultured and prosperous family of the late eighteenth century.

A room, however, that received daily use and which gives the impression of relaxed formality, being furnished with inherited out-of-style items as well as those in the latest fashion.

Here the Bishop entertained his friends and his wife presided at the tea table.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE PARLOR

The parlor of the Bishop White House is perhaps the least documented room in the house. In 1858 when the first floor was turned into a commercial establishment it was changed and modernized in accord with its new use.

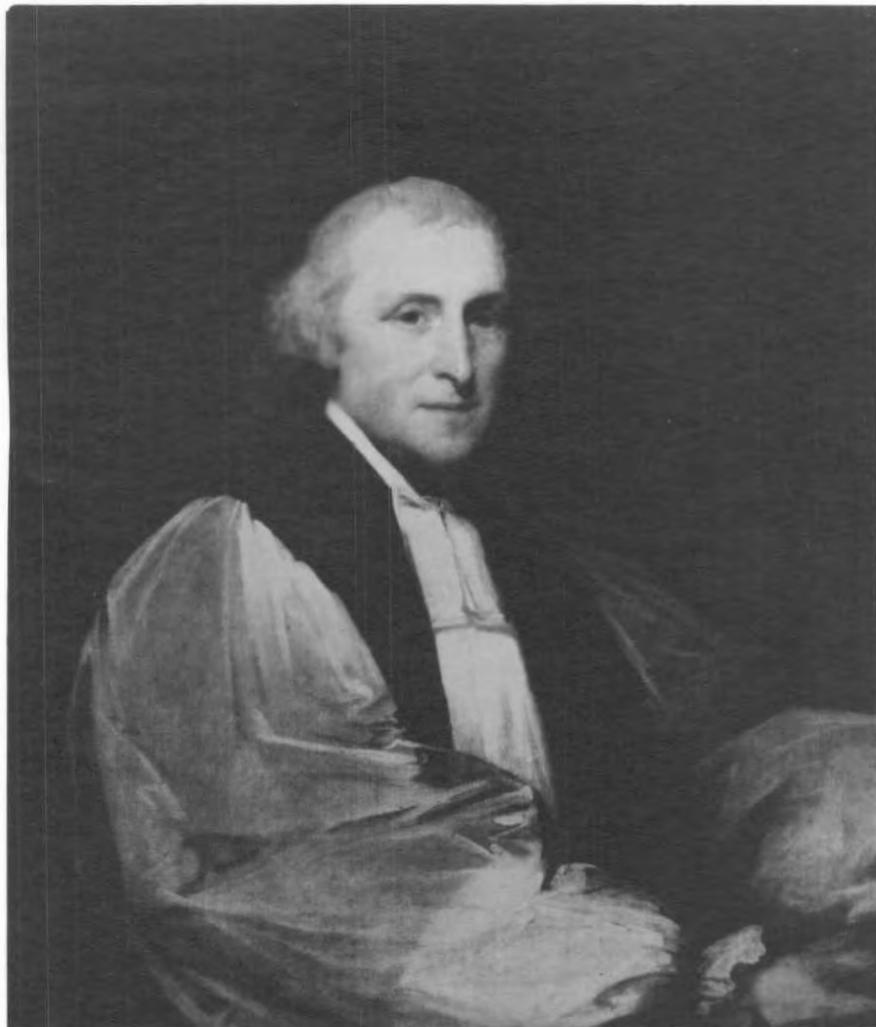
Evidence of what was not in the parlor is suggested in the Sartain painting of the Study. In this we see that the Philadelphia Chippendale side chairs<sup>1</sup> which may have been in the Bishop's parlor on Front Street in 1773, have been distributed between the study and the bedroom on Walnut Street. These chairs may have been transferred to the Walnut Street parlor in 1787 upon the completion of the house, then placed on the second floor to make way for parlor furniture in the latest fashion purchased by Thomas and Maria White at the time of their marriage in 1804. As Maria Heath White came as daughter-in-law and lady-of-the-house to the widower Bishop at this time, she probably would have wished to have some of her own wedding furniture in the room where she would receive her guests. Surviving furniture bears out this conjecture: a Sheraton sofa<sup>2</sup> and a card table<sup>3</sup> which were originally in the house are owned by White descendants. Other parlor pieces which have survived in the family seem to imply that, though some new furniture belonging to the Thomas Harrison Whites had been placed in the parlor, some objects already there remained in place. A chest-on-chest with desk drawer,<sup>4</sup> a wine stand<sup>5</sup> and family portraits<sup>6</sup> are now owned by the family and a Philadelphia museum.



William White, grandfather of the Bishop, painted by  
Sir Godfrey Kneller, c.1698. Collection of the  
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. See Parlor,  
footnote #8, and elevations. INHP neg. #7195

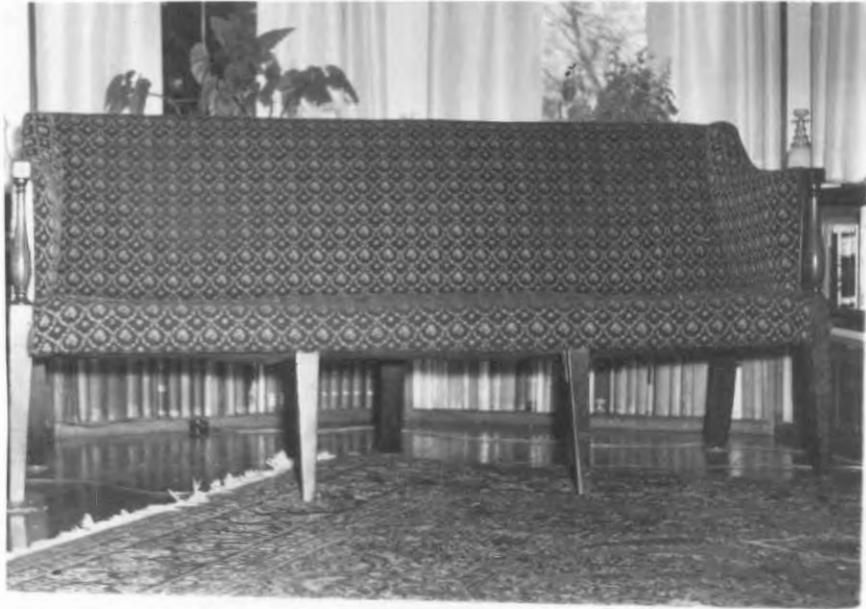


Elizabeth Leigh White, grandmother of the Bishop,  
painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, c.1698. Collection  
of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. See  
Parlor, footnote #8, and elevations. INHP neg. #7196.



Bishop White, by Gilbert Stuart, c.1795.  
Collection of the Pennsylvania Academy of  
the Fine Arts. IHP neg. #7194.

Part D  
Illustration No. 8



Sheraton mahogany frame sofa, Phila., c.1800-1810.  
Used in Bishop White House from c.1804 to 1836.  
Inherited by Mrs. Fenner S. Barbour. INHP neg. #7239-L.

Part D  
Illustration No. 9



Chippendale mahogany wine stand used in Bishop White House. Inherited by Mrs. White from her mother, Mrs. George Harrison. Phila., c.1760. Inherited by Mrs. Fenner S. Barbour. INHP neg. #7222-A.

Philadelphia household inventories for the last quarter of the eighteenth century<sup>7</sup> frequently list family portraits and a tall case clock in the parlor. Bishop White possessed large portraits of his grandparents painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller in 1698.<sup>8</sup> Family records also indicate the existence, in 1764, of a portrait of Col. Thos. White.<sup>9</sup> This portrait may have been over the parlor mantel during the Bishop's lifetime. During the period of the family occupancy of the house it contained an unusual number of oil portraits and miniatures on ivory of the Bishop and his numerous family. Though a tall case clock belonging originally to the Bishop or his father has not definitely been located, the known appointments of the house and the established prosperity of the family suggest that a tall case clock would have been part of the furnishings.<sup>10</sup> "Fresh flowers and running clocks," might well be a maxim for an historic house museum. During the winter dried flower arrangements in period containers could be used.

Using the basic pieces which have descended in the family, a parlor grouping is suggested which would provide a tea and conversation grouping about the sofa for the ladies of the family using, when needed, additional chairs<sup>11</sup> from the dining room; a correspondence and conference grouping at the desk for the Bishop and his callers; and a card table setting for the adult members of the household.

The accompanying drawing of the parlor shows it as it might have appeared during the spring, summer and early fall seasons. For this period Canton matting<sup>12</sup> has been placed on the floor, the winter window

curtains have been removed, and slip covers have been placed on the sofa and chairs. Venetian blinds do not appear in the Sartain painting, an unusual omission for such a well-appointed house. This may mean that they were not used at all or that they too were removed, though this would not be the logical thing to do, as their purpose is to reduce the glare of the sun. It is suggested that Venetian blinds be used in the parlor for they appear regularly in houses of this type in Philadelphia at this time (1790-1800).<sup>13</sup> They will also serve the original purpose of properly shading the room and protecting its contents from too much exposure to sunlight.

Carpeting for the parlor presents primarily a problem, not of kind, but of availability. Philadelphia inventories of the period list Wilton, Scotch (or ingrain), Brussels, and Venetian carpets.<sup>14</sup> "Turkey carpets" or antique Oriental rugs are the only ones of the types listed in the eighteenth century inventories that are readily available today. Wilton and Brussels carpets may perhaps with search be found in a modern, authentic reproduction of an eighteenth century design, while ingrain carpets can be custom made, copying an eighteenth century design. The eighteenth century survivals of today are mostly "Oriental" rugs.

Household inventories indicate that few, if any, eighteenth century American rooms were overfurnished, however, accessories in the form of mantel ornaments, jars, flower pots, and shell baskets are frequently found.<sup>15</sup> Two Staffordshire ornaments are suggested for the room. One is a figure of a widow and her children, a popular subject

Part D  
Illustration No. 10



Philadelphia Gothic Chippendale side chair.  
Originally in the Bishop White House, c.1770.  
Property of St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia.  
IHP neg. #7317.

Part D  
Illustration No. 11



Philadelphia Sheraton mahogany card table, c.1790-1810,  
originally in the Bishop White House. Inherited by Miss  
Anne B. Wurts. INHP neg. #7221-B.

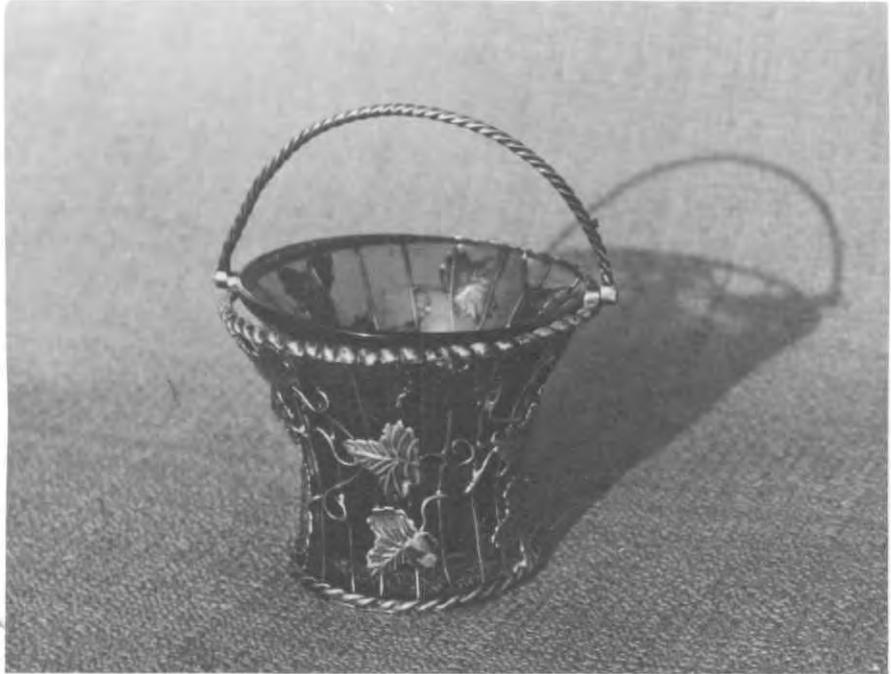
Part D  
Illustration No. 12



Drum-shaped silver tea pot which originally belonged to Bishop White and his wife. Made by Abraham Du Bois of Phila., c.1785.

Pair of English silver candlesticks which belonged to Bishop White. Marks not identified. Inherited by Miss Anne B. Wurts. IHRP neg. #7222-H.

Part D  
Illustration No. 12-A



Silver sweetmeat basket with blue glass liner believed to have been inherited by Mrs. White from her mother, Mrs. George Harrison. Inherited by Esther DeBerdit Vernooten. INHP neg. #7285.

for householders of a sentimental and religious frame of mind, and this, I am sure included a great part of the city's population. The other, also religious, is whimsical with propriety: "The Vicar and Moses," a late eighteenth century Staffordshire group which depicts an Anglican rector who has gone to sleep in pulpit while his assistant continues with a long sermon.

1. Two of these chairs have thus far been located by the writer. One is in the possession of Mr. George P. Robins, 20 North American Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Another belongs to Mr. Arthur DeBerdt Robins, Jr., 681 Mosswood Avenue, Orange, New Jersey. See Illustration 32.
2. Sheraton sofa inherited by Mrs. Fenner S. Barbour, 398 Highland Avenue, Wollaston 70, Mass. See Illustration 8.
3. Sheraton card table inherited by Miss Anne Wurts, Sholan Farms, Leominster, Mass. See Illustration 11.
4. "Desk of Col. White, with drawers, brass mounted, secret drawers, surmounted by chest of drawers. In possession of Mr. T.H. Montgomery." Meeting of Descendants of Col. Thomas White, of Maryland, Held at Sophia's Dairy, on the Bush River, Maryland June 7, 1877. (Philadelphia: 1879), page 6. Cited hereafter as: Descendants. Bottom now owned by Dr. Raymond B. Montgomery, 5722 Cross Country Blvd., Balt. 9, Md. Top now owned by his brother, Dr. Hugh Montgomery, 119 Glenn Rd., Ardmore, Pa.
5. See Illustration 9.
6. See footnote 8.
7. See Appendix H, page 1.
8. See illustrations 5 and 6. Col. Thomas White's sister, Elizabeth White, writing to him January 20, 1764 said: "I think I will just tell you that you are often the Subject of discourse with me and

my Sisters & amongst other things were thinking as you have a Family to come after you that you might like to have the Pictures of my Father and Mother & we should have sent them had we not fear'd the Size was too Large for the Hight of your Room. I will send you the measure which is four foot eight inches in length & desire you will let me know your thoughts upon it, & if to come how I must convey them to you. I will take care to have them Clean & Packed in a proper case." The correspondence continued, and on April 22, 1765, she wrote: "I should have answered my Dear Brother's letter much sooner had we been in Health; the Winter Season of late, has been a trying time to us & confin'd us to the House which has prevented getting the Pictures done so soon as I would wish. They are now Finished, the pictures clean'd & mended, as there were some faults by moving them about & the Frames new Gilt which I think makes them look very well. They are Pack'd in a case & sent to Mr. Berkley [DAVID BARCLAY & SONS of London, merchants & factors] according to your order & he has Promised to Convey them to you, in a Ship that is soon to Sail. I hope you will Receive them Safe & accept them as a Present from your sisters that you will value, it will bring to your Remembrance our Dear Mother, as it was always thought to be very like her. My Father dyed when we were too young to take much impression, but have been told that it was extremely like him." (Descendants, pages 81 and 82). Col. White, when writing to Mr. David Barclay,

November 11, 1765, said: "I am under great obligations to you for shipping y<sup>e</sup> pictures, which are safe arrived" (Thomas White letterbook, p. 48, James A. Montgomery Coll., Historical Society of Pennsylvania).

In a Codicil to his will, dated April 15, 1773, Col. White wrote: "I bequeath to my Wife the wrought Plate, Boy Jesse, and all the Household furniture (except my Father and Mother's pictures, which I give to my Son...)" Register of Wills, City Hall, Philadelphia. Book R. page 300, #307. Copy filed in 1780, original at Harford County Courthouse, Bel Air, Maryland.

Also, "Academy Accepts Gifts...Three Portraits by Famous Artists hung in Gallery. The directors of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts yesterday accepted three portraits bequeathed to that institution by William White, deceased, a former Philadelphia lawyer. The portraits are of Bishop White, first Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania; Colonel [Here the writer of the newspaper article has mistaken the Bishop's grandfather for his father] William White, father [grandfather] of the Bishop, and his mother [grandmother] Elizabeth Leigh White.

The portrait of Colonel [sic] White was painted in London by Sir Godfrey Kneller, in 1698, after he had finished that of Mrs. White. Gilbert Stuart painted Bishop White's portrait soon after his consecration in Philadelphia [London] in 1787." Clipping from Philadelphia Public Ledger, April 8, 1913, owned by Mrs. Paul C. Washburn, Leominster, Mass.

9. Elizabeth White of Twickenham, England, writing to her brother Col. Thos. White in 1764, said: "My Sister White [Esther Hewlings White, wife of Col. Thos.] was so good to say in her letter to Sister Midwinter [3 sisters of Col. Thos. White, Miss Elizabeth White, Mrs. Weeks and Mrs. Midwinter, lived together at Twickenham] that you were so kind to Sett for your Picture, which will be a most acceptable present to us, and we Impatiently expect, as I assure you we shall value it extremely & will in Imagination fancy we are conversing with my Dear Brother." Descendants, p. 81.

This portrait was in addition to two or more miniature portraits of Col. White, one of which is shown being worn by Mrs. Robert Morris as a bracelet in her portrait by Charles Willson Peale, [INHP Coll.] and another now in possession of William White, Jr., of Bryn Mawr.

10. See appendices A, C, F, H, K.
11. See illustration 14.
12. See illustration 30; also appendices K, P, Q, U. It will be observed that in inventories taken during the winter, the summer season mats have been listed as being in the garret, while for those taken during the warm seasons, the rugs are listed in the garret. A newspaper advertisement almost contemporary with the Sartain painting states: "At 10 o'clock, the furniture of a family going to Europe, consisting of Brussels and Wilton carpets,

&c: Canton Matting, for parlors and entry, nearly new:..."

Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, Phila., April 30, 1832. It is possible that Canton matting as a summer floor covering gained popularity in Philadelphia in the early nineteenth century, but it was known in the mid eighteenth century and when the American merchant marine became involved directly in trade with the Orient after 1785.

Robert Morris, brother-in-law of the Bishop was a major figure in connection with Philadelphia in the China Trade. On January 15, 1789, Washington wrote to him: "I pray you to receive my thanks for your favor of the Floor matting from China. [The Writings of George Washington... John C. Fitzpatrick, editor. Vol. XXX, p. 179].

Israel Acrelius, Swedish naturalist, traveling through the middle colonies in the years 1750-1755, wrote: "Straw carpets have lately been introduced in the towns. But the inconvenience of this is that they must soon be cleaned from flyspots, and a multitude of vermin, which harbor in such things, and from the kitchen smoke, which is universal." [Acrelius, Israel, A history of New Sweden; or, The Settlements on the river Delaware. Phila., 1874. p. 156].

13. See appendices H, M, N, P, and S.
14. See appendices A p. 1, 2, 3, 4; C p. 6; D p. 1, 2; E p. 3; H p. 1; K p. 1, 2; M p. 2; P p. 1, 2.
15. See appendices A, H, L, M, N, Q, S, and T.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE PARLOR

List of suggested furnishings, keyed to  
 drawing of wall elevation and floor plan

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction    Antique

North wall, left to right:

Hepplewhite shield back side chair		\$ 300.
Hepplewhite shield back side chair		300.
Engraving of Rev. Dr. Richard Price	INHP Coll.	50.

East wall, left to right:

Chippendale mahogany mirror		2800.
Sheraton mahogany card table	Pos. loan or gift	300.
Checkers & backgammon board with drawer		150.
Pair Corinthian column candlesticks (silver)	Pos. loan or gift	500.
Mahogany wine stand	Pos. loan \$200. or gift	
2 wine glasses @ \$10.		20.
Cut glass decanter	Pos. loan or gift	40.
Pair Argand two-light lamps, Sheffield mounts		1800.
Staffordshire figurine, "The Widow & her children"	INHP Coll.	40.
Pair brass urn top, andirons	INHP Coll.	850.
Portrait of Col. Thos. White		800.
Brass fire tools, (Shovel, Tongs, poker)	INHP Coll.	60.
18th century pierced brass fender		300.

		<u>Estimated cost</u>	
		Reproduction	Antique
Mahogany side chair (St. Peter's Church)	Pos. loan or gift		\$ 450.
Mahogany chest on chest with desk drawer	Pos. loan or gift	\$1200.	3000.
Late 18th century Sheffield ink stand			200.
Manuscripts & paper bound books	Pos. loan or gift		60.
Sheffield Argand desk lamp	INHP Coll. repairs		50.
Staffordshire figure "The Vicar & Moses"			125.

South wall, left to right:

Phila., elbow chair [upholstered open arm chair]			2000.
18th century Phila., tall case clock	INHP Coll.		1200.
Pair of red moreen curtains (winter) @ \$400.		800.	
Hepplewhite side chair	Pos. loan or gift		300.
View of Twickenham, engraving	INHP Coll.		90.
Two branch iron & brass candlestand			800.

West wall, left to right:

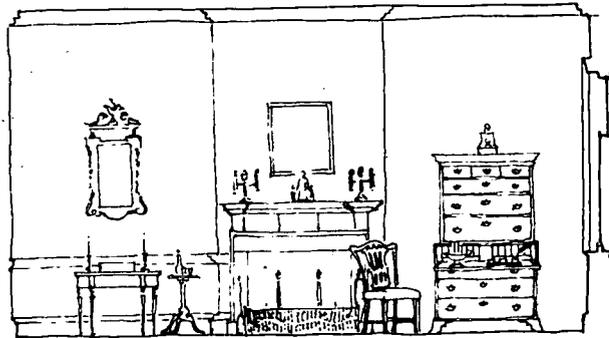
Phila., Sheraton sofa	Pos. loan or gift		1800.
Hepplewhite side chair	Pos. loan or gift		300.
Phila., mahogany Pembroke table	INHP Coll.		1200.
Sheffield silver galleried tea tray			250.
Sugar tongs, Jos. Richardson, Jr.	INHP Coll.		35.
Silver chocolate pot, Abraham Du Bois	Pos. loan or gift		1200.
Chinese Export Porcelain, 4 tea cups & saucers, 1 cake plate. [of a possible set of 12 teacups & saucers & 12 coffee cups & saucers]			720

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

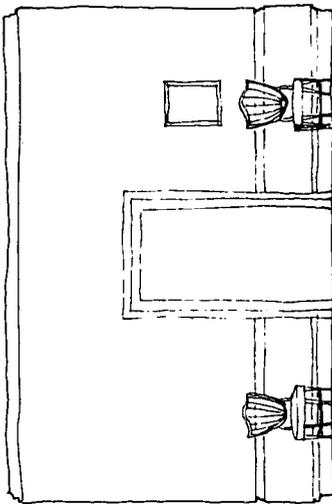
4 Phila., silver tea spoons [of a possible set of 12]		\$ 120.
Phila., silver sugar bowl, R. Humphries	Pos. loan or gift	1500.
Phila., silver slop bowl	Pos. loan or gift	1500.
Silver tea strainer		150.
Phila., silver cream pitcher	Pos. loan or gift	1500
Portrait of William White, by Kneller	Pos. loan or gift	\$ 1200.
Portrait of Elizabeth White, by Kneller	Pos. loan or gift	1200.
Hepplewhite side chair		300.

