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THE JOHN NEILSON HOUSE
STILLWATER, NEW YORK

Furnishing Plan
by
Agnes M. Downey, Park Historian

Historical Research
by
John Luzader, Park Historian

Part I

Saratoga National Historical Park
National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior

1960



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
5502 PORT ROYAL ROAD
SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22151

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-010

July 31, 1967

D-6215

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X Willcox

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast

From: Chief, Branch of Museum Operations

Subject: Furnishing Plan, The John Neilson House - Saratoga

Enclosed are two copies of the subject plan which were recently reproduced by this office at the request of Regional Curator Willcox for your office files and possibly for Saratoga if there is need for one there. They are of Part I only, which is the major section of the plan. Part II, photographs of furnishings and inventories used as source material, we found impractical to reproduce. It is on file in this office along with the original of Part I and may be borrowed at any time.

Ralph H. Lewis
Ralph H. Lewis

In duplicate

Enclosures 2

*Carroll file
this file
Cabinet
with other
furnishings
plans*

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
THE JOHN NEILSON HOUSE FURNISHING PLAN

RECOMMENDED:

J. J. Fellmuth Sept. 23, 1960
Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park Date

~~Regional Director, Region 6~~ Date

~~Chief, History Branch~~ ~~XXXX~~

Chief, Museum Branch Date

/s/ John B. Cabot Dec. 6, 1960
Acting Chief, Division of Design and Construction Date

APPROVED:

Regional Director, Region Five Date

*Revised in accordance with FO-19-60

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FOREWORD

The Furnishing Plan for The Neilson House, Saratoga National Historical Park suggests furnishings for the Porch, the Common Room and the Leanto of this small farmhouse. It attempts to suggest the furnishings which might have been in these rooms between September 12 and October 8, 1777, when the house was used as quarters for general officers of the American Army. No attempt has been made to suggest furnishings for the loft above the Common Room because its limited access will prevent it from being viewed by the visitor. This report is based on information and observations acquired from a ten day field trip to Saratoga National Historical Park and New York State, the study of historical and architectural reports concerning the Neilson House, and source material relative to New York furnishings. Available material which had value in terms of a furnishing plan for this house has been gathered and studied. The historical reports of Historian John Luzader and the Architectural Report and drawings by Frederik Gjessing have been used extensively. Attempts have been made to secure information concerning the story and furnishings which is not readily available. Published and unpublished sources of information concerning New York Furniture of the 18th century have been studied.

The available evidence is not conclusive in regard to furnishings the Neilsons had in the house between 1775 and 1777. No inventory of these furnishings has been located. The suggested plan is based on what is hoped to be logical deduction from a knowledge of the Neilsons, their income, the inventories of goods their contemporaries had in the Hudson River Valley, and inventory of goods owned by a branch of their family forty-one years later and general knowledge of customs and conditions in the area in 1777.

There is no evidence of common metal utensils other than tin, iron and pewter in the possession of the family in 1818. Neighbors of like economic status in 1777 in this area had no copper or brass on their inventories. For this reason all common metal utensils recommended for furnishings in this plan are iron, tin, or pewter.

Window curtains and floor coverings are not listed on the inventories of contemporaries in the same general income bracket. It is believed that any floor covering owned by the family would have been small and movable. If any were used in the Neilson House, it is believed to be one of the things that Lydia Neilson would have removed prior to its use by the Army. No floor coverings or window curtains are recommended on the basis of present evidence.

Evidence now available does not conclusively prove the identity or number of people who used the Neilson House prior to and during the Battles of Saratoga. However, there is strong circumstantial evidence that it was the quarters for General Benedict Arnold, General Enoch Poor and General John Paterson as well as members of their staffs. On the basis of present evidence, this plan suggests that the personalities of these generals be reflected as much as possible in the military furnishings used in the Neilson House. Since some of the items of Revolutionary War character are extremely scarce, it is suggested that reproduction of important items be considered. Reproductions should be used only when there is no reasonable hope of acquisition of the item and then only if the specimen is necessary to proper and accurate interpretation of the story. The Porch, because of its potential public use, is an exception to this recommendation.