Center of room:

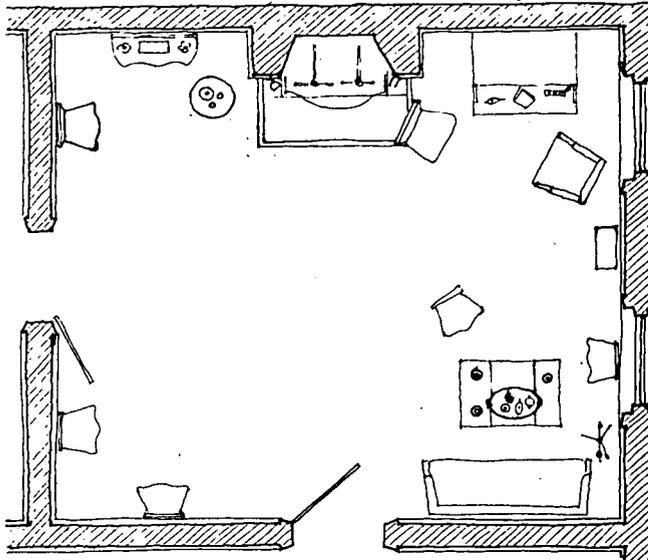
Large antique Oriental rug, (winter)		1800.
Canton matting (summer)		60.



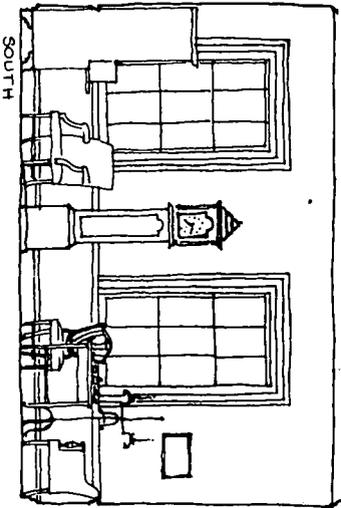
EAST



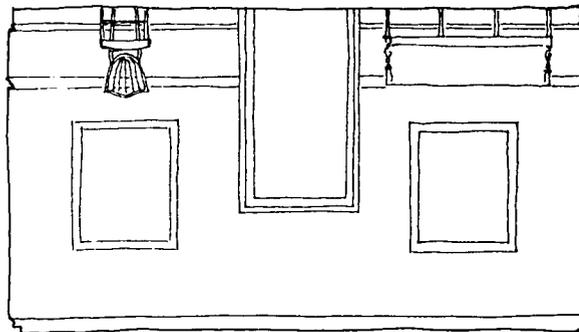
NORTH



SOUTH

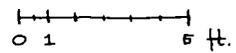


WEST



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
PARLOR

C. G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.



INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
DINING ROOM: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

Until recent years, the main meal of the day in the Philadelphia area was that served around noon. Moreau St. Mery, writing of the years 1793-1798, gives the dinner hour as two o'clock. Since the house will be visited from 9 to 5, or, after the breakfast hour, during the dinner, but before the tea and formal dinner hours of Philadelphia in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, it is suggested that the dining room be maintained to present the impression that the family is just about to sit down to the big meal of the day. It is also suggested that the day of Washington's visit to the house for dinner November 19, 1798, be observed with a particularly festive table, as well as wedding table settings on the anniversaries of his daughters' marriages.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE DINING ROOM

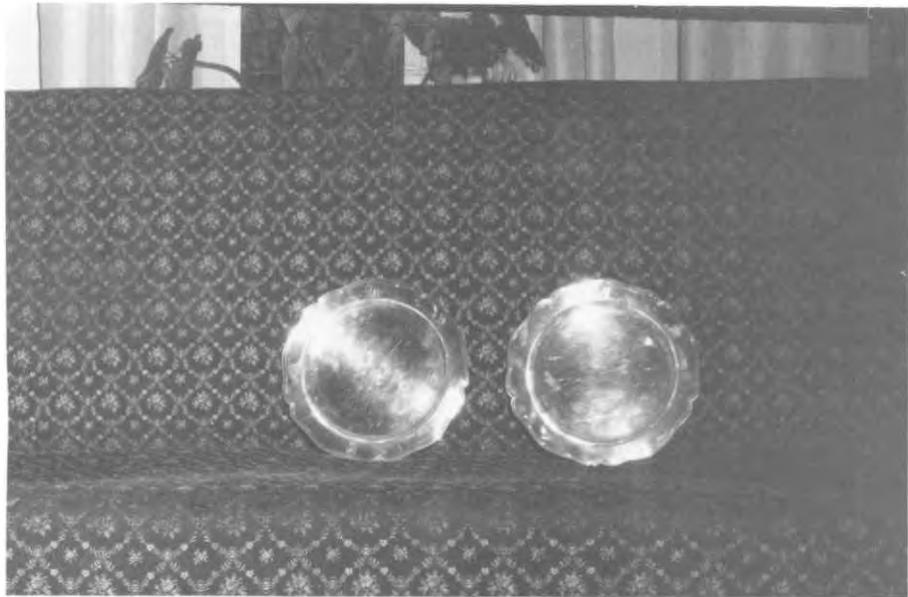
The years immediately after the American Revolution saw a change in American first floor room arrangements. According to household inventories and extant furnishings, middle class households set up before the Revolution contained an entry, a front parlor, a rear parlor, and a kitchen, on the first floor. Soon after the Revolution we see in Philadelphia, and in other large urban areas, the emergence of a distinct dining room. In keeping with the changing modes, and the workbooks of the furniture designers Hepplewhite and Shearer,<sup>1</sup> we find furniture designed especially for a dining room. The slab table has now become a compartmented side board, and the pair of drop leaf tables distributed between the front and rear parlors has become a large single table in the dining room, or, better still, a sectional dining table; while the multitudes of chairs distributed between the two rooms, to be used as occasion demanded, have become sets of dining room chairs, and chairs "ensuite" with the parlor furniture.

According to a White family tradition, the Hepplewhite dining chairs used in the Bishop White house were purchased by the Bishop himself at the estate sale of George Hepplewhite, in London in 1786.<sup>2</sup> It is entirely possible that the Bishop purchased items for his new house during his London sojourn. However, the extant dining room chairs are Hepplewhite in style only, and are Philadelphia in origin. Since he was setting up a dining room in the latest fashion, the other furniture would have been of the same style. This would include a Hepplewhite sideboard and dining table.

Part D  
Illustration No. 14

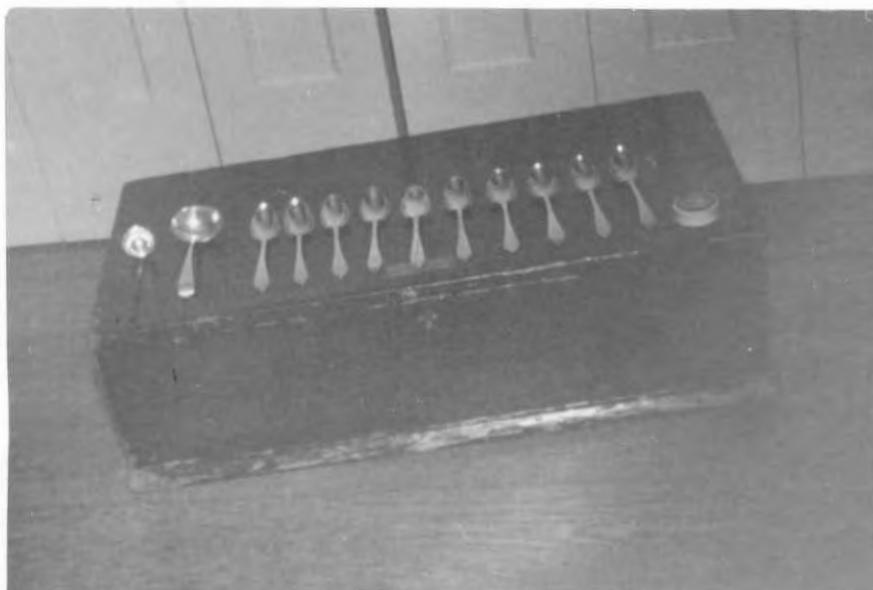


Mahogany Philadelphia Hepplewhite side chair.  
One of an original set of 10 side chairs and  
two arm chairs from the dining room of the  
Bishop White House. Inherited by Esther  
DeBerdt Vermooten. IIMP neg. #7286.



Pair of silver bread plates, originally owned by Mrs. William (Bishop) White. Made by John Myer of Phila., c.1785-1790. Inherited by Mrs. Fenner S. Barbour. IMP neg. #7222-E.

Part D  
Illustration No. 16



Brandy ladle, soup ladle, 10 tablespoons, and an ivory  
snuff box, all of which belonged to Bishop White.  
Inherited by William White, Jr. INHP neg. #7240-C.

Part D  
Illustration No. 17



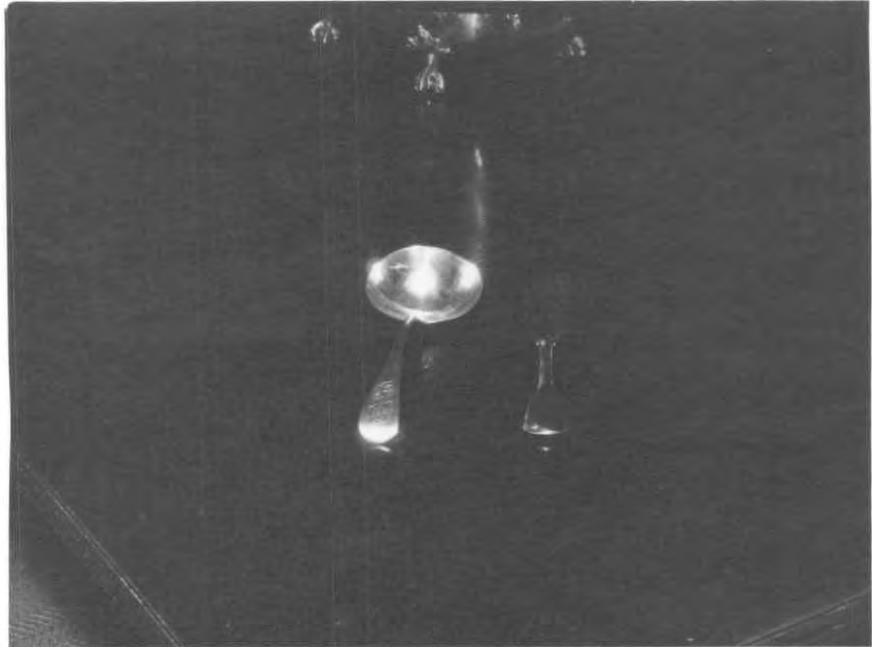
4 silver tablespoons which belonged to Bishop White.  
Made by Abraham Du Bois, Phila., c.1785. Inherited  
by Edward V. Wurts, Jr. INIP neg. #7222-M.

Part D  
Illustration No. 17-A



One of a dozen tablespoons, ordered by Col. Thomas White from London in 1751. "...please to be at ye trouble of getting from my Sister our Family Coat of Arms to be engrav'd on ye Table Plate..." Silversmith's touch appears to be Elizabeth Oldfield, London, 1748. Inherited by Esther DeBerdit Vermooten, IIMP neg. #7287.

Part D  
Illustration No. 18



English silver gravy ladle, c.1800, and butter knife,  
by Joseph Lowmes, Jr., Phila., c.1820, believed to  
have originally been the property of Bishop White.  
Inherited by Edward V. Wurts, Jr. INHP neg. #722-L.

Eating utensils would also figure prominently here, and the amount of china and pottery sherds found in the privy drain of the house tells us that a great variety of china and pottery was used by the Bishop and his large family.

Architecturally, breast closets [recessed cupboards in fireplace projection] have been provided in the dining room on each side of the fireplace. These would suffice for storing a small portion of the china needed for daily and special use. The quantity and types of sherds excavated indicate that both the best and the utility china received hard use and were not primarily for display. Using the sherd evidence found in the cellar drain of the house, we have included on pages 5 and 6, Part C, a list of the minimum requirements for refurnishing the kitchen and dining room with pottery and porcelain. In the drawings for this room the semi-circular ends of the three-part dining table have been placed against the wall on each side of the door to the parlor. It is unlikely, however, that they ever remained in this position for any length of time, for the size of the Bishop's family, his obligations to return the courtesies of his many friends, and the visits of clerical colleagues from the entire east coast, must have kept his dining table much-used. Because of this, it is suggested that the kitchen be supplied with tables and chairs for feeding the small children of the household and the servants. Though the architectural plans for the service wing of the house have not been completed, it is entirely possible that the original design included a pantry or large china closet for the storage of chinaware and linens.

Much in the manner of Moreau de St. Mery's description<sup>3</sup> "...all the silver one owns is displayed on the sideboard in the dining room.", the sideboard in the Bishop's dining room contained not only the silver he had purchased, but also pieces his wife had inherited from her mother, and, in later years, a large tea and coffee service which returned to the house upon the death of the Bishop's daughter Mary Bronson. Two engravings by Benjamin West, are suggested for above the sideboard: "Penn's Treaty with the Indians" and "The West Family." These are suggested as appropriate because Bishop White as an eighteen year old youth had assisted Betsy Shewell, West's fiancée, to escape from her brother's house in Philadelphia so that she could join her intended husband in London. It is quite possible the Whites received early strike-offs of engravings of West's paintings of American interest from the artist himself. The only out-of-style item of furniture suggested for this room is the Chippendale style slab table placed between the windows. Such an item could have been inherited by the Bishop from his father, who during long years of confinement to his house as a cripple, was in the habit of daily receiving his gentlemen friends for an afternoon of conversation and good wine.

In summer it is suggested that the curtains in the Dining Room be removed, the chair seats be provided with a slip cover and a white paper fly trap<sup>4</sup> be hung above the dining table.



Silver fruit bowl, by Edward Lowes of Phila., c.1825,  
which bears the inscription: "The legacy of / Mrs.  
Elizabeth Fowel / to / BISHOP WHITE" inherited by  
Elizabeth Wurts Washburn. IHP neg. #7222-G.

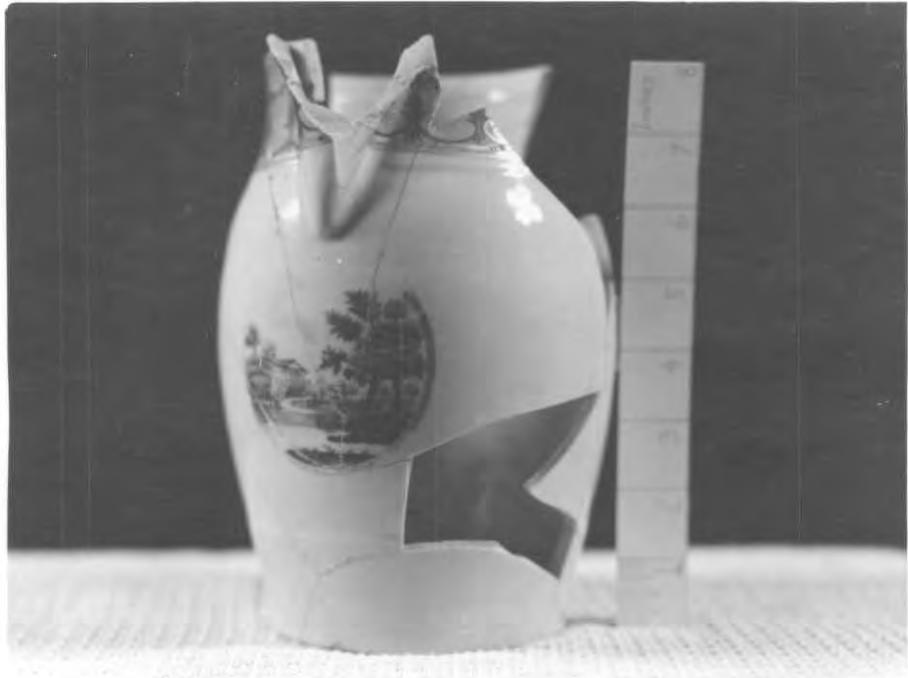


Tea and coffee service, said to have been presented by Bishop White to his daughter Mary at the time of her marriage to Enos Bronson in 1804. All pieces except hot water pot made c.1810, by Joseph Lowes, Phila. Hot water pot made by R. and W. Wilson at Phila., in 1833, for the marriage of Elizabeth White Bronson to Henry Hope Reed. See Dining Room, footnote #3. Inherited by Elizabeth warts Washburn. INHP neg. #7240-F.

Part D  
Illustration No. 21



Sheffield silver teapot, originally the property of  
Bishop White and his wife. England, c.1790-1800.  
Inherited by Mrs. Fenner S. Barbour, IHP neg. #7222-K.



Chinese Export Porcelain cider jug remnant reconstructed from sherds found in the Bishop White House privy drain, c.1800. "Thorndon," Essex, England is pictured under the spout. From The Seats of the Nobility and Gentry... by W. Watts, Chelsea, (1779). IMP neg. #7320.



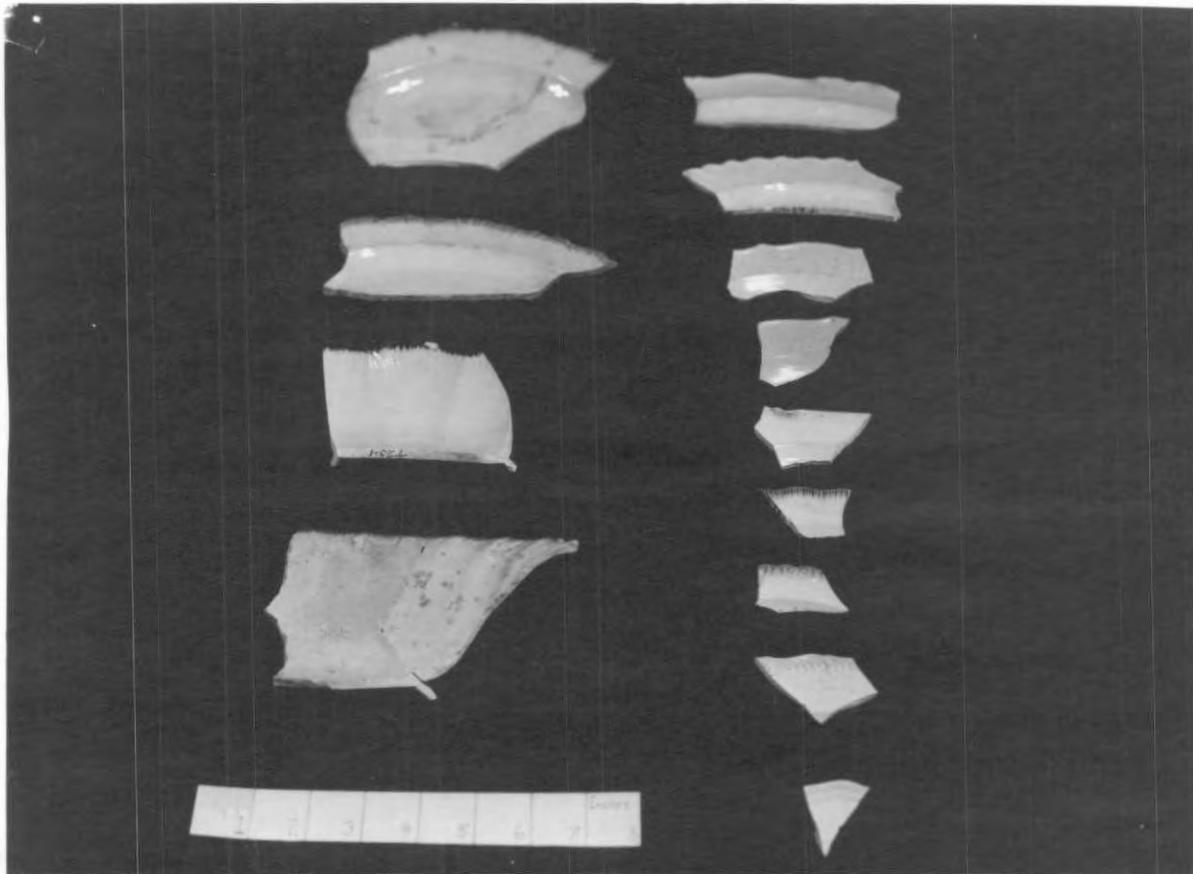
Chinese Export Porcelain blue and white fruit bowl and tray, originally in the Bishop White House, c.1790. Inherited by George P. Robins. INHP neg. #7329-E.

Part D  
Illustration No. 24

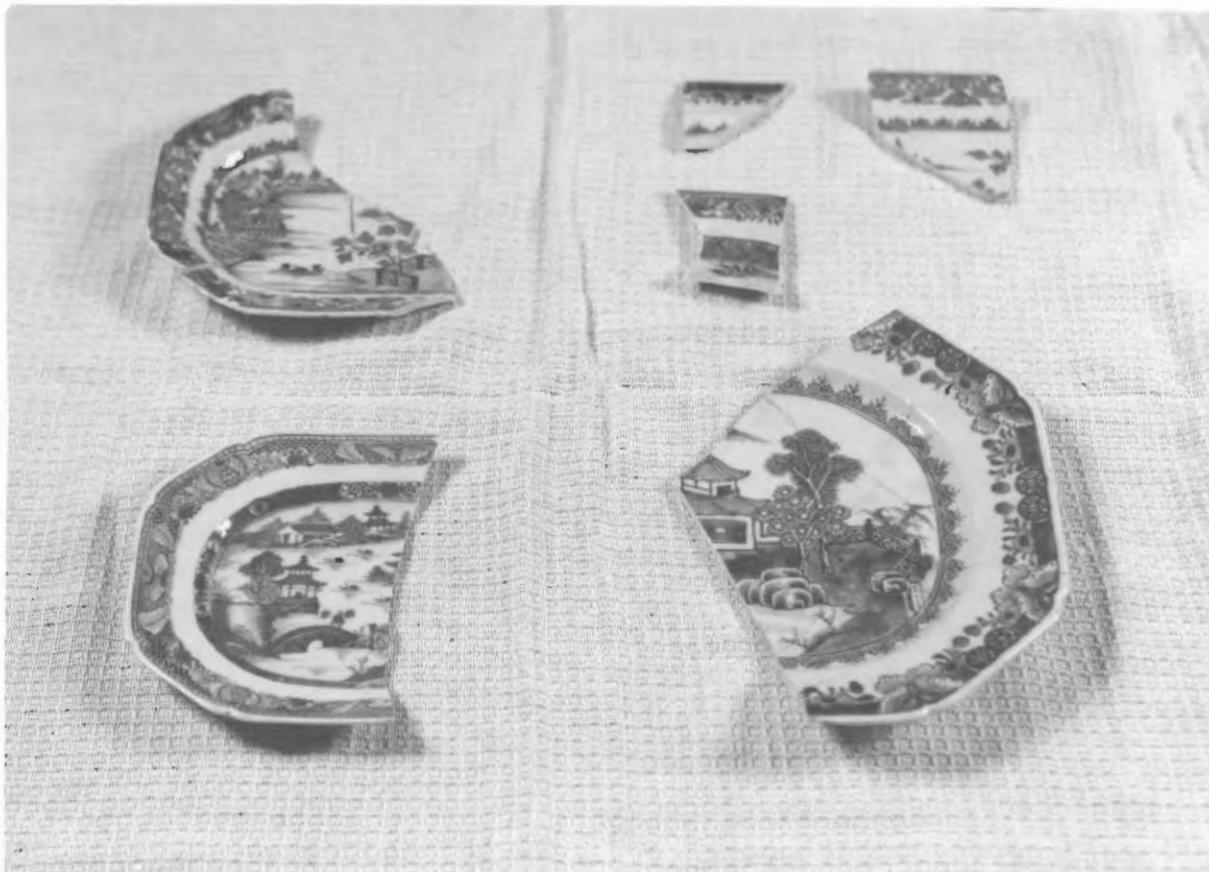


Canton blue and white dinner and dessert plate sherds,  
found in the Bishop White House privy drain.  
IMP neg. #7321.

Part D  
Illustration No. 25



Creamware and salt glaze dish and bowl rim sherds,  
from the privy drain of the Bishop White House.  
Blue and green borders predominate. IHP neg. #7326.



Nanking china (blue and white) platter sherds from the  
Bishop White House privy drain. IMP neg. #7322.

Part D  
Illustration No. 27



Pennsylvania redware pottery sherds from the privy  
drain of the Bishop White House, c.1780 to c.1830.  
INHP neg. #7318.

1. Thomas Shearer, The Cabinet Maker's London Book of Prices, pub. 1788.  
English cabinetmaker and designer who was a contemporary of Hepplewhite and supplied twenty six of the plates included in the above compilation. These designs were an important factor in the development of the English and American sideboard of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.
2. George Hepplewhite - English cabinetmaker and furniture designer (d. 1786). His designs were published by his wife under the name: A. Hepplewhite and Co., in 1788 with the title: Cabinet Maker and Upholsterer's Guide.
3. Moreau de St. Mery's American Journey [1793-1798], trans. and ed. by Kenneth & Anna Roberts, Doubleday & Co., Inc., New York, 1947. 394pp. Page 324.
4. "In many of the houses people make a sort of chandelier or garland of very white paper to attract flies. This paper must be changed often; for it quickly becomes black and disgusting." Moreau de St. Mery's American Journey, [1793-1798], page 325.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE DINING ROOM

List of suggested furnishings, keyed to  
 drawing of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

North wall, left to right:

Shield back side chair (illus. 14)		\$ 300.
Mahogany slab table (Horner PI. 261)		2500.
Four 18th century decanters		160.
Four silver wine labels @ \$10.		40.
Four red japanned coasters		120.
Lowestoft fruit bowl & tray	Pos. loan or gift	200.
Shield back arm chair		400.
Two pairs of Chintz curtains (winter) @ \$200.		400.

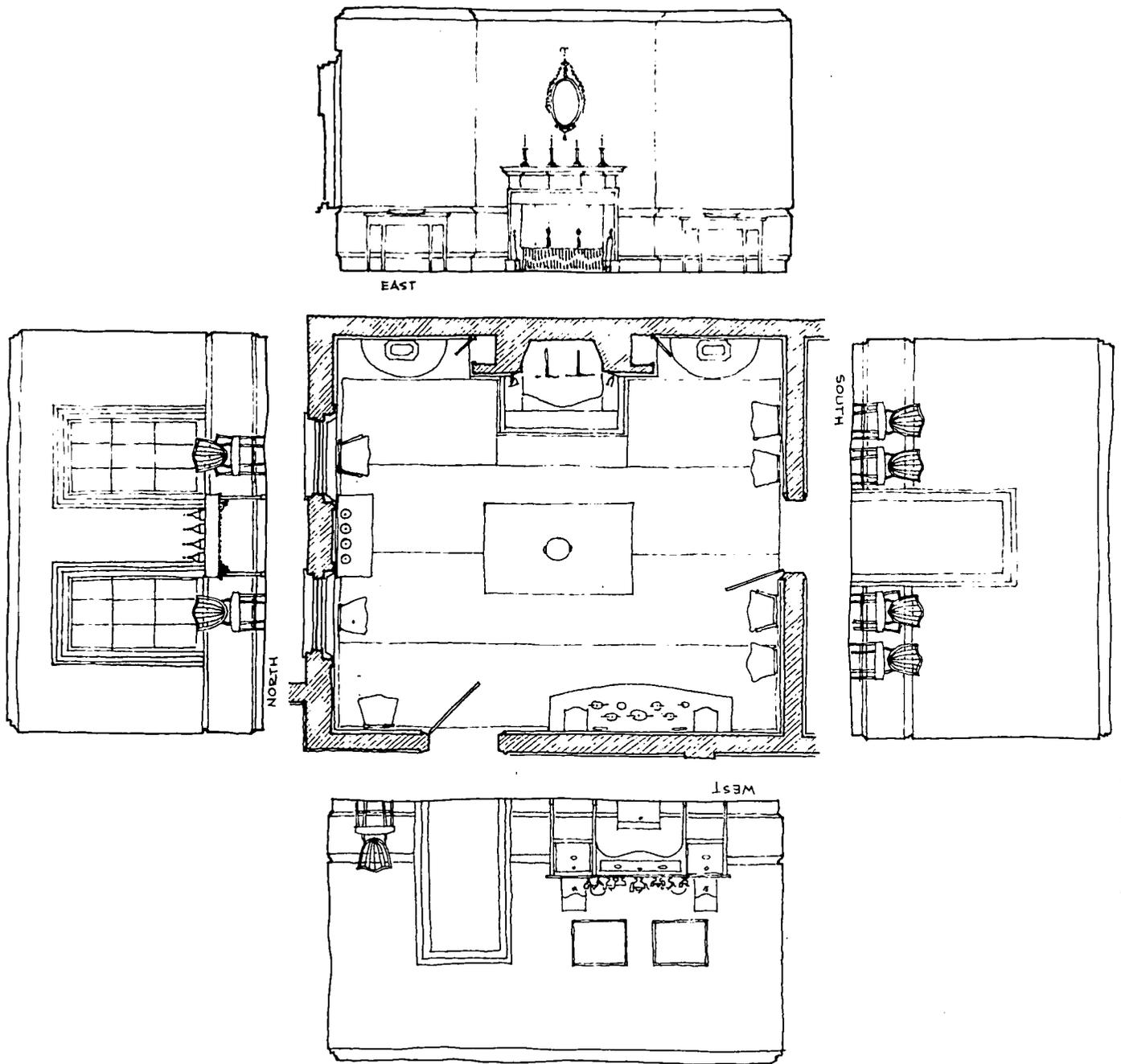
East wall, left to right:

Semi-circular end of 3 part dining table (left of fireplace)	}	1800
Drop leaf center of 3 part dining table (center of room)		
Semi-circular end of 3 part dining table (right of fireplace)		
Two Nanking octagonal platters @ \$40.	INHP Coll.	80.
Hepplewhite gilt oval mirror		1400.
Four Sheffield Corinthian column candlesticks		800.
Pair brass columnar andirons		600.
Brass & wire finder		180.

		<u>Estimated cost</u>
		Reproduction    Antiques
Brass and iron fire shovel & tongs		\$ 60.
Brass plate warmer, English 18th century		200.
Two Nanking octagonal platters @ \$40.		80.
Silver footed fruit bowl	Pos. loan or gift	\$400.
Irish linen table cloth, 18th century (on table)		150.
1 dozen Nanking dinner plates (in closet)	INHP Coll	80.
1 dozen Nanking soup dishes (in closet)	INHP Coll.	80.
Three salt glaze platters	INHP Coll.	120
1 dozen Nanking Custard cups		350.
1 dozen Nanking dessert plates		70.
<u>South wall, left to right:</u>		
Two shield back side chairs @ \$300.		600.
Shield back arm chair		400.
Shield back side chair		300.
<u>West wall, left to right:</u>		
Early Philadelphia Hepplewhite sideboard		2500.
Pair mahogany knife boxes, Eng. or Phila.		600.
1 dozen Eng. 18th century silver pistol handled knives		500.
1 dozen Eng. 18th century silver pistol handled forks		500.
Six piece silver tea & coffee service by Joseph Lowmes (illus. 20)	Pos. loan or gift	1500.

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antique

Two silver bread plates (illus. 15) @ \$400.	Pos. loan	\$800.
	or gift	
12 silver tablespoons (illus. 16)	INHP Coll.	140.
	also	
	Pos. loan	
	or gift	
Six silver serving spoons @ \$30.	Pos. loan	180.
	or gift	
Philadelphia mahogany cellarette		600.
"The West Family" engraving by Benj. West	INHP Coll.	300.
"Penn's Treaty with the Indians" by Benj. West.	INHP Coll.	300.
Shield back side chair		300.
Canton matting for summer		\$80.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
DINING ROOM

C. G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.

0 1 5 ft.

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
SECOND FLOOR HALL: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This area is primarily a passageway and should contain a minimum amount of furniture. Near the door to the Bishop's bedroom is a large Philadelphia eighteenth century chest-on-chest. This item of furniture was a major storage unit in Philadelphia households of the eighteenth century and would have been used by Mrs. White as a storage place for her best bed linens. The two chests of drawers in her bedroom would have been used for small clothes.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE - 2nd FLOOR HALL

List of suggested furnishings keyed to drawing  
of wall elevations and floor plan

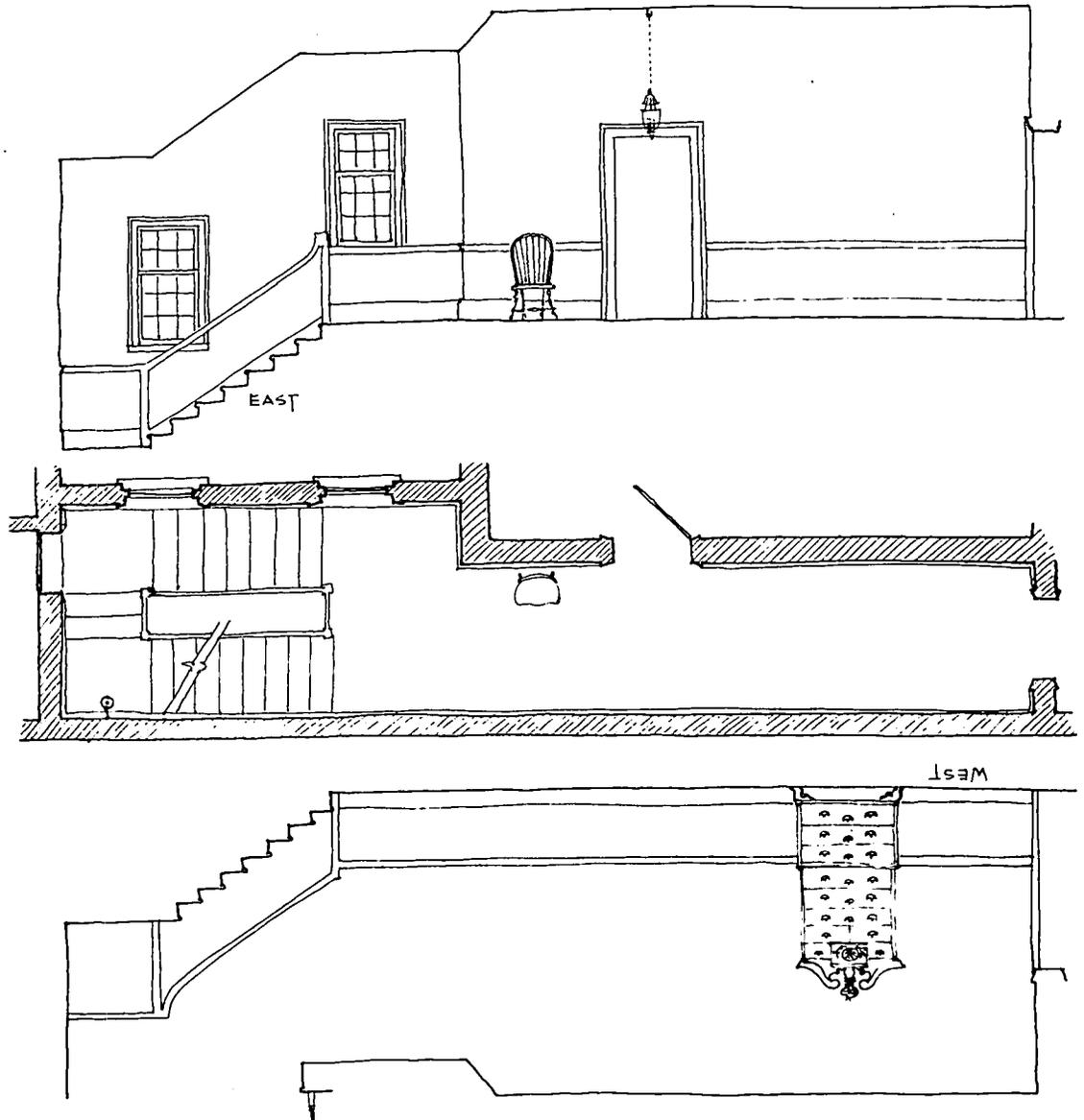
Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antique

East wall, left to right:

Pa., 18th century Windsor side chair	\$ 60.
Late 18th century glass hanging lantern with smoke bell	150.

West wall, left to right:

Phila., late 18th century mahogany or walnut chest-on-chest	900.
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BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
SECOND FLOOR HALL

C G DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.

0 1 5 ft.

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
SECOND FLOOR BEDROOM: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This room should represent the master bedroom of an upper class late eighteenth century Philadelphia household. It should also show the equipage used by the owners of the house to prepare for the active social life they led.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR BEDROOM

The Sartain painting of the Bishop's Study gives us only a tantalizingly limited view into the second floor bedroom, but it is enough to show us that it is summer. In local fashion the window curtains have been removed for the season; also, the outside shutters are used to provide relief from the sun, by being fixed in a partially closed position. Inside the room we see a Chippendale quarter column chest of drawers complete with bureau cloth, two sidechairs, and strips of Canton matting on the floor. During the Bishop's occupancy of the house this bedroom had been shared by the Bishop and his wife; after Mrs. White's death in 1797 it was retained by the Bishop. Upon the death of his daughter-in-law and hostess, Maria Heath White, the Bishop shared this bedroom with his son, Thos. Harrison White.<sup>1</sup> Thus, from 1814 until 1836 there were two high post beds in the room. One would have been purchased by the Bishop, either when setting up housekeeping in 1773, or for a new house in 1787; the other would have been part of the furniture assembled by Thomas and Maria at the time of their marriage in 1804.

The most important single piece of bedroom furniture that has come down in the White family is a large serpentine-front chest of drawers made by the Bishop's friend and parishioner Jonathan Gostelow.<sup>2</sup> From the standpoint of space and practicality, this chest of drawers must have been placed between the hall and study doors in this room. The quarter column chest of drawers which appears in the painting and has descended in the family to Mrs. Arthur Starin of Germantown, was located between the east



Philadelphia Chippendale mahogany chest of drawers,  
made by Jonathan Costelow for Bishop White, c.1789.  
Inherited by Mrs. Arthur Starin. IMP neg. 74138.

Part D  
Illustration No. 31



Philadelphia Chippendale serpentine front chest of  
drawers, made by Jonathan Costelow for Bishop White,  
c.1789. Inherited by William White, Jr.  
IMP neg. #7239-K.

and center windows. During the last decade of his life, perhaps for an even longer period of time, the bedroom and its adjoining study were the rooms in the house most used by the Bishop. In order that these rooms might be almost a self-contained living area within the house, a large tea table may have been in the bedroom so that it could be used for dining, should the Bishop have wished some degree of privacy, or in latter years preferred to eat in his room rather than climb stairs too often each day. An "easy" or wing chair is also suggested for this room.

Of the two different chairs which appear in the painting, the one by the east window is from the set of at least six that were distributed between the study and bedroom. The other is also a Philadelphia Chippendale side chair, but it lacks stretchers.

As it seems most desirable to utilize the documentation of the Sartain painting to the fullest, it is suggested that Venetian blinds not be placed in the windows of the Bishop's bedroom.

Portions of the original window trim have survived and show a series of tack holes where the support for a window covering of some kind once was, though these are not in themselves conclusive evidence that they are survivals from the period of our interest.

The Bishop's wife enjoyed her new home for only a short period of ten years, from the completion of the house in 1787 to her death in 1797. As the lady of this newly-furnished household, she obviously had much to do with setting the furnishings pattern for many years to come.

Mrs. White would be expected to have included in her bedroom, a dressing table to be used for dressing her hair and in other ways preparing herself for the many social functions it was her privilege and pleasure to attend.<sup>3</sup>

Bishop White's modest nature forbade his putting himself forward for the sake of attention. One wonders, under the circumstances, what he thought of the number of portraits of himself that were returned to his house by bequest, or upon the return of his children and grandchildren to the house in Walnut Street. The thus far unlocated portrait, c. 1771, which his aunt in Twickenham, England, left as a particular bequest to his wife, is suggested as appropriate for above the mantel in the 2nd floor bedroom.<sup>4</sup>

A commode chair is shown in this room despite the existence of a water closet on the first floor; the Bishop's age and infirmity probably necessitated this practical convenience after 1800. The style of the chair is Queen Anne and "out of fashion" in the early nineteenth century, but such a chair might well have been owned by the Bishop's invalid father, and have been inherited by him.<sup>5</sup>

1. "His son, who slept in the same chamber, being roused by his fall, had him replaced in bed, from which he did not again rise."

Bird Wilson "Memoir," MSS, HSP, pp. 198, 199.

Thomas Harrison White, fourth child of William and Mary Harrison White, born Nov. 12, 1779, married Oct. 1, 1804, Mary Key Heath of Maryland. She died March 23, 1814. He died Oct. 15, 1859, and was the only child of the Bishop to survive his father.

2. Before the Revolution, Jonathan Gostelow (1745-1795) had his cabinet-maker's shop in Church Alley, adjoining Christ Church. He sold his shop and tools and served in the Revolution. In 1789 he reopened his Church Alley shop and continued there for a year. He then moved his shop to a family property at 66 Market Street. Gostelow was a vestryman of Christ Church from 1792 until his death in 1795.
3. Mrs. White wrote to her husband in London: "...we are more generally surrounded with company - I had a card from Mr. & Mrs. Powell to sup with them last night which I had intended accepting of, but when my head was drest I was seised with such a violent headache as obliged me to go to bed,..." Letter dated: "Phila<sup>da</sup> Nov<sup>b</sup> 30, 1786." In possession of Mrs. Paul C. Washburn, Leominster, Mass.

Also, in another letter from Philadelphia dated Dec. 1, 1786, Mrs. White wrote: "You would Value this Letter if you knew the difficulty I have had in geting to it Company and business perpetually calling me away from it. I must now finish to dress for dinner. ..." From the same collection as above.

4. ... To my said nephew William White L 50, and I desire that his picture, now hanging up in my parlour, may be carefully packed up, and sent to my niece his wife. [Footnote in text: Taken in his Gown and Bands, and during his first visit to England, 1770-72. It is now in the possession of Mrs. Wiltbank.]" From Descendants, p. 123.
5. "Although active, zealous, and successful, the companion of the men of his time, for twenty-two years, before his death, because of a fall from his carriage, Mr. White was a cripple; depending upon canes. This...kept him out of all Society, except such as could be had at his own hospitable table and fireside; and, except in afternoons, of some of the principal gentlemen of the city, of his own age, who, in those days, habitually assembled at the public coffee-house, for Society merely." Descendants, p. 31.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE BEDROOM

List of suggested furnishings, keyed to  
 drawing of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

North wall, left to right:

Mahogany serpentine front chest of drawers (illus. 28)	Pos. loan or gift	\$3500.
Large Phila. mahogany Chippendale mirror (Hornor PL. 454)		600.
Leather bureau box	INHP Coll.	25.
Pontypool (painted tin) bureau tray		40.
Pa. needlework pocketbook		40.
Linen bureau cloth		15.
Needlework pin cushion		40.
Walnut "sermon" chest with nests of drawers	Pos. loan or gift	850.
Walnut "spice" cabinet, Pa. c. 1760		850.
4 eglomise paintings: "Jonah & the whale, Cain & Abel, Moses & the burning bush, Elijah fed by ravens."	INHP Coll.	100.

East wall, left to right:

Bishop's cape (in closet) [Christ Church]	Pos. loan or gift	75.
18th century male & female clothing (in closet)		300.
Warming pan (in closet)		35.
Pole screen		450.
Brass and iron andirons		450.

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antique

Brass and iron fire toolâ (shovel & tongs)		\$ 65.
Brass and wire fender		85.
1771 portrait of Bishop White (unlocated)	Pos. loan or gift	\$ 800.
Phila. Chippendale side chair (no stretchers)		450.
Leather trunk, decorated with brass tacks (in closet)	INHP Coll	100.

South wall, left to right:

Chippendale side chair (illus. 32)		300.
Mahogany chest of drawers (illus. 27)	INHP Coll.	500.
Linen bureau cloth		15.
Chippendale side chair (illus. 32)		300.
Wash stand (Hornor, PL. 413)		500.
Small mahogany mirror	INHP Coll.	125.
Export porcelain wash bowl		300.
Export porcelain water container		300.
2 glass tumblers @ \$10.		20.
6 18th century razors, hone & case		125.
Brass slop pail with lid		75.
3 section folding wooden towel rack		40.
4 linen towels, Pa. 18th century @ \$10.		40.
Tooth brush	INHP Coll. repairs	10.
3 prs. yellow moreen curtains @ \$200. pr.		600.

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antique

West wall, left to right:

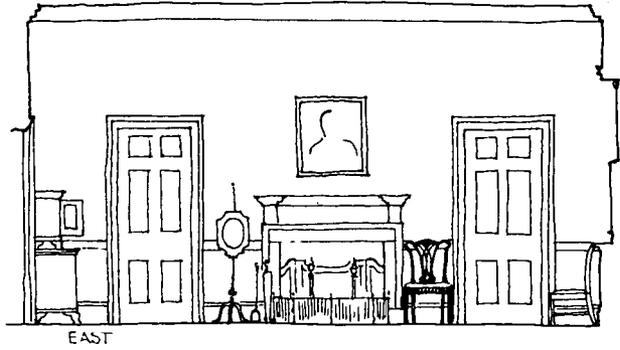
Mahogany "beau brummel" (Hornor, Pl. 418)		\$1200.
Hand mirror, mahogany frame, Eng. 18th century	INHP Coll.	12.
Comb & brush		15.
Scissors		12.
Large copper hot water kettle		85.
Brass, iron and wood trivet		45.
Fabric pot holder, 18th century		15.
Pair brass candlesticks		80.
Chippendale side chair (illus. 32)		\$300.
Phila. Queen Anne walnut commode chair with pewter pot		1800.
Phila. 4 post block foot bed, with tester and hangings		1700.
Sacking bottom	INHP Coll.	20.
Mattress cover	INHP Coll.	25.
Feather bed		30.
Pair of 18th century linen sheets		25.
Linen bolster pillow case	INHP Coll.	10.
Feather bolster		15.
Chintz "Tree of life" counter pane, 18th century		600.
Pair 18th century man's house slippers		75.

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antiqu

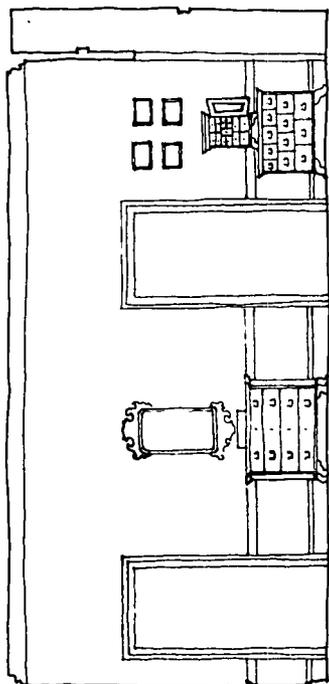
Man's 18th century printed cotton banyan (dressing gown)		\$ 150.
Phila. dished top candlestand		850.
1 medicine bottle, 2 glasses, 1 silver spoon	INHP Coll.	20.
1 large linen napkin, spread on candlestand		10.

Center of room, left to right:

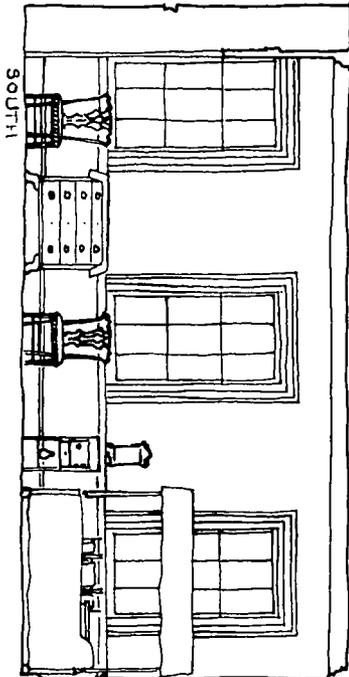
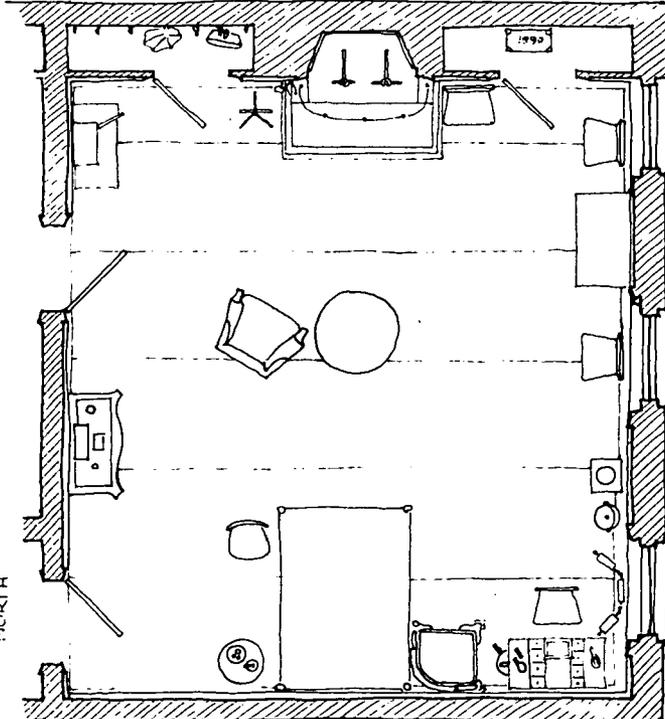
Canton matting (summer)		\$100.
Large Oriental rug (winter)		1800.
Dished top tea table		1800.
"Easy" (wing) chair		1800.



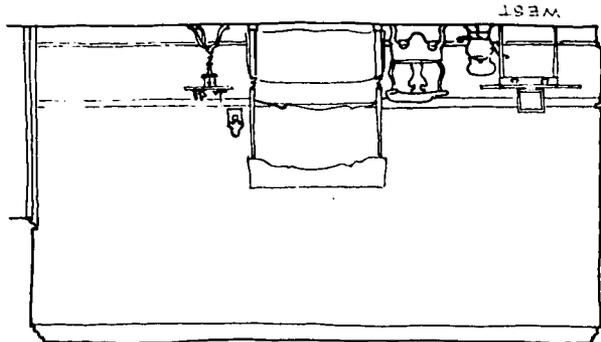
EAST



NORTH



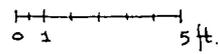
SOUTH



WEST

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
 SECOND FLOOR BEDROOM

C.G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
 P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.



INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
STUDY: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This room, of all the rooms in the house, should represent the Bishop as a devoted husband, scholarly churchman, and warm personality. The picture of his wife in line with his reading chair, the hundreds of books in their purgent leather bindings, and the smoking stand and cigars all portray the Bishop as both a respected citizen and one who lived life fully.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE STUDY

For this room we have almost complete pictorial documentation in the painting by John Sartain.<sup>1</sup> This painting was done sometime between the day after the Bishop's funeral [July 21, 1836] and the sale of the house in November.<sup>2</sup> At a meeting of clergymen held at the Bishop's house soon after his funeral<sup>3</sup> it was decided that a biography should be prepared. The Bishop's protege, Rev. Bird Wilson, was chosen for this task.<sup>4</sup>

By family tradition, John Sartain was commissioned by the Bishop's granddaughter, Elizabeth White Bronson,<sup>5</sup> to do this painting. Obviously, little deviation or artistic license was either expected or permitted of the artist. The painting does exhibit, however, a contrived perspective, so that as much of the room as possible could be shown.

The artist also made an engraving of his painting to illustrate the Bird Wilson biography.<sup>6</sup> In some significant instances this engraving complements the painting; some objects are more clearly delineated in it. Even with the painting and engraving available, it is still necessary to use conjecture in identifying a few of the objects portrayed.

The Bishop solved his first shelving problem here by using the three mahogany book cases he had inherited from his father.<sup>7</sup> As his collection grew, he added makeshift pine shelving and painted it brown. The irregular nature of the shelving shows that it was not planned as a unit that would be at the same time symmetrical and utilitarian.



Oil painting of the Bishop's Study by John Sartain.  
Late summer, 1836. Inherited by William B. Robins.  
NEP neg. #146.

Part D  
Illustration No. 34



*Painted by J. Sertain*

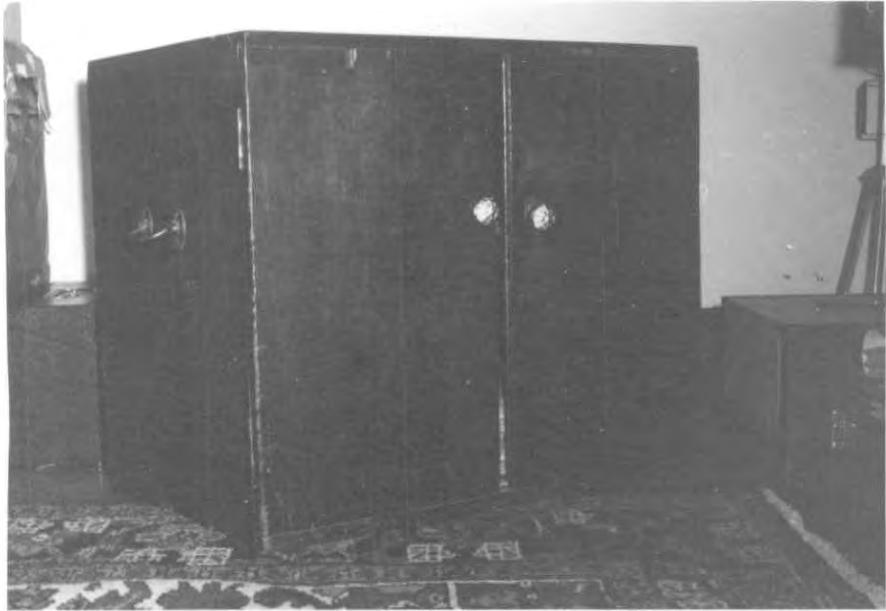
JOHN SERTAIN'S ENGRAVING OF HIS PAINTING OF THE BISHOP'S STUDY.

John Sertain's engraving of his painting of the Bishop's Study. Opposite page 267 in Bird Wilson's Memoir..., Phila., 1839. INHP neg. #7316.

Part D  
Illustration No. 35



Philadelphia Chippendale mahogany side chair, c.1760-80.  
One of an original set of six. Shown in Sartain painting.  
See Study, footnote #1. This chair inherited by Arthur  
DeBardt Robins, Jr. Another from set inherited by George  
P. Robins. INIP neg. #7221-M.



Pine sermon cabinet. Originally in the Bishop White  
House, Pa., c.1790. Inherited by Mrs. Fenner S.  
Barbour. INHP neg. #7221-J.

Two of the mahogany bookcases shown in the painting have lost their single-drawer bases, and the third bookcase has not yet come to light. The bases should be restored and the third bookcase reproduced.

Three Philadelphia Chippendale side chairs appear in the study. Two of these have survived in the hands of descendants thus far contacted. These chairs may have been made by Jonathan Gostelow, the Philadelphia cabinetmaker most intimately associated with the Bishop.<sup>8</sup> The highly-individualistic and finely executed backs of these chairs have no counterparts known to the writer. It will be necessary to reproduce all of the original set of six, pending a possible loan to the house of some of those owned by the family.

The Windsor arm chair shown in the left foreground of the painting has descended to the current William White, Jr. It is stamped "LETCHWORTH"<sup>9</sup> under the seat.

The only documentary reference, found thus far, to the engravings above the mantel concerns the portrait of Bishop Seabury<sup>10</sup> partially shown to the extreme left. The center picture of the middle row shows Moses with the Tablets of the Law, and the print to the right of it shows an unknown Anglican or Episcopal clergyman. The other engravings are too indistinct to be exactly identified. A portable iron coal grate is shown in the fireplace, a paper-bound almanac hangs from the right trim of the mantel, two cigars<sup>11</sup> are on the chair rail, and a pair of scissors is suspended from it. A silver headed cane with tassel leans against the side of the shelving and a thermometer hangs from the side of the shelving above the case.

The painting also records the Bishop's Empire reading chair with green cushions (stylistically the latest object in the room), a makeshift wooden smoking stand nearby, and a mahogany desk<sup>12</sup> in front of it. Upon the desk (now the property of Christ Church, Philadelphia) is a green plush pillow.

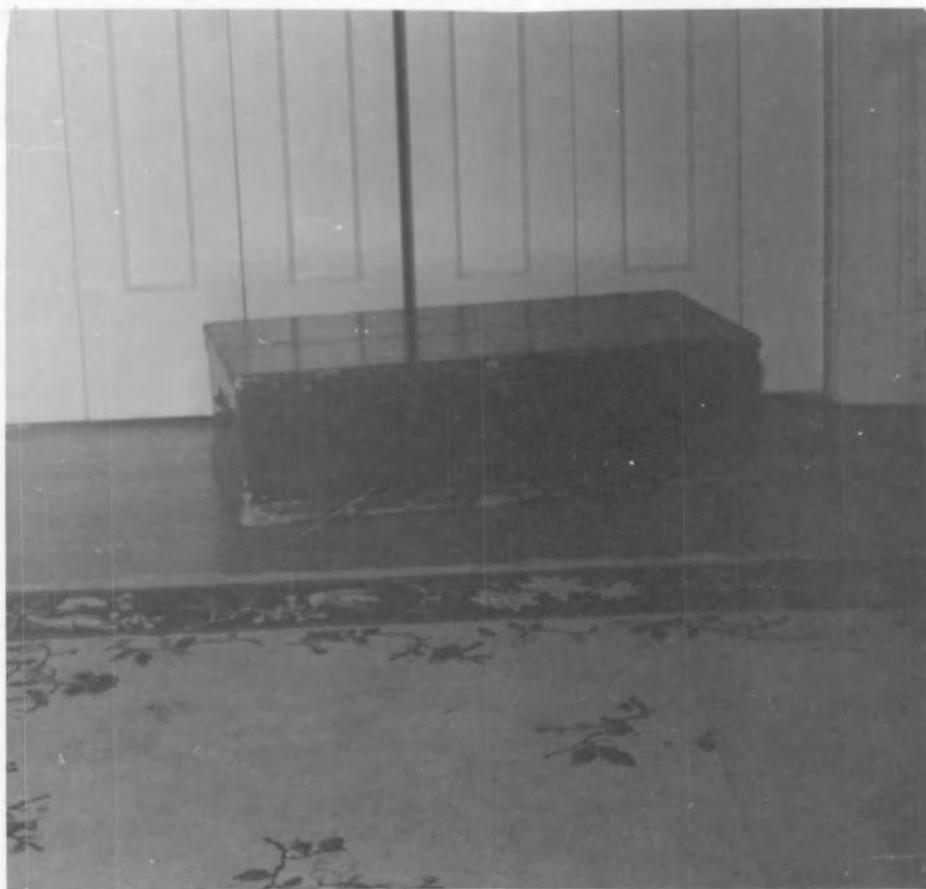
On the floor are three strips of Canton matting.

It has long been the tradition in the Philadelphia area to remove window curtains during the summer season and no curtains appear at the window shown in the painting. Where one would expect to find Venetian blinds at the 1st and 2nd floor windows of the main part of the house, neither the Sartain painting nor markings on the remaining window trim indicate their use here. On the other hand, the soffits of the window heads in the study have two screw holes which may have had screws for what an eighteenth century inventory called "an India blind." These may have pulled up in the Venetian blind manner, but as a roll of reeds instead of wooden louvers.<sup>13</sup> In the absence of other evidence, it is recommended that no blinds be used in the study.

The contrived perspective of the Sartain painting previously mentioned, is nowhere more evident than in the left foreground. Here is what appears to be the edge of an adjustable reading stand, yet in the painting it appears far toward the fireplace wall. Using the line of vision established by the portion of the bedroom shown in the background of the picture, the artist would have been standing by the east window of the study, perhaps using this very reading stand to support his sketch pad.

From a use and space standpoint the ledger cabinet<sup>14</sup> which has survived in the family may have been placed between the windows in the study.

The purpose of the large niche, purposely formed by the makeshift shelving on the west wall, has to date been unidentified. The area is too shallow for it to have been a wall closet. It may, however, have been occupied by a portrait of the Bishop's wife, Mary Harrison White. Thus, such a portrait would have been in the Bishop's line of vision as he sat in his reading chair. A portrait of Mrs. White has not as yet been located.



Pine sermon chest with lid, originally in the Bishop  
White House. Inherited by William White, Jr.  
IHP neg. #7240-E.



Mahogany bookcase #1, inherited by Bishop White from his father. Permanent loan to the Bishop White House by the Philadelphia Divinity School. IIMP neg. #7323.



Portion of Bishop White's Library shown in bookcase #1.  
Permanent loan from Philadelphia Divinity School.  
INHP neg. #7325.



Mahogany bookcase #2, inherited by Bishop White from his father, Phila., c.1750. Crown molding and single drawer base missing. Permanent loan from Philadelphia Divinity School. INHP neg. #7324.



Portion of Bishop White's Library shown in bookcase #2.  
Both permanent loans from Philadelphia Divinity School.  
IMP neg. #7327.

Part D  
Illustration No. 40



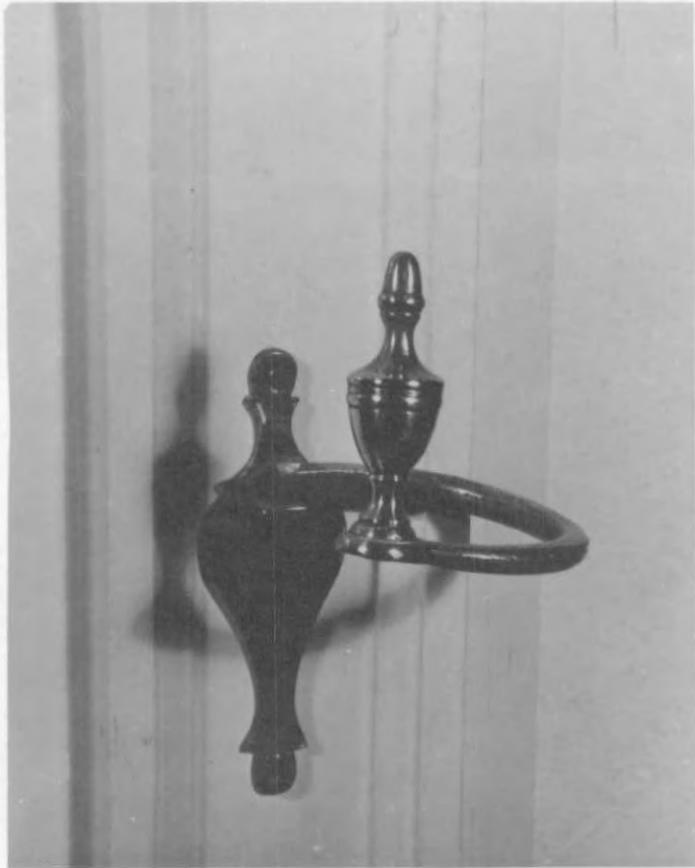
Accounts cabinet which originally belonged to Col. Thomas White, and was inherited by his son the Bishop. Inherited by Lawrence P. White. See Study, footnote #14, and elevations. INIP neg. #7222-D.

Part D  
Illustration No. 41



Philadelphia Windsor arm chair, signed "Letchworth."  
Believed to be the one pictured by Sartain. Inherited  
by William White, Jr. See Study, footnote #9.  
INHP neg. #7240-G.

Part D  
Illustration No. 42

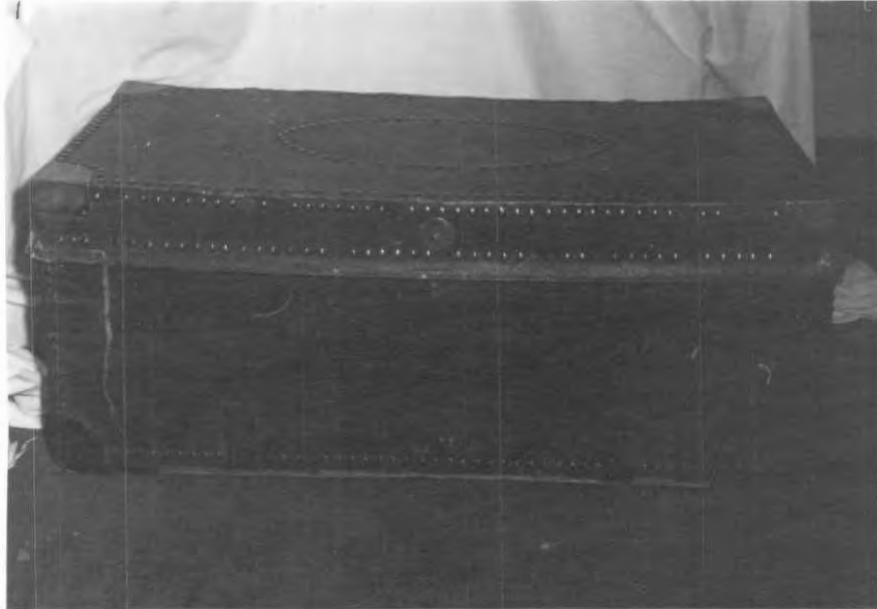


Brass fireplace jamb hook for fire tools.  
One of a pair, originally in the Bishop  
White House. Inherited by Esther DeBerdit  
Vernooten. INHP neg. #7284.



"The Right Reverend SAMUEL SEABURY, D.D. Bishop of Connecticut." Published in London in 1786. Painted by Thomas Spence Duche, son of Rev. Jacob Duche, former rector of Christ Church. Engraved by W. Sharp. Dedicated to Benjamin West, friend of Bishop White, and the artist under whom young Duche studied. IMP neg. #7319.

Part D  
Illustration No. 44



Black leather trunk, decorated with brass tacks, which  
may have belonged to Bishop White, Pa., 1780-1800.  
Inherited by Miss Anne B. Wurts. INHP neg. #7221-E.

Part D  
Illustration No. 45



Mahogany Chippendale desk on frame, and side chair. Both originally in the Bishop White House. Phila., c.1785. Property of Christ Church, Philadelphia. INHP neg. #7311.



1. Illustrations 30 and 31.
2. "Nov. 23 To Cash paym. from C. Chauncey.  
Esq. act of House sold for [\$]25,000"  
Phila., City Archives, Bishop White estate inventory, 1836.
3. See, Preface, Memoir of the Life of The Right Reverend  
William White, D.D.... by Rev. Bird Wilson. 43Opp.,  
illus. Phila., 1839.
4. Ibid.
5. Family tradition related to writer by present owner of painting,  
Mr. William Bradford Robins, September, 1960.
6. Memoir, opposite page 267; also illustration 31
7. Calling card of: "Mr. Thos: H. Montgomery" tacked to inside right  
door of book case #1, bearing inscription in ink: "Book Case of  
Col. Thomas White from Bishop White's Library in possession of  
Mrs: Henry Reed 1836 to 1897."
8. See Bishop White Bedroom, footnote 2.
9. John Letchworth, Phila. Windsor chair maker, working 1760 to 1805.  
see illustration 38.
10. "...Thomas Spence Duche, the only son of the Rev. Jacob Duche, who  
had painted the portrait of Bishop Seabury, so well known by the  
engraving of William Sharp, which young Duche had published in  
London on 20 April, 1786, and sent Bishop White an early impression  
of. It was this print which hung in the Bishop's library, over the

mantel, the rest of his days, and can be recognized on the margin of Sartain's painting, Descendants, p. 166.

11. "To the end of his life he adhered tenaciously to wearing small clothes. He was careful in his diet. His regular allowance of cigars was four a day." Descendants, p. 38.
12. See illustration 42.
13. See appendix H, p. 1.
14. See illustration 40. This cabinet, similar in form to the study bookcases, has descended to Lawrence P. White with the same tradition of having belonged first to Col. Thomas White and then to the Bishop.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE STUDY

List of suggested furnishings , keyed to  
 drawing of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

North wall, left to right:

Pine sermon cabinet with doors	Pos. loan or gift	\$ 40.	
Adjustable reading stand			\$550.
Ledger cabinet (illus. 37)	Pos. loan or gift	250.	
Leather bound ledgers, rolls of writing paper	Pos. loan or gift		100.
Leather trunk, brass tack decoration (illus. 41)	Pos. loan or gift		100.
2 pairs of green moreen curtains © \$200. (winter)		400.	

East wall, left to right:

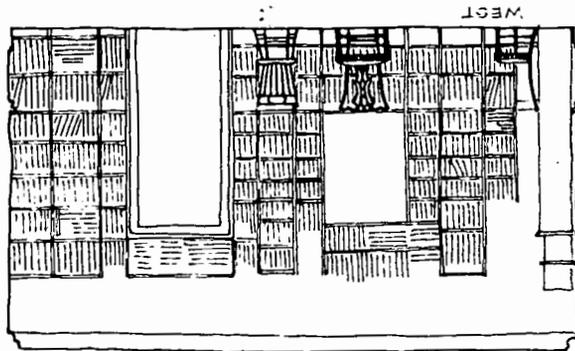
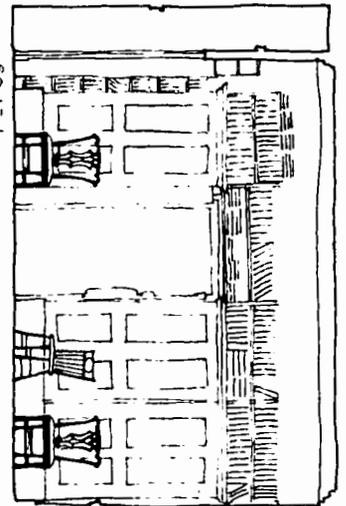
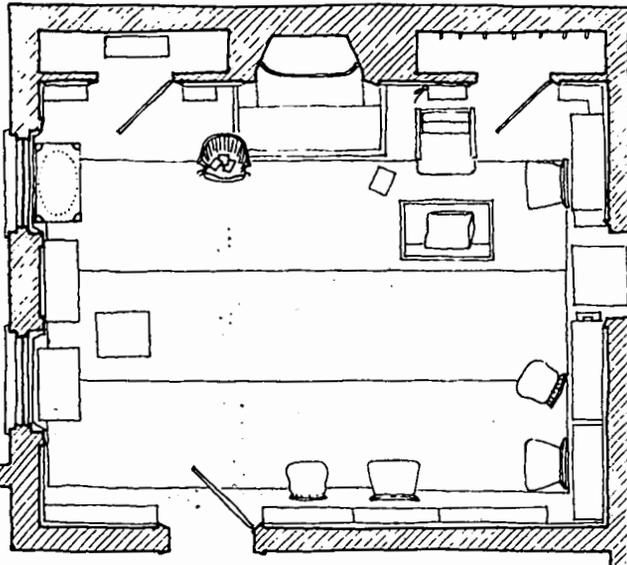
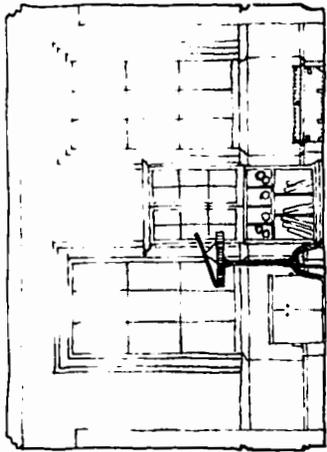
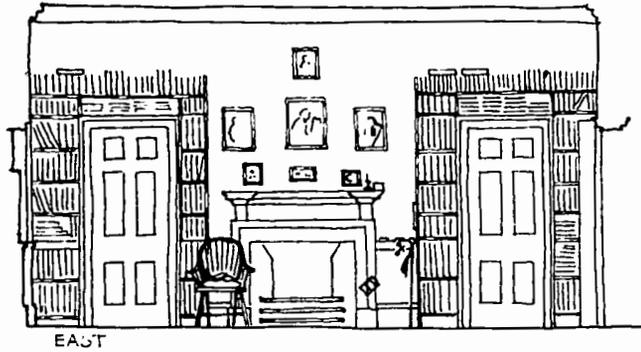
Pine, open bookshelves, painted brown		50.	
Pine sermon box with lid (illus. 32) (in closet)	Pos. loan or gift		20.
Pine, open bookshelves, painted brown		50.	
Windsor armchair signed "Letchworth." (illus. 38)	INHP Coll.		65.
Fireplace tools, shovel, tongs, poker			65.
Brass coal bucket			75.
Portable iron grate (illus. 30)			50.
Engraving of Bishop Seabury (illus. 40)			40.

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

Engraving, portrait of unknown clergyman		\$ 10.
Engraving of unknown clergyman		10.
Engraving, Moses with Tablets of the Law		40.
Engraving, subject unknown		10.
Engraving, subject may be Bishop Provoost of N. Y.		40.
Engraving, subject unknown		10.
Paper bound almanac for year 1836		4.
Two cigars @ .20		.40
Pair of scissors		4.
Silver headed cane with tassel		10.
Hanging thermometer		35.
Empire reading chair		\$175.
"Smoking" stand		20.
Book (on stand)		5.
Chippendale desk on frame	Pos. loan	350.
Green plush covered pillow	or gift	10.
Small pine foot stool		10.
Pine, open bookshelves, painted brown		50.
<u>South wall, left to right:</u>		
Pine, open bookshelves, painted brown		50.
Mahogany bookcase (illus. 35)	INHP Coll.	250.
Chippendale side chair	Restoration	
	Pos. loan	300.
	or gift	
Pine, open bookshelves, painted brown		50.

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction    Antiques

Pine, open bookshelves, painted brown		\$ 50.	
Large barometer, c. 1825			\$ 150.
Mahogany bookcase (illus. 36)	Restoration	250.	
Bamboo Windsor side chair	INHP Coll.		25.
Mahogany bookcase		500.	
Chippendale side chair		300.	
<u>West wall, left to right:</u>			
Pine, open bookshelves, painted brown		500.	
Chippendale side chair		300.	
Portrait of Mary Harrison White (unlocated)	Pos. loan or gift	800.	
Bamboo Windsor side chair	INHP Coll.		25.
<u>Center of room:</u>			
Canton matting for summer		60.	
Ingrain or Brussels carpet for winter		400.	



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE

# THE STUDY

C. G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.

0 1 5 ft.

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
3rd FLOOR HALL: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This area is primarily a passageway and should contain a minimum amount of furniture. A large eighteenth century Pennsylvania kas or wardrobe has been placed near the door to the front bedroom occupied by the Thomas Harrison Whites. This would contain blankets, bed clothing, and winter wearing apparel stored during the warm seasons.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE - 3rd FLOOR HALL

List of suggested furnishings keyed to drawing  
of floor plan and elevations

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antique

East wall, left to right:

Single light brass sconce with clear  
glass hurricane shade (electrified)  
(on stair landing)

\$ 32.

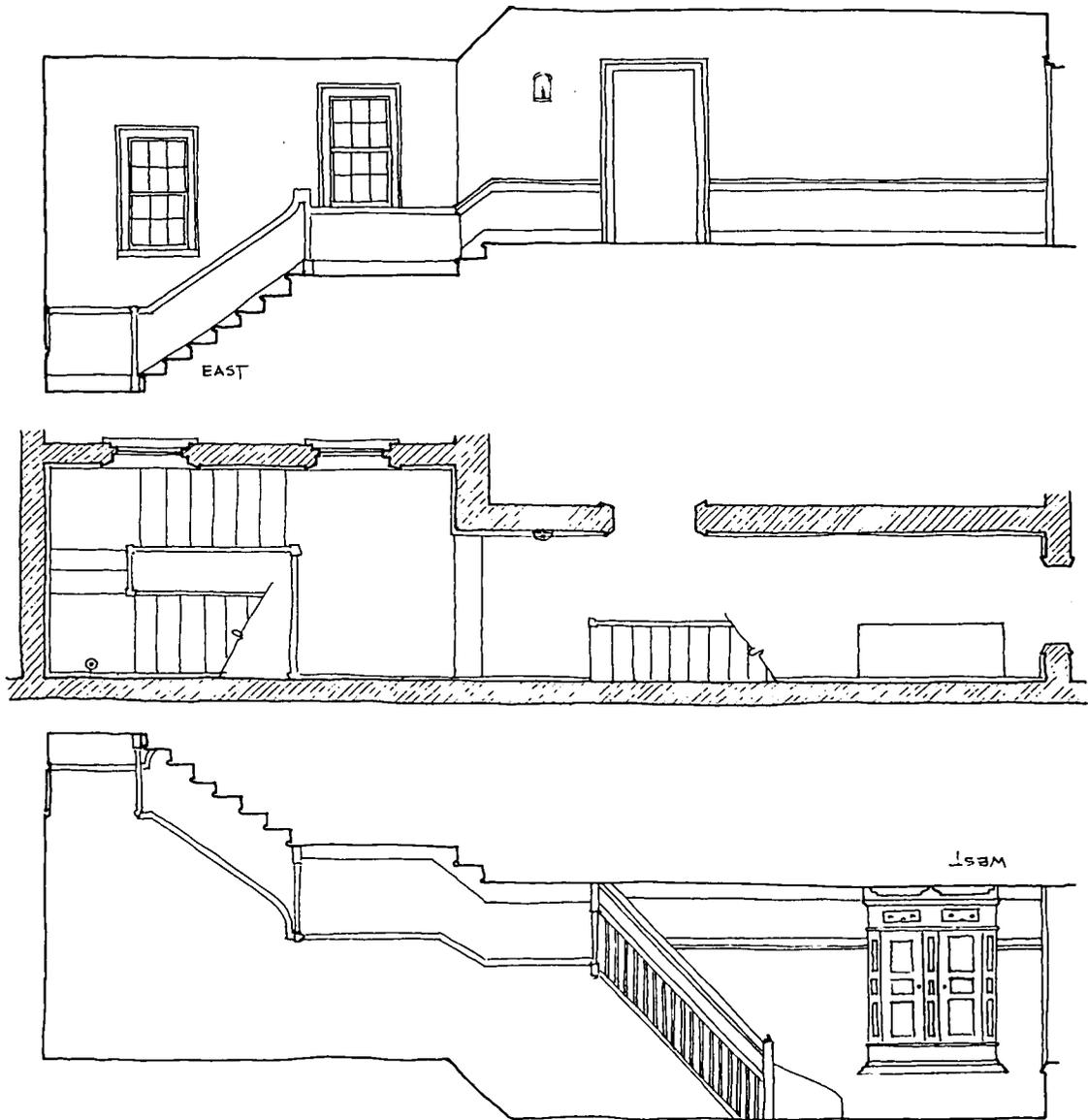
Tin sconce with single electric candle

\$ 45.

West wall, left to right:

Pennsylvania walnut kas

40.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
THIRD FLOOR HALL

C. G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.

0 1 5 ft.

INTERPRETTVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
3rd FLOOR FRONT BEDROOM: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This room represents the bedroom of a young early nineteenth century Philadelphia couple who have set up housekeeping with in-laws, and could be typical of all struggling newlyweds who have established their first homes with a parent, before venturing a separate household all to themselves.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE - 3rd FLOOR FRONT BEDROOM

The Thomas Harrison Whites apparently set up housekeeping at No. 89 Walnut Street at the Bishop's request.<sup>1</sup> Thus their bedroom would represent as far as possible, the taste in furnishings of the new Mrs. White. Two pieces of furniture which have descended in the family may have been in this room originally; the small walnut chest of drawers<sup>2</sup> which has descended in the family from Mary Harrison, the Bishop's mother-in-law, and the Sheraton sewing stand, believed to have been purchased by Maria Heath White. All the pieces represent items the Whites may have received as wedding presents, and which were appropriate for the room, or were purchased specifically for it. Between the doors to the hall and the children's room there is a mahogany high chest in the newest fashion, with a gaily colored hat box on top of it, reminiscent of the new bonnet for the bride and much too useful to discard. On each side is a bamboo Windsor side chair, above these are sepia engravings in gold frames (after George Morland), bucolic subjects typical of the "appropriate" wedding gift and as sweetly sentimental as the novels of the era. The family heirloom chest of drawers sits in the northeast corner of the room, upon it has been placed one of the most valued wedding presents, a mantel clock. With its strike it provides the time of day for the occupants of the third floor, and may be set to ring just after the tall case clock down in the parlor, so that if its hour is missed the third floor clock will serve as a repeater.

If the Puritan adage: "Idle hands are the work of the Devil" carried its impact into the eighteenth century, a genteel predilection for needle work by ladies of that era can be explained. A pole screen by the fireplace provides both protection from the heat and a display place for Mrs. White's needlework. Above the fireplace is one of her childhood samplers. Thomas Harrison White's hot water for shaving and washing is contained in the large copper kettle on the hearth. In the morning this kettle can be safely set upon its trivet and placed alongside the corner wash stand.

The late Sheraton sewing stand is a counterpart of one which is believed to have been in the house originally, and has been placed to the right of the fireplace. In front of the fireplace are a child's Fancy Sheraton, rush seat arm chair, a large wing chair, and a Pembroke writing table. Mrs. White would have wished to attend to her correspondence without the interruptions to be had from callers and servants on the first floor. Although there is a desk in the parlor, this, a valued possession inherited by the Bishop from his father, must have been considered the special domain of the owner of the house. In the corner is a basket filled with clothing in need of repair, waiting for that free moment when the young wife of the house can turn from her child, asleep in the cradle, to the task of replacing buttons on her husband's shirts.

A Sheraton dressing table has been provided for Mrs. White between the east and center windows. Before the table is a Fancy Sheraton painted side chair, and on it is a mahogany bureau stand with swinging

Part D  
Illustration No. 49



Small walnut chest of drawers, originally owned by the mother of Mrs. William White, Mrs. George Harrison. Descended to the Bishop's wife and to the present owner, Arthur DeBerdt Robins. Identified in family wills. See 3rd floor front bedroom, footnote #2. IGHF neg. #7222-J.



Mahogany sewing stand, Phila., c.1815-25, believed to have been in the Bishop White House. Inherited by Mrs. Paul C. Washburn. INHP neg. #7222-B.

glass. In front of the center window is an eighteenth century Delaware Valley rush seat side chair converted to a rocking chair. Here Mrs. White could rock her baby prior to placing it in the cradle by the bed, and at the same time see out the window to the busy street below. The adjoining wall space is filled with a low chest of drawers, above which hangs a large Chippendale style looking glass. Though the refinements of dressing one's hair might be done at the dressing table, the looking glass for the last minute inspections of themselves and their apparel by both husband and wife would have been before this glass. In front of the west window is a folding towel rack, placed here to be near the corner wash stand and also to provide drying sunlight and air for the towels after they had been used.

Beside the bed is a candlestand with projecting top to hold two chamber sticks and also, on occasion, a book one has put aside when sleep is about to conquer insomnia. The field bed stands almost in the center of the west wall and has a Chintz covering in the winter and a net covering in the summer. The flies were so thick in the summer that yards of "Gauzo,"<sup>3</sup> tinted green have been draped over the tester frame, with a few extra yards spread over the nearby cradle. Next to this is a Fancy Sheraton rush seat arm chair. On this wall are two sentimental engravings to match those on each side of the high chest of drawers. Perhaps other scenes after George Morland that would appeal to a sentimental young mother of the year 1805.

Chintz curtains to match the bed curtains are suggested for winter. In summer the windows would have been undraped. Scatter oriental rugs are suggested for floor covering in the winter, and Canton matting for the summer.

1. At this period, 1804, the Bishop's household was the smallest it was ever to be. His two daughters had left to set up homes with their husbands, leaving just the Bishop, his son, and two or three servants. Thomas Harrison White may have felt that as he was the last of the Bishop's children to marry, he could not leave his father alone in such a large house.

The Bishop writing to Bishop Inglis of Nova Scotia in 1826, said: "My son has been a widower since ye year 1814, having then lost a very lovely Wife, who had been Mistress of my House for about eight years." Descendants, p. 158.

2. "The oldest piece of furniture, the little bureau, which was my great great grandmother Harrison's (Mrs. Henry Harrison nee Aspden) I give to my nephew Arthur de Berdt Robins." Excerpts from will of Mary Bronson Reed, died 1913. In collection of Mrs. Paul C. Washburn, Leominster, Mass.
3. "In the back room up stairs...  
1 bundle green gauze L 1." appendix B, p. 3.  
"A suit Muskitto Curtains & some Bolster Cases L 2.5.-." appendix H, p. 4.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE 3rd FLOOR FRONT BEDROOM

List of suggested furnishings, keyed to  
drawing of wall elevatiin and floor plan

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antiqu

South wall, left to right:

Sheraton lady's dressing table	\$ 350.
Sheraton swinging glass with drawers	150.
Pr. brass candlesticks	55.
Needlework pin cushion	35.
Linen bureau cloth	15.
Export Porcelain bureau tray	125.
Comb & brush	10.
Pr. of glass scent bottles	30.
Phila. Hepplewhite Pembroke table (center of room)	400.
Phila. Hepplewhite wing chair	1200.
Writing paper	2.
Brass inkstand & pen	40.
Leather box	25.
Delaware Valley slat back rocking chair	45.
Pa. Sheraton mahogany bow front chest of drawers	300.
Large mahogany framed mirror	400.
Wooden bureau box	55.
Pair brass candlesticke	80.

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antiqu:

Pin Cushion		\$ 35.
Early 19th century comb & brush		15.
Mahogany framed handmirror	INHP Coll.	12.
Linen bureau cloth		15.
Folding wooden towel rack c. 1800		20.
3 Pa. homespun linen towels @\$4.00	INHP Coll.	12.
Mahogany corner washstand	INHP Coll.	35.
Creamware pitcher		40.
Creamware mug		15.
Glass tumbler		10.

West wall, left to right:

Trumbull engraving of Washington		30.
Pa. early 19th century bedside table		150.
Pa. Sheraton field bed	INHP Coll.	300.
Linsey-woolsey coverlet	INHP Coll.	80.
Pair of homespun linen sheets		20.
Feather bed		10.
Sacking bottom	Pos. gift	15.
Bolster pillow		10.
Bolster pillowcase		10.
Net tester		30.
Early 19th century hooded cradle		25.



Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antiques

Engraving, Declaration of Independence,  
 by Trumbull \$ 30.

Phila. fancy Sheraton rush seat armchair 35.

North wall, left to right:

Bamboo Windsor side chair INHP Coll. 30.

Engraving, "Fisherman's Farewell" INHP Coll. 20.<sup>ad</sup>

Phila. Sheraton mahogany high chest 600.

Early 19th century wallpaper hat box 40.

Bamboo Windsor side chair INHP Coll. 30.

Engraving, (companion to above after  
 Geo. Morland ) 20.

Small walnut chest of drawers (illus. 49) INHP Coll. 300.  
 Pos. loan or gift

Phila. early 19th century bracket clock 1200.

East wall, left to right:

Phila. Sheraton pole screen 400.

Copper hot water kettle 55.

Brass & iron trivet 35.

Sheraton Child's arm chair 35.

Brass and iron andirons 200.

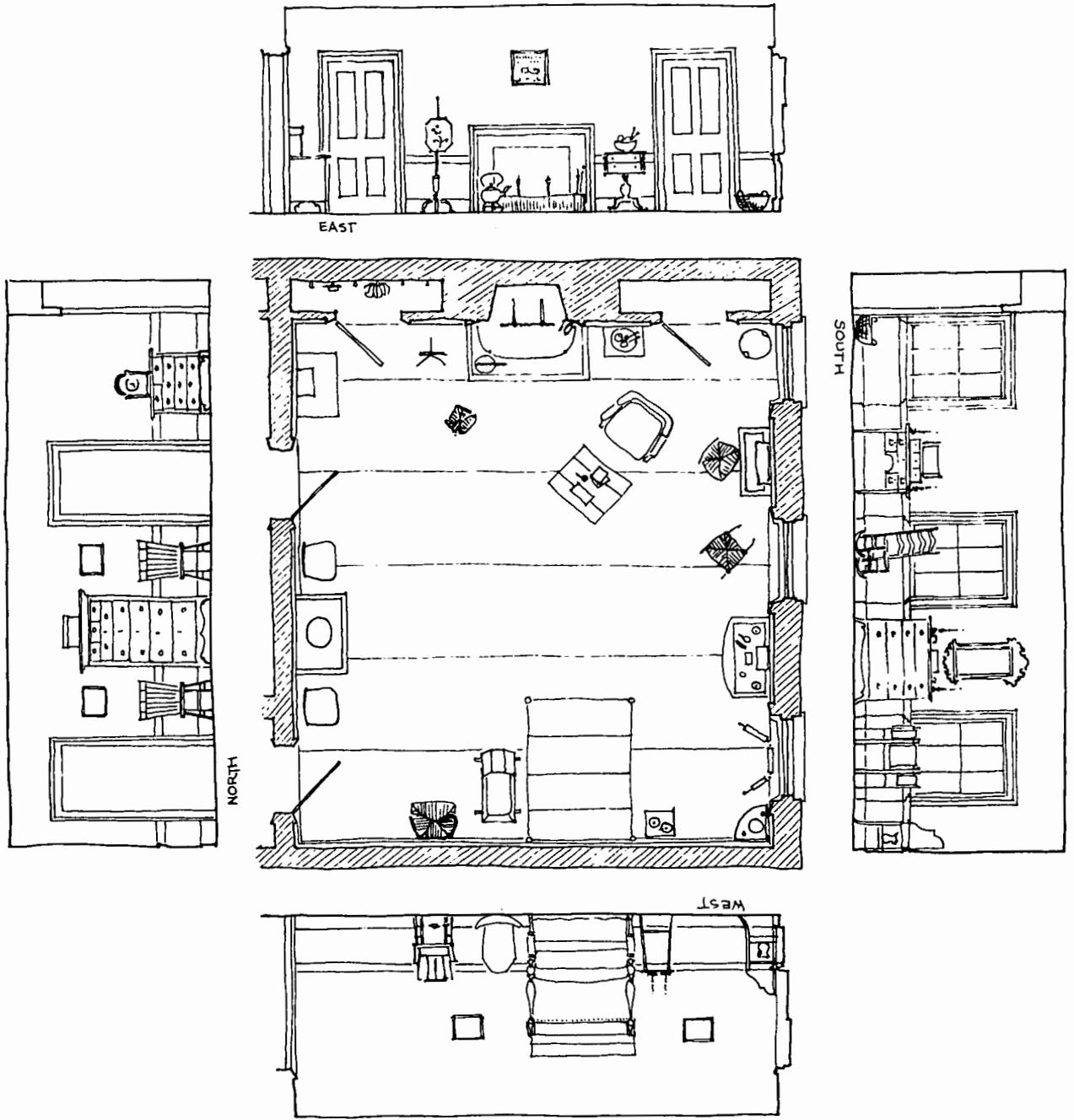
Fire shovel & tongs 30.

Brass & wire fender 85.

Large needlework sampler 50.

Mahogany Sheraton sewing stand INHP Coll. 180.  
 (illus. 50) Pos. loan or gift

	<u>Estimated cost</u>
	Reproduction Antiques
Knitting basket, yarn & needles	15.
Clothing for young man & woman, early 19th century (in closet)	\$ 200.
Clothes basket	40.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
THIRD FLOOR FRONT BEDROOM

C.G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.

0 1 5 ft.

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
3rd FLOOR REAR BEDROOM: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This room is representative of the bedrooms of all the daughters and granddaughters of the Bishop's family. It shows the trappings of childhood known to young girls of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Philadelphia.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE - 3rd FLOOR REAR BEDROOM

To stop the clock and freeze a short span of time, in order to interpret a room used by so many children, over such a long period of time, would be misleading.

When the White family moved into its new home in the late Spring of 1787, the children were: Elizabeth, age 11; Mary, age 10; Thomas, age 8; William, age 3; and Henry, age 2. This room has been furnished to represent a bedroom shared by the Bishop's daughters Elizabeth and Mary; but it can also serve to represent the period of occupancy by his granddaughter Mary Harrison White in 1810, and the two Macpherson granddaughters in 1814. These children ranged in age from 5 to 11 years.

Only one item of furniture has thus far been located in the family that could have conceivably been in this room. This is a small walnut chest of drawers.<sup>1</sup> This has been placed between the windows and a small mid eighteenth century looking glass hung above it. Both chest of drawers and looking glass are out-of-style for a 1787 house and have been relegated to the third floor. A comb and brush for each girl has been placed upon the chest. In the spirit of childhood, games, dolls, needle-work and story books have been placed in the room. Upon the floor near the reading chair is a "Lotto" game with cards for two; it is easily expandable to as many as 10 cards if small friends have come to visit for a rainy afternoon. Back of the Windsor arm chair is a small bookcase for small books. Here one finds a selection of children's books. Some are bound in colorful wallpaper, while other long-time favorites, are

child-size copies of the bindings in Grandpa's Study below. "Little Goody Two Shoes, Robinson Crusoe" and many others provide entertainment with a strong moral.

The fireplace has been supplied with a high nursery style fender for safety's sake. Above the fireplace molding are four engravings with a moral to mold young minds, Hogarth's "The Good Apprentice." The corner of the room to the right of the fireplace is furnished with a towel rack and towels, and a bench supplied with water pitcher, wash bowl and toothbrushes. so that good habits of cleanliness can be formed using utensils at a comfortable height for children.

Each girl has her own painted low post bed. They have been placed at right angles to each other so that the inside corner can become a make believe "playhouse," apart from the bedroom itself. In this area are a miniature chest of drawers, mirror, tea table, doll's tea set, and two dolls, seated in Windsor side chairs. Above the bed of the 11 year old girl is her completed sampler, appropriately framed. The ten year old, however, is still working on hers, and it can be seen, in its work frame, upon her bed.

The closets provide a clothing storage area, but further storage is provided by a blanket chest. Upon the chest are two more dolls, perhaps last year's birthday presents and thus temporarily retired in favor of more recent presents. A trinket box is also on the blanket chest. This contains toy sherds found in the house, a pottery chair, doll's hat, and marbles.

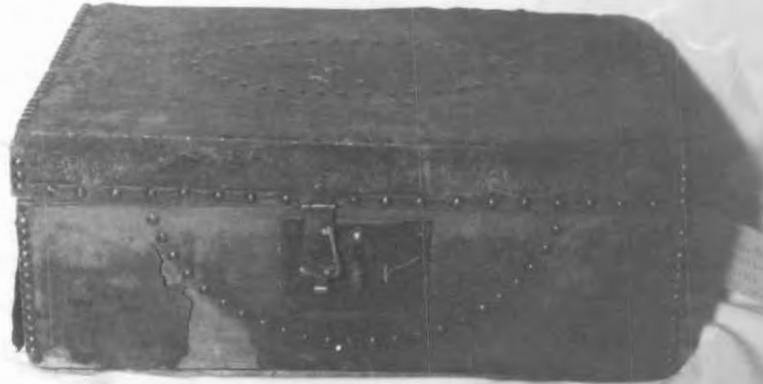


Small walnut chest of drawers, believed to have been  
in the Bishop White House., Pa., c.1760. Inherited  
by Arthur DeBerdt Robins. INHP neg. #7222-I.



Black leather traveling box, decorated with brass  
tacks, which may have belonged to Bishop White,  
Pa., 1790-1810. Inherited by Miss Anne B. Wurts.  
IMP neg. #7221-I.

Part D  
Illustration No. 54



Leather covered trunk, with brass tack decoration,  
which may have belonged to Bishop White, Phila.,  
c.1805. Inside the lid is the following label:  
James Kerr / Saddler, Bridle Cutter / Harness &  
Trunk Maker / No. 52, / North Second Street,  
adjoining / George Tavern / Philadelphia.  
12" x 19 1/2" x 8 1/2". Inherited by Miss Anne B.  
Wurts. IMP neg. #7221-G.

For summer the floor is covered with Canton matting, while in winter it is covered with a rag rug. The winter curtains could be white dimity, but in summer the curtains here, like the rest of the house, have been removed.

1. See illustration No. 52

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE - 3rd FLOOR REAR BEDROOM

List of suggested furnishings, keyed to  
 drawings of floor plans and elevations

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

North wall, left to right:

Small Phila., walnut chest of drawers	INHP Coll.	\$ 300.
Linen bureau cloth		15.
2 combs, 2 brushes, early 19th century		20.
Early 18th century Phila., looking glass		200.

East wall, left to right:

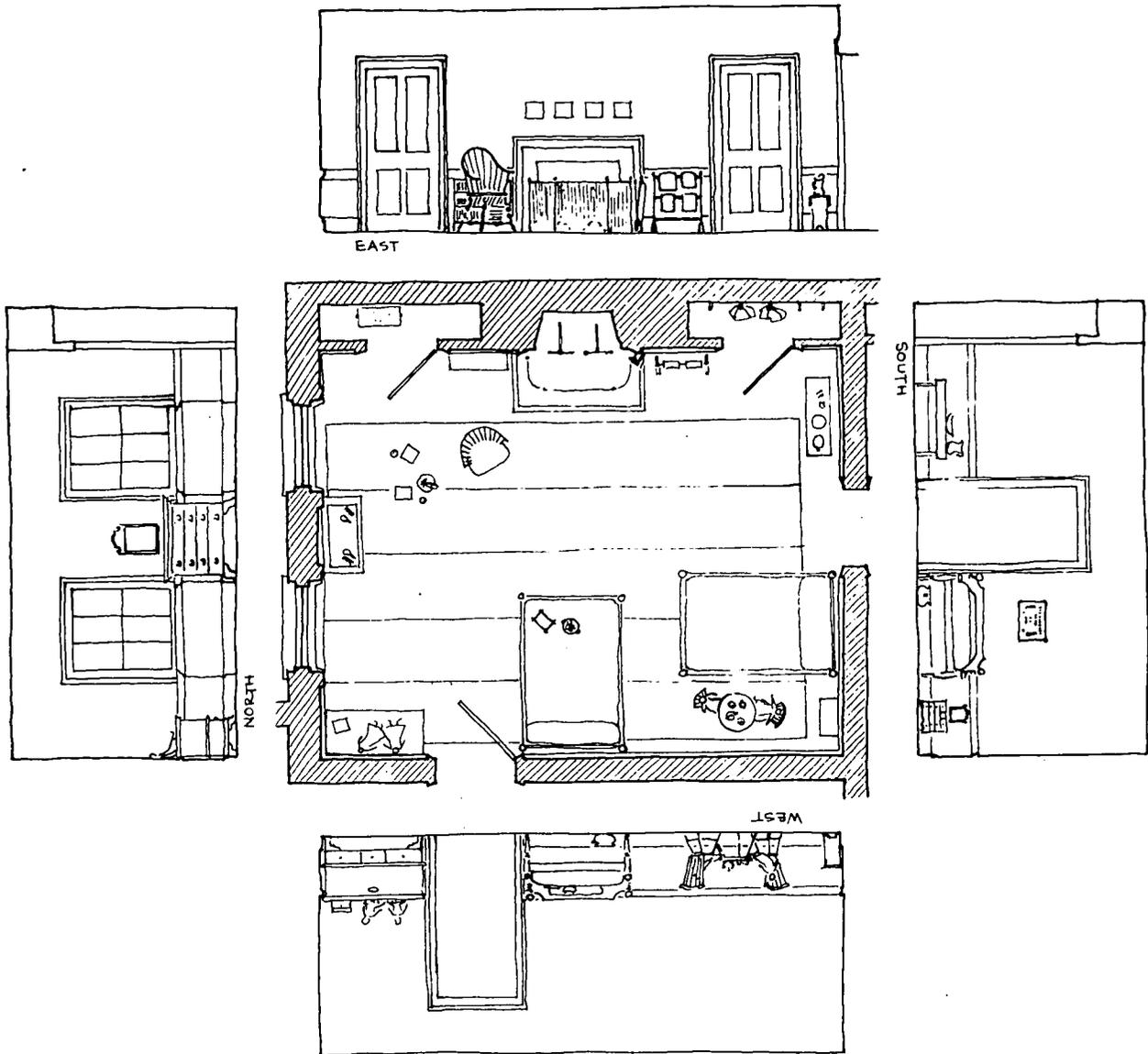
Early 19th century Phila., Windsor armchair		60.
Small leather trunk (in closet)	Pos. loan or gift	40.
Child's game (on floor)	INHP Coll	40.
Pine bookshelves with late 18th century & early 19th century children's books		200.
Nursery type (high) wire & brass fender		75.
Brass & iron andirons		250.
Iron & brass shovel & tongs		25.
Wooden towel rack		35.
4 linen towels		16.
4 late 18th century engravings of Hogarth's "The Industrious Apprentice"		160.

South wall, left to right:

Pine bench		25.
2 tooth brushes, early 19th century	INHP Coll repairs	\$ 10.

	<u>Estimated cost</u>
	Reproduction    Antique
Copper wash bowl	\$ 25.
Pewter Mug	15.
Brass water pitcher	25.
Linen towel (on bench)	4.
Early 19th century low post bed	65.
Sacking bottom	15.
Feather bed	\$ 10.
Coverlet,	75.
2 linen sheets	20.
Pillow	5.
Pillow case	5.
Miniature chest of drawers, Pa., 18th century	400.
Miniature Chippendale mirror, 18th century	150.
Late 18th century Pa., sampler	35.
Pa., redware chamber pot	15.
<u>West wall, left to right:</u>	
Late 18th or early 19th century Pa., child's Windsor side chair	200.
Late 18th or early 19th century child's doll	200.
Late 18th or early 19th century child's table	300.
Early 19th century doll's tea set	150.
Late 18th or early 19th century Pa., child's Windsor side chair	200.

	<u>Estimated cost</u>	
	Reproduction	Antiqu
Pa., low post bed	\$	65.
2 homespun linen sheets		20.
Sacking bottom		15.
Feather bed	\$10.	
Pillow	5.	
Pillow case		5.
Coverlet		75.
Sampler work frame & balls of yarn (on bed)	15.	
Pa., redware chamber pot		15.
Pa., walnut blanket chest		200.
2 early 19th century dolls @200.		400.
Small trinket box containing toy artifacts found in B. W. drain		25.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
THIRD FLOOR REAR BEDROOM

C. G. DORMAN, DESIGNER.  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.

0 1 5ft.

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
OPEN CELLAR: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This area, the Open Cellar, to which members of the household had access, as opposed to the Wine Cellar, which the head of the house kept under lock and key, is typical of late eighteenth century Philadelphia houses of this size.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE OPEN CELLAR

The passage connecting the Scullery and Laundry with the Open Cellar is supplied with a jelly stand,<sup>1</sup> jugs for vinegar and cooking oils, two flour barrels and a pine bench. In the Open Cellar itself we find along the east wall neatly piled fire wood partially supported by the stonework piers which underpin the Dining Room fireplace. In front of this stack of wood is a chopping block with hatchet and nearby a basket filled with wood chips and kindling.

The southern half of the east wall area, being nearest the outside cellar door, is supplied with gardening equipment which would be stored either here, or in a locked garden house. We do not yet know how the Bishop's garden area was planned and equipped, so the more valuable garden accessories have been placed in this portion of the cellar.

Upon the gardener's pine work table we find five glass forcing bells and two trowels. The drawing presents the house in mid summer, so the forcing bells, used in spring to protect young plants from frost and hurry their development, and at other times to protect rose slips during their initial growth, have been returned to the cellar. On the shelf under the work table are empty flower pots and a trowel. Along the rest of the wall are other garden implements placed there after a recent session of watering and trimming the garden on the part of the member of the household delegated to do this work: two tin watering cans, a hoe, a wooden wheelbarrow,<sup>2</sup> a spade, a rake, and a broom. This dimly lighted area is supplied with a large two-candle wood and glass lantern suspended

above the work table. In this same area near the cellar door is a stone and iron lawn roller<sup>3</sup> and a wooden ladder.

Along the west wall beyond the entrance from the Scullery are barrels of fish, pickles, and illuminating oil and a wooden bin for corn meal, wheat flour, and bran. This area is also supplied with a wood and glass two-light lantern.

1. See Appendix K, page 5.
2. See Appendix V, page 9.
3. Ibid.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE OPEN CELLAR

List of suggested furnishings, keyed to  
drawing of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated Cost  
Reproduction Antique

North wall:

Empty

East wall, left to right:

Stoneware oil jug	\$ 20.
Long pine bench	50.
Splint basket filled with kindling	25
Chopping block (tree trunk)	10
15th century hatchet	25.
Chord wood	75
Pine work table	150.
Wood and glass lantern	60.
5 glass forcing bells @ \$65.	325.
6 flower pots @ \$ 5.	30.
18th century trowel	20.
18th century tin watering can	150.
18th century hoe	15.
18th century wheel barrow	150.
18th century shovel	15.
18th century rake	15.

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antique

18th century tin watering can \$150.

Broom \$ 5.

West wall, left to right:

5 stoneware oil jugs @ \$20. 100.

Pine jelly stand 200.

8 barrels @ \$30. 240.

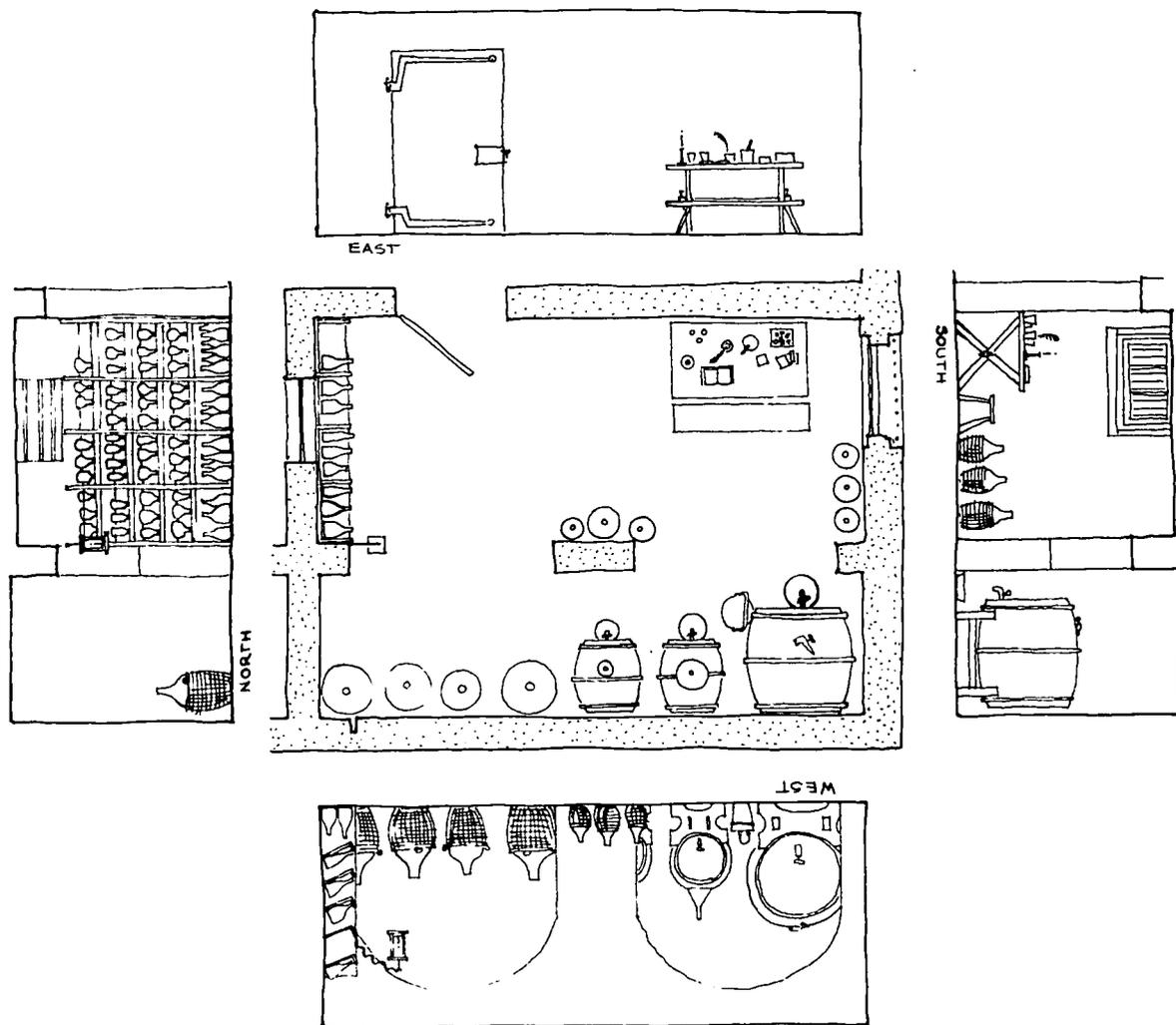
Grain bin 75.

18th century lawn roller 75.

18th century ladder 50.

South wall:

Empty



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
WINE CELLAR

C. J. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.

0 1 5 ft.

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
WINE CELLAR: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

Using archeological and documentary evidence, the Bishop's wine cellar has been carefully restored to its probable appearance when shared by the Bishop and his wine-merchant son. It may have had wines of a better quality than other comparable houses, but is, nonetheless, typical of an eighteenth century household where frequent entertaining was the custom.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE WINE CELLAR

Bishop White drank wine with his meals,<sup>1</sup> had a commodious wine cellar,<sup>2</sup> and shared his house and obviously his wine cellar with his son Thomas, a prominent wine merchant.<sup>3</sup> At the very outset we see that the wine cellar had its beginnings in a convivial fashion, for the stone masons engaged in its construction placed the wine bottles they had emptied in the wall itself. These survive today, and with the wine bottle sherds found in the privy drain of the house, provide archeological evidence of the original use of the room. The fact that the door to the wine cellar was strongly built and was supplied with a large lock, and that both the window and the air vent to the open cellar were barred, shows that the wines therein were valued by the owners and that every discouragement was provided for the servant who might wish to slake his thirst without permission.

A wine cellar comparable to the Bishop's can be found in the estate inventory of John F. Mifflin, Esq.<sup>4</sup> Here we find containers with now archaic names and measures like: Pipe,<sup>5</sup> Quarter Cask,<sup>6</sup> and Demijean.<sup>7</sup>

On the north wall, out of range of any rays of the sun from the south window, is a large wine rack for bottled champagnes and white wines, whose effervescence must be preserved by storing the bottle at an angle so that its cork will remain wet and expanded. Projecting from a wooden shelf is a wrought iron lantern bracket supporting a wood and glass lantern. This would give just enough light for a leisurely perusal of the vintages. Against the east wall is a pine table with a bench before it. Here we find

sampling glasses, a candlestick, wine ledger, pen, labels, and a pastepot. Against the south wall and the center pier of the room are demijohns fitted with wicker jackets.

Arranged along the west wall is the "heavy artillery" of the collection, large casks on racks, supplied with spigots, drip pans, funnels and a waste bucket. Next to these are large wicker-encased demijohns.

1. "...should Carter be serious about meeting us on Monday 11 July - you can tell him we contemplate dining that day at the Spread Eagle there[.] therefore he can have ready for us a good dinner, 2 excellant segars and a little choice wine." [Rev. Jackson Kemper to his wife, written at Stoystown, Pa., 6/28/1825.] Transcript owned by George P. Robins.

"Nothing fatigues the B[isho]p. The country custom is for every one who pleases, to come into the sick room and remain as long as they choose. I have frequently proposed to interfere, but in fact he likes it, it amuses him and as he has no fever it is doubtless of service, and he takes his full share in the conversation and tells some admirable anecdotes - many of which will long be remembered in Lewistown... The Bp. has been down stairs all day, drank a glass of wine and has no fatigue." [Rev. Kemper to his wife, Lewistown, Pa., Oct. 20, 1824.]

2. See illustration #56.
3. "Thomas Harrison White, the third and last, in order of this sketch, of Bishop White's children, and the only son who lived to maturity, was born in Philadelphia, November 12th, 1779. For some years he was in business in Philadelphia as a wholesale wine merchant. He was an enthusiastic admirer of General Washington, whom he remembered as a visitor in his father's house. He married Mary Key Heath, who died March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1814, the daughter of General Richard Heath of Baltimore, Md., and died in October, 1859, having had five children, viz: Mary Harrison, Rebecca, William, George Harrison, and Richard Heath."

Descendants: pp. 44, 45.

4. See appendix K, page 5.
5. One pipe is equal to 2 hogsheads, or, 126 U.S. gallons.
6. Variable, approximately same as a pipe.
7. "A large narrow-necked bottle of glass or stoneware, enclosed in wicker-work. It holds from 1 to 10 gallons." Webster.

WINE CELLAR

List of furnishings, keyed to drawing  
of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antique

North wall, left to right:

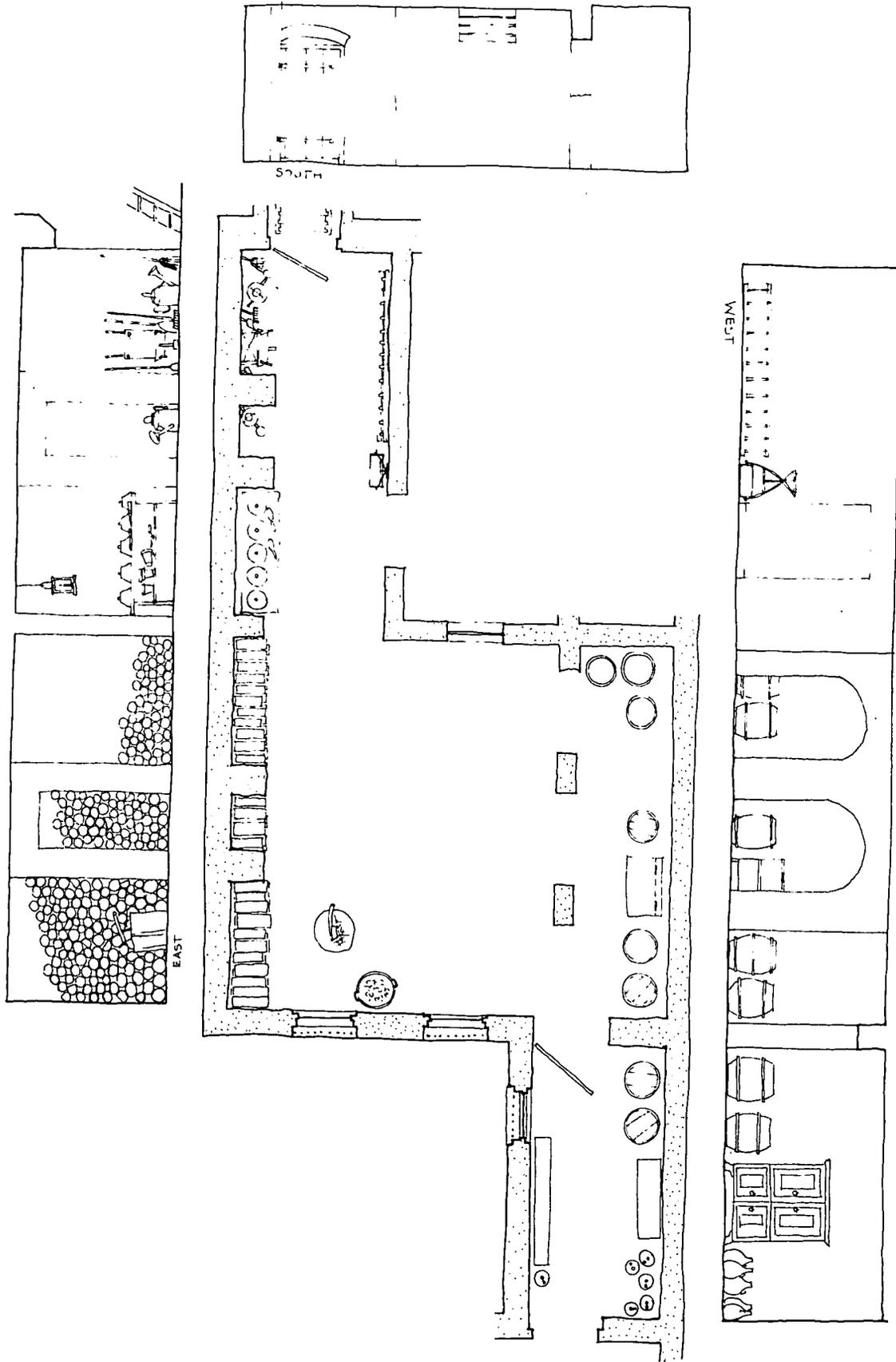
Wood frame lantern & candle	\$ 60.
Wrought iron lantern bracket, 18th century	35.
Pine bottle bins, 4 sections wide & 4 shelves high	\$400.
56 bottles of claret (optional)	560.
5 bottles of old Madeira	50.
12 bottles of Constantia	120.
11 bottles of Port wine	110.
9 dozen empty bottles (on floor under 1st shelf) (optional)	1080.

East Wall, left to right:

Pa. pine work table, 18th century	175.
Pa. pine bench, 18th century	35.
Iron candlestick and candle	15.
3 glass sampling tumblers @\$10.	30.
Box of corks	10.
Pottery paste pot & brush	10.
Pottery ink pot & turkey quill pen	15.
Homemade blank paper ledger for wine consumption account	10.

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction    Antique

Homemade paper labels	\$	1.
Block of wax for resealing bottles		5.
<u>South wall, left to right:</u>		
3 demijohns of old Madeira (bottles only)	\$	20.
<u>West wall, left to right:</u>		
1 pipe Madeira wine, with brass spigot and rack (empty)		250.
1 tin drip pan		15.
1 extra brass spigot (on top of pipe)		15.
Copper wine bucket		20.
1 cask Marsela wine & rack (empty)		150.
1 brass spigot (in cask)		15.
Copper funnel (on top of cask)		40.
1 tin drip pan		15.
Cask of Port wine & rack (empty)		150.
8 Demijohns old Madeira wine (empty)		160.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
 OPEN CELLAR

C.G. DORRMAN, DESIGNER.  
 P. HARTY HORNE, DEL.

0 1 5 ft.

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
KITCHEN: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This room is typical of those found in the homes of prosperous Philadelphians at the end of the eighteenth century.

### BISHOP WHITE HOUSE KITCHEN

At the end of the eighteenth century, the mistress of the house included in her domain a close attention to the kitchen.

Surviving historic house kitchens in the Philadelphia area, of the same period as that of the Bishop White House, are light and airy, commodious, and, for their time, well-planned.

Since only the sub-cellar of the White House kitchen wing has survived, conjecture must play a large part in its furnishings restoration.

It is the custom in households where servants are employed for the care of the house and children, for the servants and the young children to eat apart from the family. Thus a table and suitable chairs for this purpose have been placed in the kitchen. The bulk of the cooking for the household would have been done at the fireplace in this kitchen, but additional foods could have been prepared in the basement scullery and laundry.

In general, there is an eating area in the northeast corner of the room; a cooking area in the northwest corner; and a food preparation and cleansing area in the southeast corner.

The closet to the right of the fireplace contains housecleaning utensils: a turkey wing duster, peg board with dust cloths, wooden buckets, brooms, and an extra copper kettle. In the northeast corner of the room is a gateleg dining table surrounded by three out-of-date Delaware Valley rush seat side chairs, a child's chair of the type that might have been saved from Colonel White's house, and a more recent comb-back Windsor arm chair.

The table is set for the midday meal of three children and two house servants. Upon the blue and white check table cloth are placed four plain creamware plates, knives, forks and spoons, and for the youngest member of the family a Westtown, Pennsylvania, pewter porringer with pewter child's spoon. In the center of the table are a brass milk pitcher, four glass mugs, and a slipware meat dish. Over the table is a six-light wood and iron chandelier. Pennsylvania redware flower pots containing geraniums have been placed in two of the kitchen windows.

A stretcher-base work table has been placed between the east windows. It contains a bread board and rolling pin and a brass mortar and pestle. Above it hangs a cupboard for the storage of spices and other condiments. Beneath the window to the right of the work table is the tentative solution to the Bishop's city water supply, a large stone water basin cantilevered through the wall. This is supplied with water by a copper pipe and brass spigot, connected to a pipe which runs from the water main in the middle of Walnut Street to the kitchen. Under the window sill is a peg board for wash cloths and on the floor below it, a small wooden wash tub, a wooden bucket, and a stoneware wash bowl and pitcher.

The large closet in the southeast corner serves as a china storage area and pantry. Here are stored the creamware dinnerware, extra pottery plates and bowls, eating utensils, foodstuffs in stoneware crocks, hair sieves and a host of other objects needed for preparing

food for a large family. On the wall adjoining the closet is an eighteenth century English coffee mill.

An eighteenth century pewter dresser and a well-equipped fireplace occupy the west wall. The pewter dresser is furnished with Canton dinner plates, pewter chargers, Pennsylvania pottery, and other eating accessories. The fireplace is fitted with spit andirons and a clock jack. Over the fireplace is a rack for spits of various sizes and on the mantel are an hour glass, a tobacco jar, a betty lamp, and two tin candlesticks.

On the hearth we find various spider pots and frying pans, a bellows, fire tools and a reflecting oven. Hanging on the wood trim to the right is a skewer rack and skewers. Near the fireplace is an eighteenth century pine work table containing a burl bowl partially filled with prepared vegetables, while on the table are a paring knife and other vegetables. Alongside the table facing the large cooking area, is a rush seat arm chair where Mrs. Boggs, the cook, could observe the food being cooked as she prepared other items at the work table.

The type and amount of china and pottery used in the Bishop White House kitchen and dining room, as indicated by the sherds found at the site, are listed in part C. of this report, pages 5 and 6. Significant sherds will be found in illustrations 22, 24, 25, 26, and 27.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE KITCHEN

List of suggested furnishings, keyed to  
 drawing of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

North wall, left to right:

Small peg board for towels & rags		\$ 15.
Broom		10.
Turkey wing duster		10.
Philadelphia comb-back Windsor arm chair		400.
Pennsylvania redware flower pot & geranium		35.

East wall, left to right:

3 Delaware Valley rush seat side chairs	@ \$150.		450.
Pennsylvania walnut gateleg table		INHP	750.
4 pewter dinner plates	@ \$ 10.		40.
Pewter porringer			75.
Brass pitcher		INHP	25.
4 glass mugs	@ \$ 30.		120.
Pottery child's mug			15.
Slipware bowl			50.
Pewter child's spoon			10.
4 pewter spoons	@ \$ 8.		32.
4, 3-tined forks, steel & wood	@ \$ 8.		32.

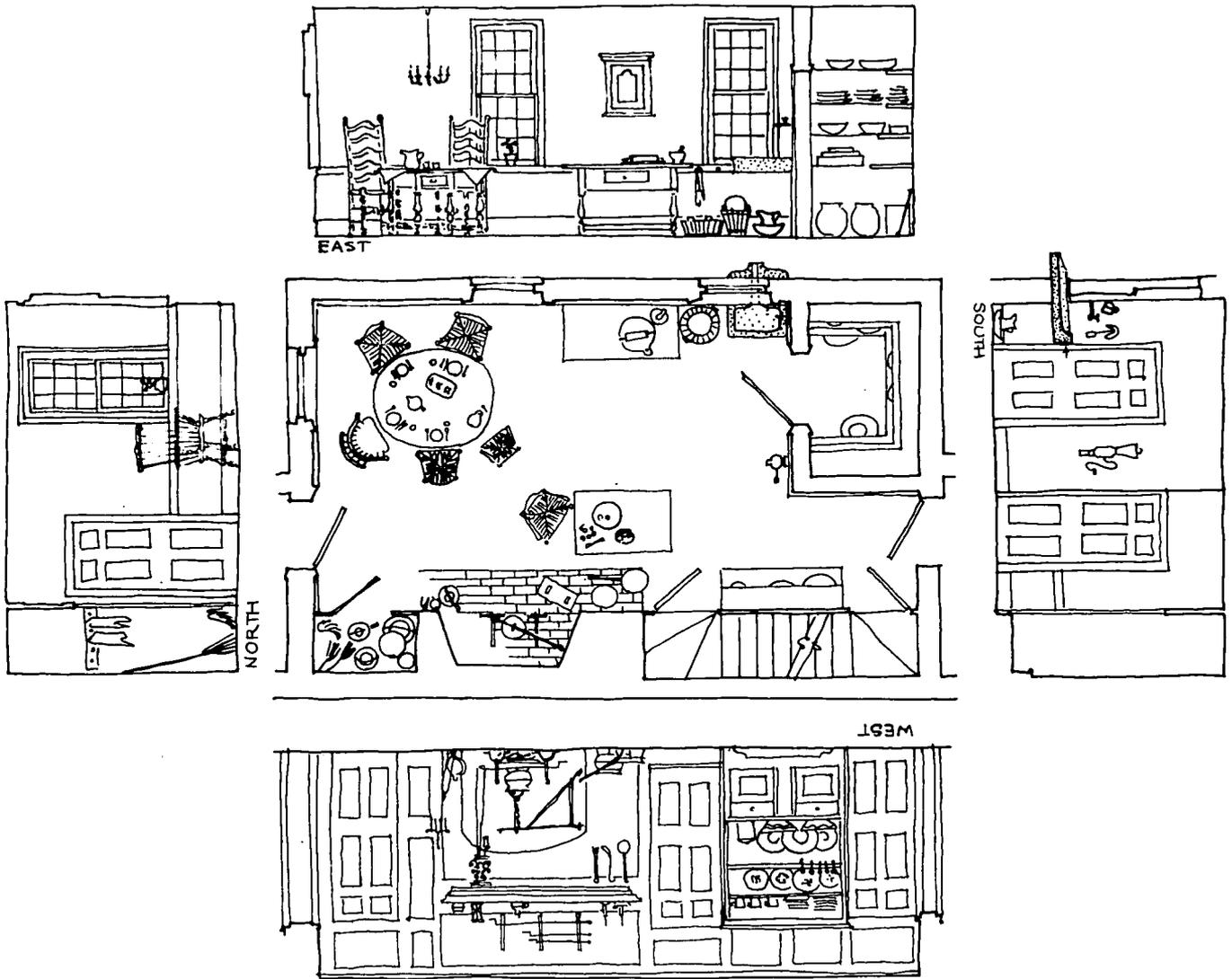
		<u>Estimated cost</u>	
		Reproduction	Antique
4 steel & wood knives	@ \$ 8.		\$ 32.
Blue & white check table cloth		INHP	20.
6-light wood & iron chandelier		INHP	45.
Pine, 18th century Pa., work table			250.
Small Pa., 18th century hanging cupboard			400.
Bread board			5.
Rolling pin			5.
Brass mortar & pestle			50.
Small wooden wash tub		\$ 15.	
Small peg board under window sill & towel			15.
Wooden bucket			15.
Wooden drudgeon box (on edge of wash basin)			25.
Small wooden wash tub			15.
<u>IN CLOSET</u>			
9 Stoneware crocks	@ \$ 15.		135.
3 hair sieves	@ \$ 10.		30.
1 coffee roaster		INHP	45.
6 Queensware bowls	@ \$ 35.		210.
2 Copper kettles	@ \$ 65.		130.
Wooden cutlery tray			35.
12 Pewter soup spoons	@ \$ 6.		72.

		<u>Estimated cost</u>
		Reproduction    Antique
8 Pewter tea spoons	\$ 4.	\$ 32.
8 Wood and steel table knives	@ \$ 8.	64.
8 Wood and steel 3-tined forks	@ \$ 8.	64.
2 large Pa., slipware mixing bowls	@ \$100.	200.
6 Pa., slipware pie plates	@ \$ 10.	60.
2 Mocha-ware handled mugs	@ \$ 55.	110.
6 Pa., redware bean pots	@ \$ 10.	60.
12 Creamware dinner plates	@ \$ 6.	72.
12 Creamware soup plates	@ \$ 6.	72.
4 Slipware meat dishes	@ \$ 40.	160.
6 Pewter handled mugs	@ \$ 40.	240.
6 Pewter plates	@ \$ 35.	210.
Iron skillet		35.
Warming pan		35.
Tin Cullender		15.
Egg Slice		10.
Chopper		5.
Tin Funnel		5.
6 linen table cloths	@ \$ 25.	150.
3 Blue & White check table cloths	@ \$ 25.	75.
2 pairs of blue & white check window curtains	@ \$ 40.	80.

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

12 homespun linen towels	@ \$ 6.		\$ 72.
<u>South wall, left to right:</u>			
Stone wash basin cantilevered through wall			100.
Pennsylvania redware flower pot			35.
Creamware wash bowl and pitcher			150.
Tin cup			5.
Wooden spatula			5.
Wash cloth and towel			5.
18th century English coffee mill			125.
<u>West wall, left to right:</u>			
Late 18th century or early 19th century Pa., pewter dresser			500.
3 Pewter chargers	@ \$ 40.		120.
2 Pa., redware bowls	@ \$ 50.		100.
1 Pa., redware cookie jar & cover			50.
4 Pa., slipware pie plates	@ \$ 20.	INHP	80.
6 Pewter soup spoons	@ \$ 10.		60.
12 Canton dinner plates	@ \$ 10.		120.
3 Pa., redware handled mugs	@ \$ 15.		45.
1 iron footed frying pan			35.
Iron fireplace crane			40.
Pair wrought iron spit andirons			500.

			<u>Estimated cost</u>
			Reproduction    Antique
Philadelphia copper water kettle		INHP	\$ 75.
2 Iron spider pots	@ \$ 35.	INHP	70.
4 Iron spits	@ \$ 50.		200.
Brass Strainer		INHP	15.
Brass ladle		INHP	20.
Steel flesh fork		INHP	10.
Tin chamber stick			25.
Iron candle stick			10.
Tin cinder box			45.
Wood and glass hour glass			50.
Pewter tobacco jar			40.
Tin reflecting oven		INHP	75.
Clock jack		INHP	250.
Wood & leather bellows			20.
Iron fire tongs			10.
Steel skewers and rack			350.
3 baskets (in closet)	@ \$ 10.		30.
1 wooden bucket			15.
Middle of room (near fireplace):			
Pine work table, Pa., mid-18th century			250.
Burl bowl			60.
Vegetables			2.
Paring knife			2.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
KITCHEN

C.G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.

0 1 5 ft.

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
SCULLERY AND LAUNDRY

This area is typical of the "heavy duty" work area of a large eighteenth century Philadelphia house.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE SCULLERY AND LAUNDRY

There is no surviving structural evidence to show that there was a dumb water connecting the Kitchen with the Scullery and Laundry, so we cannot say that this "heavy duty" work area received the bulk of the dirty dishes from the first floor kitchen. The size of the fireplace area, however, and its remaining soot incrustations show that the Scullery was a very active section of the house. It is possible that some of the cooking, all of the baking, and all of the laundering was done here.

Although some cooking could have been done here to supplement the kitchen fireplace above during a period of much entertaining, the fireplace has not been supplied with a clock jack as the additional help brought in for seasonal or wedding festivities would have been on hand to attend to this. Throughout the year the bulk of the heating at this fireplace was apparently for large wash kettles for hot water for laundering and other daily household requirements. A large crane with trammels has been placed in the fireplace to support hot water kettles. On the mantel are some of the flat irons used by the cook or house servant-turned-laundress, or even perhaps by a colored servant brought in once a week for the purpose. Ironing was a major chore in such a household and the addition of clerical garb to be in readiness for Sunday was a requirement beyond that of an ordinary Philadelphia household. In the vicinity of the oven we see a pool for placing and removing pies and bread as well as the shovel, tongs, and bellows for the

adjoining fireplace. On the other side of the oven two large copper wash kettles have been placed. In these are two wooden wash-stirring spatulas. In the entry off the Scullery, which in turn has access to the outside pump, we find two large iron wash kettles, two wooden scrub buckets and a wooden water pail with tin drinking dipper. In a corner are a shovel, broom, rake and wooden carpet beater.

The east side of the room is taken up, for the most part, by the trap door to the Cold Cellar. Upon a wall bracket above the door is a wood and glass lantern for use in the Cold Cellar. A stool for a laundress has also been placed here.

In the center of the room we see a work table covered with two ironing boards, an iron platform for hot irons, a pottery bowl filled with water for sprinkling clothes, and articles of clothing in the process of being ironed. On the floor toward the west wall is a basket of clothing about to be ironed, and on the floor toward the east wall are two hampers filled with freshly ironed clothing.

The closet-like area in the southeast corner is a storage area for dried foodstuffs (including smoked hams), the dough trough and the large wooden bathing tub for the servants and children of the house. For the servants, the closet itself supplies privacy for their weekly abolutions.

The closet under the stair is for general storage and here we find the candle and soap supply, and a block of bees wax for polishing

furniture. Near the stair door is a pine bench containing extra mixing bowls. By the fireplace is a basket of kindling, a pile of firewood, and a low bow-back Windsor side chair. The brick floor is uncovered throughout the year.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE SCULLERY AND LAUNDRY

List of Suggested furnishings, keyed to  
 drawing of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

North wall, left to right:

2 large Pa., slipware pie plates @ \$35. (in oven) containing freshly baked and pungently interpretive apple pies		\$ 70.
Iron peel	INHP	15.
2 iron wash kettles	@ \$50.	100.
2 wash spatulas	@ \$ 1.50	3.
2 wooden scrub buckets and one wooden drinking pail	@ \$10.	\$ 20.
Tin dipper		15.

East wall, left to right:

18th century shovel		25.
18th century rake		15.
Broom		5.
Wooden carpet beater		5.
2 large iron wash water cauldrons @ \$45.		90.
Wood and iron glass lantern		60.
Late 18th century pine stool		20.
18th century rolling pin		15.
2 - 18th century bread boards @ \$10.		20.
18th century Pa., dough trough and scraper		250.

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

South wall, left to right:

Large wooden bathing tub		\$ 25.	
2 smoked hams	@ \$12.		\$ 24.
Block of bee's wax		2.	
4 dozen hand dipped candles		48.	
4 dozen cakes home made soap		24.	

West wall, left to right:

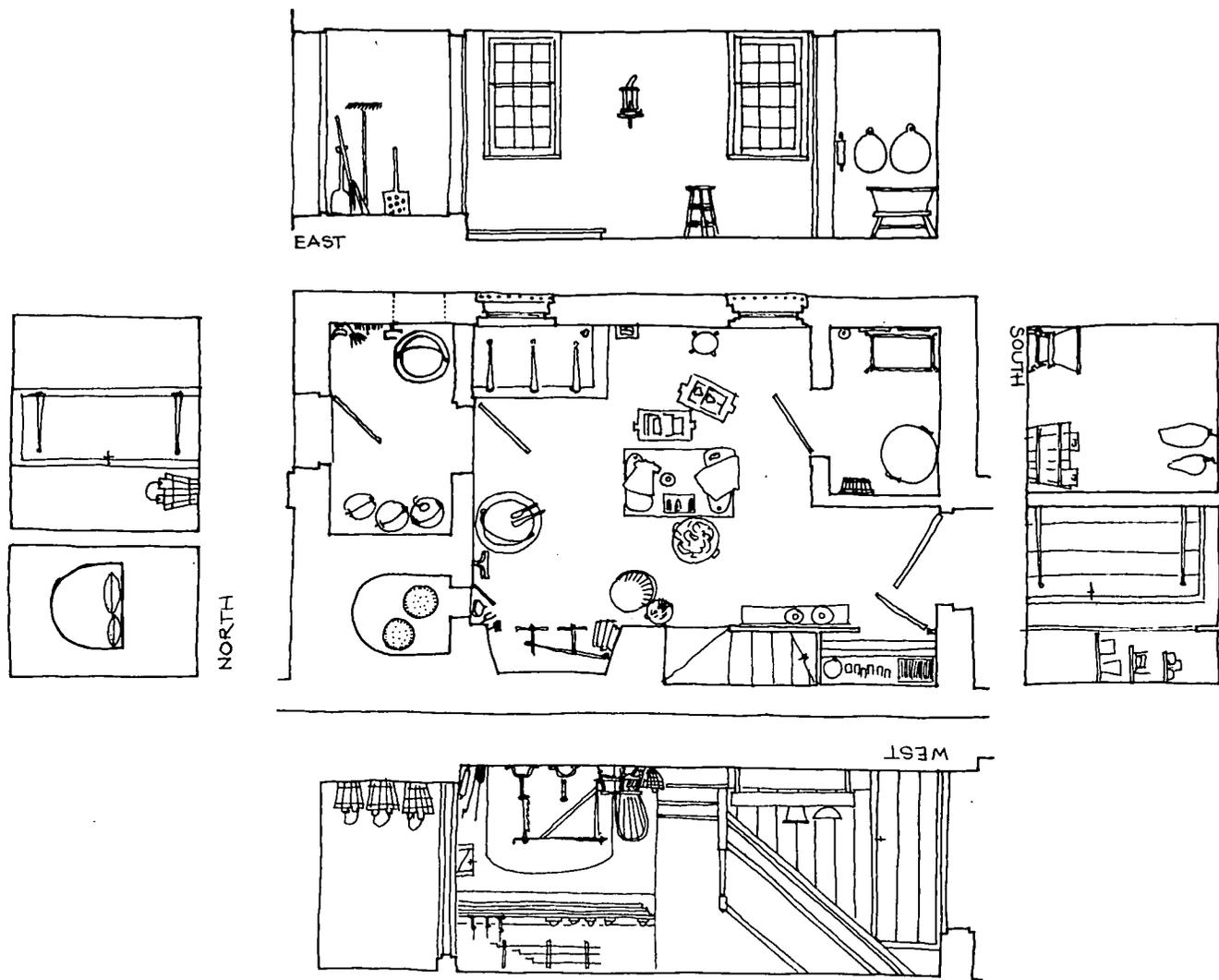
Pine Bench			45.
2 pottery mixing bowls	@ \$20.		40.
Basket and kindling			15
Windsor side chair		INHP	70
Iron spit andirons			300
Iron crane			60.
Iron trammel			20.
5 flat irons	@ \$15.		75.
3 tin candle sticks	@ \$20.		60.
3 iron spits	@ \$75.		225.
Iron fire shovel and tongs	@ \$20.		40.

Middle of room, left to right:

Large pine work table			250.
5 - 18th century flat irons	@ \$15.		75.
Small pottery bowl			10.

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antique

Large iron flat iron stand		\$ 80.
2 wooden ironing boards	@ \$15.	30.
3 wash baskets	@ \$20.	60.
40 articles of clothing	@ \$ 5.	\$200.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
SCULLERY AND LAUNDRY

C.G. DORMAN, DESIGNER.  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.

0 1 5 ft.

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE .  
SERVANT'S ROOM OVER KITCHEN: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This room is designed to be typical of the quarters of a white female servant of a late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Philadelphia household.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE SERVANT'S ROOM OVER KITCHEN

The logical room for the White family cook is the room over the kitchen. Mrs. Boggs,<sup>1</sup> a long-time white servant in the family, apparently the cook, must have occupied this room. Since she "lived in" for such a long period of time, she was apparently a widow, thrown upon her own resources, in this case, a culinary ability, to make her living. Mrs. Boggs and John,<sup>2</sup> the negro coachman, were the two servants who elected to remain with the Bishop in Philadelphia during the devastating yellow fever epidemic of 1793. The Bishop and his cook survived, but the coachman died of the contagion in the service of his temporal master. Because this one room constituted the "home" of the cook it is to be assumed that she would have crowded into it many of her treasured personal possessions as possible.<sup>3</sup> Her most valued items of furniture, perhaps inherited ones, could have been a feather bed, pillow, pillow cases, sheets, chest of drawers and an old looking glass. A bedside table contains a tin chamber stick, a calf-bound Bible and a Philadelphia almanac. The two chairs in the room, a rush seat arm chair and a side chair, are old fashioned but comfortable and are supplied with cushions. On two of the window sills, according to the season, are the cook's attempts at indoor gardening; a Pennsylvania redware flower pot for a geranium, and a blue glass vase for forcing a pre-spring narcissus. The small hanging cupboard by the closet door contains various bottles of home remedies and apothecary's elixirs. Also in the cupboard are a drinking glass and a bottle of whiskey - for medicinal purposes only! The large closet contains some of Mrs. Boggs' wearing apparel on a peg board, some wooden cartons left over

from the family's move to 89 Walnut Street, and a barrel containing a few pieces of china and other fragile items that Mrs. Boggs used when she and her late husband had a small house of their own.

A large basket in a corner contains family clothing, mostly children's, in need of mending. A simply equiped fireplace supplements in winter, whatever heat rises through the floor from the kitchen below. In summer the heat still rises to add to the already uncomfortable temperature. By the fireplace is a Delaware Valley rush seat arm chair with cushion and footstool, available when, if ever, the cook for such a large family has time for musing at her own fireside. In the corner is a painted pine blanket chest containing extra blankets and sheets for Mrs. Boggs' bed and those of the other household servants. In winter, furniture check curtains are at the windows and a rag rug is on the floor. In summer both the windows and the floor are left uncovered.

1. "...A knock at the door... it is Mrs. Boggs at Bishop White's."  
From letter of Dr. Benjamin Rush to his wife noted in "Bring Out Your Dead" by John Powell., p. 66.
2. "Pray do what your present situation allows for my poor Servant. I know you will. I have retired to Mr. G. Harrisons this morning, which, became necessary as well for Substance as for Safety. John was very - very ill all night. Mrs. Boggs has willingly undertaken to attend to him, I wish to procure ye assistance of a black person. If you know of one be so good as to inform me." Letter of Bishop White to Dr. Benjamin Rush, October 7, 1793. Benj. Rush Papers, Library Co., of Philadelphia.

Also,

- "Bishop White refused to leave the City (in 1793).... His family accordingly was removed into the country at a distance of a few miles, while he continued at his own house with a domestic or two. One of his domestics... his coachman, who had from choice remained with him...was seized with the fever and died in his house." "Memoir of Life of Rev. W<sup>m</sup> White..." by Bird Wilson, D.D., MSS in HSP, pp. 156, 157, 158.
3. In eighteenth century house inventories the feather bed is referred to as "bed" while the bedstead, usually a much less valuable item,

is referred to by itself. "Beds" of fine live goose feathers were usually willed down through an eighteenth century family and would have been one of the first things considered when the lady of the house moved to another locale.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE SERVANT'S ROOM OVER KITCHEN

List of furnishings, keyed to drawing  
of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antiqua.

North wall, left to right:

Colored engraving of Gen. Washington	\$ 25.
Wooden towel rack	25.
2 homespun towels @ 5.	10.
Pair check window curtains	40

East wall, left to right:

Pennsylvania walnut William and Mary or Queen Anne style chest of drawers	120
Hair comb, English 18th century	3
Brush, English 18th century	3.
Staffordshire washbowl and pitcher	175
Small walnut framed looking glass, Pa. early 18th century	300
Homespun linen bureau cloth	15.
Tin sconce with two lights	55
Pair check window curtains	40.
Painted bedside table, Pa., 18th century	INHP Coll. 165.
Tin chamber stick and candle	45.
Pennsylvania pottery flower pot	35.
Leather bound Bible, late 18th century	10.
Pennsylvania almanac for year 1800	10.

Estimated cost  
 Reproduction Antique

Pennsylvania painted low post bed	INHP Coll.	\$ 65.
Pair homespun linen sheets	@ \$15.	30.
Linsey-woolsey coverlet		75.
Feather bed		25.
Sacking bottom		15.
Pillow		5.
Homespun pillow case		8.
Pennsylvania redware chamber pot		10.
Delaware Valley rush seat side chair		125.
Blue glass narcissus vase		2.
Pair check window curtains		1.

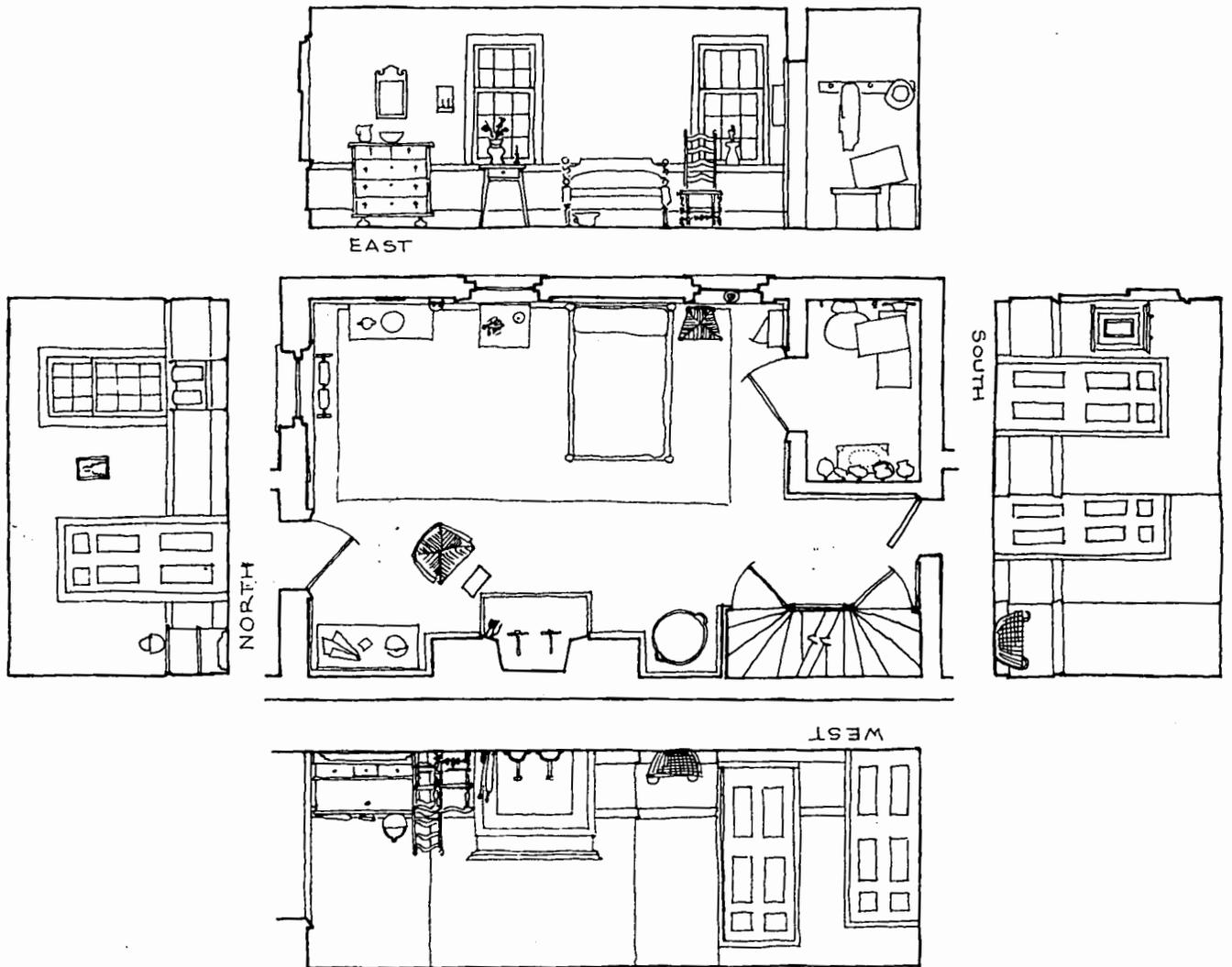
South wall, left to right:

18th century Pennsylvania hanging wall cupboard		400.
6 "Patent" medicine bottles	@ \$4.	24.
1 Whiskey bottle, Phila., early 19th century		40.
1 Whiskey glass		10.
1 barrel	\$ 10.	
1 wooden crate :	10.	
1 hair trunk		15.
1 leather trunk		50.
Women's clothing, early 19th century		200.

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antique

West wall, left to right:

Woven splint clothes basket	\$ 10.
Wrought iron andirons	45.
Iron fire shovel and tongs	25.
Pine foot stool	15.
Delaware Valley rush seat arm chair	350.
Pennsylvania 18th century Pine blanket chest	80.
Sewing basket	1
Articles of clothing to be sewn up	1.
Pin cushion, pins & needles (on chest)	25.
Rag carpet for winter	\$ 00.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
SERVANT'S ROOM OVER KITCHEN

C.G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.

0 1 5 ft.

INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
COLD CELLAR: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

We have here an almost completely intact survival of a relatively rare feature of an eighteenth century Philadelphia row house; a cold cellar with what may be an ice well sunk into its floor. This area should be lighted from below and its entrance door in the Laundry and Scullery left open, so that visitors to the house may see the eighteenth century householder's attempt at "refrigeration" for foodstuffs.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE COLD CELLAR

The cold cellar is the only portion of the Bishop White House back building that has survived. The temperature of a cold cellar remains relatively constant, about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, so it is an ideal storage area for root vegetables: turnips, potatoes, beets, carrots, and the like. The unusual feature of this particular cold cellar is the shallow brick-lined "well" placed in the center of its floor area. On the south wall of the area, in line with the "well" are iron pontils for a swinging crane. It is possible that this well was used to store ice for a particular purpose after it had been procured from a nearby year-round ice house.

The crane may have served to support an oversized wooden ice container into which very perishable foodstuffs could be placed. At the same time ice could also have been packed around the container in the well to maintain a low temperature. The well is just deep enough so that it would have been impossible to reach foodstuffs placed at the bottom of the inserted container without the assistance of some device. However, if the inserted container could be raised on the crane by means of ropes and pulleys, the entire insert could be raised to the level of the cold cellar floor, swung over to one side, and complete and easy access had to its interior.

This conjectural restoration is shown in the drawings (illustration No. 61). Here a servant is shown putting a block of ice in the bottom of the wooden food container, upon which plates of food might be placed.

The crane mechanism could also have been used to raise and lower the heavy wooden cover of the ice well.

On the floor of the cold cellar have been placed crocks filled with eggs and preserved fruits, and coarse cloth bags of root vegetables.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE COLD CELLAR

List of suggested furnishings, keyed to drawing  
of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antique

North wall, left to right:

Wooden well cover		\$75.	
4 large stone ware crocks with lids	@ \$40.		\$160.

East wall, left to right:

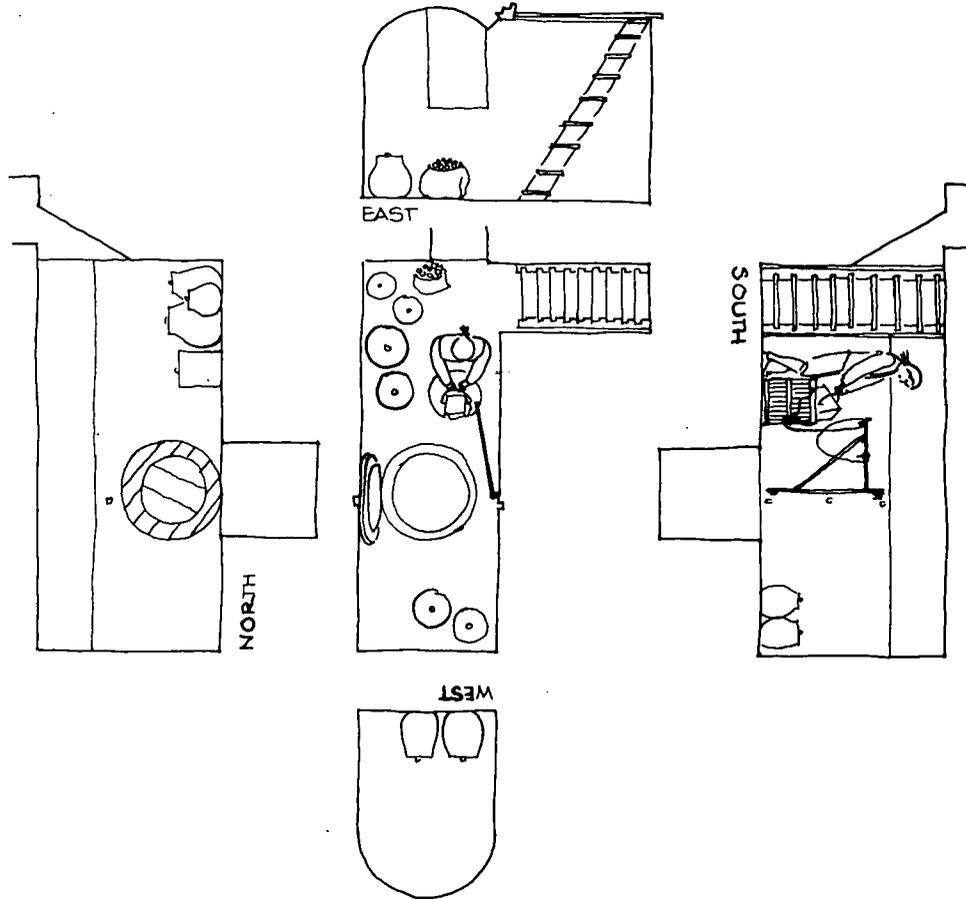
Burlap bag filled with carrots		5.	
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South wall, left to right:

Wooden well insert (food container)		75.	
Iron ice tongs			20.
Rope and pulley		15.	
Large iron crane			75.

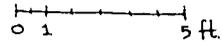
West wall, left to right:

2 large stone ware crocks with lids	@ \$40.		80.
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BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
COLD CELLAR

C. G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.



INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
STORE ROOM: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

The original use of this room is not known. However, its limited area; placement in the house, and small windows indicate that it may have been a storage area. When restored as such it will give the visitor some idea of the storage areas of large eighteenth century Philadelphia houses. Customarily, cast-off furnishings were listed in the garret of a house; but frequently out-of-fashion objects were relegated to other rooms in the upper and rear rooms. Since it will not be feasible from a traffic standpoint to have the garret and loft open to the public, this area can serve such an interpretive function.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE STORE ROOM

Three feather beds have been folded and piled in the northeast corner. Since the drawings show the house during the warm seasons, this indicates that the extra feather beds used in the Bishop's bedroom and the Thomas White bedroom during the winter have been stored. There may also have been two more feather beds for the third floor children's room. During a particularly cold winter it was customary for the occupants of well-equipped households to sleep between two feather beds.

Also shown (Illustration No. 62) are a broken Queensware pitcher and a broken shield back side chair. The west wall is lined with Chinese wicker hampers in which the great amount of Chinese Export porcelain purchased by the Bishop was shipped to Philadelphia. Leather saddle bags are shown, such as the Bishop may have used when he was Chaplain of the Continental Congress and was following the exile government through western Pennsylvania during the time that Philadelphia was occupied by the British. Two framed pictures with broken glass are shown atop a hamper and leaning against the west wall.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE STORE ROOM

List of suggested furnishings, keyed to  
drawing of wall elevations and floor plan

Estimated cost  
Reproduction Antiques

North wall, left to right:

3 feather beds @ \$15. \$45.

East wall, left to right:

Broken Queensware pitcher INHP \$ 5.

Broken shield back chair 15.

South wall:

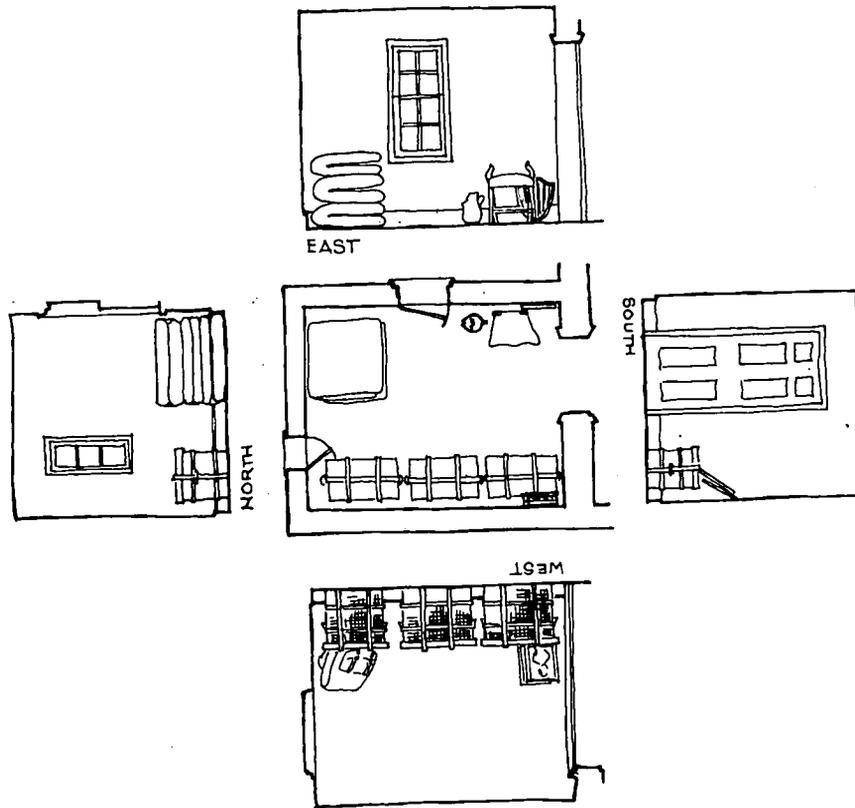
Empty

West wall, left to right:

3 wicker China hampers @ \$30. 90.

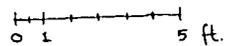
Leather saddle bags 75.

2 broken pictures @ \$ 5. 10.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
STORE ROOM OVER NECESSARY

C.G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.



INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
NECESSARY: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

This area provides a realistic approach to a basic aspect of every historic house.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE NECESSARY

The surviving privy drain trough in the Bishop White House back cellar indicates the presence above this area, during the Bishop's occupancy of the house, of some form of necessary. The exact form this took has not yet been decided. For the present, two compartments have been suggested, each with two "seats of easement."

It is interesting to note how little is known of the manner in which eighteenth century ladies and gentlemen attended to their persons. At least one eighteenth century cartoonist<sup>1</sup> gave some tongue-in-cheek attention to the subject. The ludicrous characters in the cartoons of James Gillray accompany their relief with scraps of paper: discarded love poems, notes from persons they dislike, scraps of legal papers, political broadsides, in effect, scrap paper.

Colonial Williamsburg and other restoration projects under Rockefeller auspices provide lidded bins to receive corn husks and cobs.<sup>2</sup> This is, however, a rural device rather than an urban one.

Another possibility suggests itself, although no evidence has been found to substantiate it; namely, that people in the upper stratum of society may have used discarded pieces of linen and other rags. These would have the double advantage of softness and reusability after washing.

In the absence of more accurate information, the restoration of the necessary and its fitting out must be almost entirely conjectural. The attached drawing indicates a possible approach. Further research is needed.

1. The cartoons of James Gillray, London, 1800 and later. 2 vols.  
Philadelphia Free Library.
2. Colonial Williamsburg, with its long experience in the field of historic house restoration has come to no firm conclusion concerning the accoutrements for an eighteenth century necessary. Though they use corn cobs in bins in each necessary, and have found archeological evidence of cobs, the subject still needs further study.

Discussion between the writer and A. Edwin Kendrew, architect of Colonial Williamsburg. National Trust meeting, Tarrytown, N. Y. Oct., 1961.

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE NECESSARY

List of suggested furnishings, keyed to drawing  
of wall elevations and floor plan

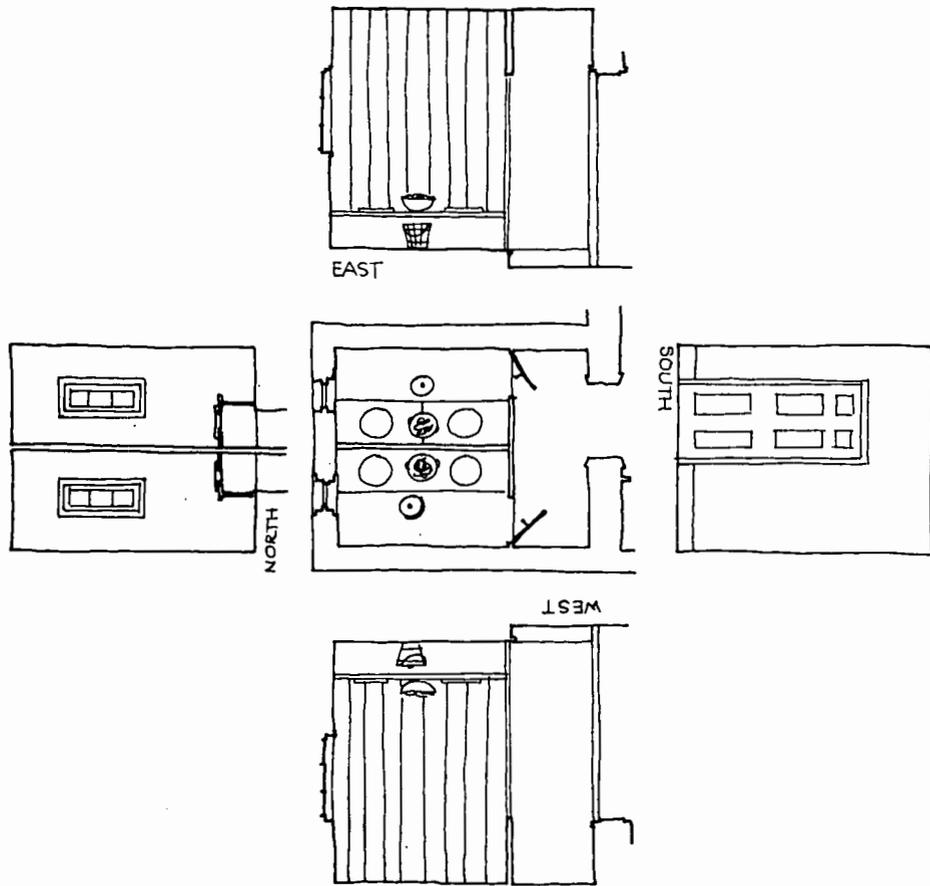
Estimated cost  
Reproduction Ant<sup>1</sup>ique

East compartment:

Wooden bowl filled with rags or scrap paper	\$ 5.
Wooden bucket with lid, for soiled rags	15

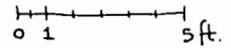
West compartment:

Wooden bowl filled with rags or scrap paper	5.
Wooden bucket with lid, for soiled rags	15.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
NECESSARY

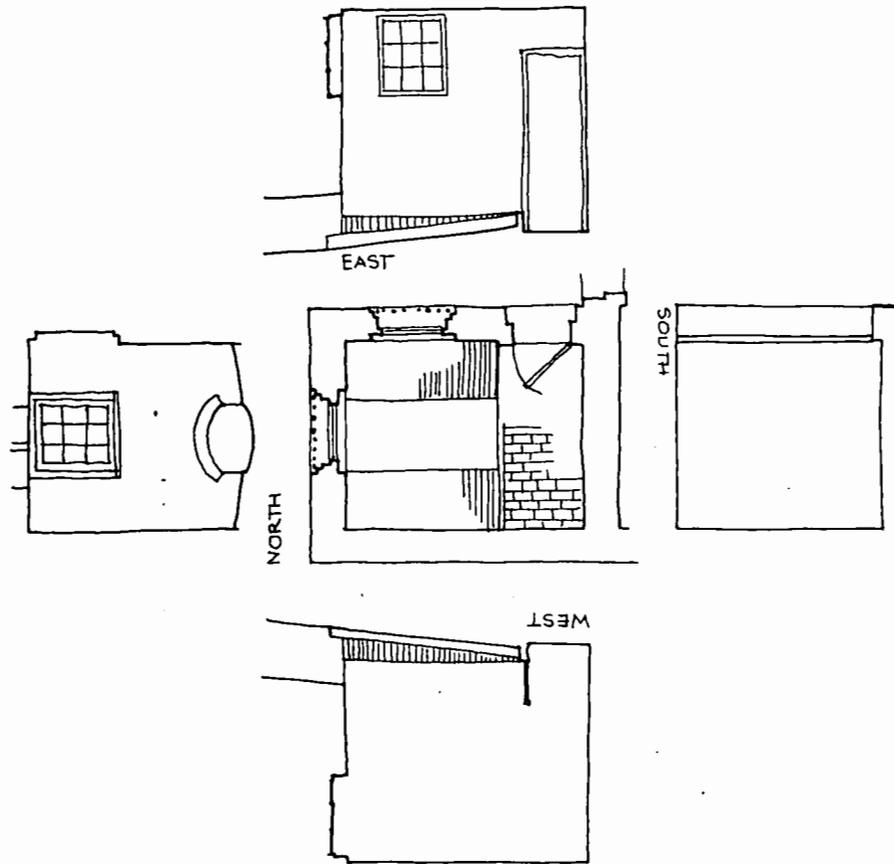
C.G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.



INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
NECESSARY DRAIN AREA: HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

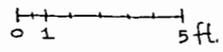
The exact appearance of this area is not yet known.

The drain has remained pretty much intact, but just what form the mechanics of a late eighteenth century water closet took, is subject to further research.



BISHOP WHITE HOUSE  
 NECESSARY DRAIN AREA

C.G. DORMAN, DESIGNER  
 P. HARTSHORNE, DEL.



PART E.

PLANS AND ELEVATIONS

Prepared by Museum Curator Charles G. Dorman  
and  
Architect Penelope Hartshorne

PLANS AND ELEVATIONS

Floor plans and elevations for this furnishing plan are included in Part D.

PART F.

ESTIMATED COSTS  
AND  
SOURCES OF SUPPLY

ESTIMATED COSTS AND  
SOURCES OF SUPPLY

Cost estimates for each type of furnishing recommended are included in Part D. of this Furnishing Plan.

Except for original pieces or their counterparts in the Park collection, original and period furnishings will have to be acquired as opportunity offers from members of the Bishop White family, public institutions, reputable dealers, auction galleries, and private collectors. Reproductions should be made only by highly skilled craftsmen, under close supervision by the Park.