The problem of exhibition has been considered. Because of the anticipated demands on the staff, it is believed that this house will be unattended much of the time it is on exhibition. During such periods, it was the consensus of opinion on the part of Park Officials that it would be viewed from the porch door and window. It is suggested that consideration be given to possibility of viewing the interior from other windows as well. It is also suggested that when attended interpretation is possible, limited public access to the Common Room be permitted.

This Furnishing Plan for the Neilson House is presented as a suggested guide for restoration of the interior furnishings of the Neilson House. As such, it is hoped that it will prove sufficiently flexible to allow practical acquisition of specimens without destruction of the integrity of the plan or damage to historic accuracy.

In the preparation of this report the co-operation of the Staff at Saratoga National Historical Park was essential. Superintendent Ellsworth and Historian John Luzader made the success of the field trip to that area possible. For assistance in locating and evaluating sources of information and objects, we are indebted to Mr. Craddock R. Goins, Jr. and Mr. Charles Doreman of The United States National Museum, The Smithsonian Institution; Mrs. Helen Fede, Curator, The Mount Vernon Ladies Association; Major Kenneth C. Miller, George Washington's Headquarters, Newburg, New York; Miss V. Isabelle Miller, The Museum of the City of New York; Mr. Ralph Lewis, Chief Museum Branch, National Park Service; and Miss Vera Craig, National Park Service Museum Laboratory. The continued assistance of Mr. John Gary, Court of Appeals, Albany, New York; Mr. Richard Koke, New York State Historical Society; Mrs. Helen Oren; and Miss Patricia Sarsfield in the physical preparation of this report, made its submission possible.

FURNISHING PLAN, JOHN NEILSON HOUSE

Saratoga National Historical Park

A. Statement of Interpretive Purposes

The proposed refurnishing of the John Neilson House will constitute a part of the general restoration and exhibition of the home of John Neilson, who farmed the crest of Bemis Heights in 1777. The house, erected in 1775, was representative of the homes of frontier farmers of northern New York in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The furnishings of the house should illustrate the atmosphere of home of that type and period, especially as such a structure would appear after it had been incorporated into the American fortified Camp on Bemis Heights.

B. Historical Narrative of The Significance of The House

In March of 1772, John Neilson left his home near Elizabeth, New Jersey and traveled up the Hudson River until he came to the village of Stillwater. For a time he worked for Abner Quitterfield, who had a farm about one mile north of Jotham Bemis' tavern. In 1775, he married his employer's daughter, Lydia.

At about the time of his marriage he took an indenture for the land at the crest of the hill west of Bemis' tavern, and the young couple began to build a home on this, the western fringe of the Hudson Valley settlements. Living for a while in a log cabin, John by 1776, had erected a frame house, and this became their home and the subject of this report.

Like other men of his age, John Neilson was enrolled in the Militia and was assigned to Colonel John McCrae's regiment, the 13th Regiment of Albany County Militia. Rising to the rank of sergeant, he saw action for several months during the first two years of the Revolutionary

War and occasional service during the years after 1777.¹

War first came to the Neilson House in the form of an Indian attack, in which Abner Quitterfield was killed defending the house, while his wife and daughter fled to the Woodworth house, just south of the Neilson's, where General Gates was later to have his headquarters.² The Neilson family, in common with others on the northern frontier, knew the want, uncertainty, and fear of Indian warfare.

The farm and its house assumed a military significance when Horatio Gates moved his army to Bemis Heights in his desperate effort to halt Burgoyne's advance on Albany. On September 12, the day that the army arrived, Richard Varick wrote to his patron and former commander, Philip Schuyler:

Camp near Hd.Qurs. ½ mile
West of Bemis's
August/_ sic, Sept⁷ 12, 1777,
2 oclock

You will observe our Camp is removed from Stillwater.... Upon this, the Army struck their tents at Day Light & were encamped here by 10 OClock.... As you are no doubt very well acquainted with the situation of the Ground I shall forbear saying any thing further on that Head, than that we occupy It from the Heights near /sic/ Bemis's to the Summit at & north of the Reade House where Head Quarters now is. Genl Arnold is on the highest part of the Hill at the house on the Road about North from Head Qurs as also Genl. Poor's On Opposite side I shall by pencil give you a feint description of our encampment.³

While contemporary accounts do not refer to the Neilson House by name, the maps of the American fortifications clearly indicate that the entrenchments ran in a north-western direction from behind Bemis'

Tavern to the top of the hill and then turned southwest, presenting a convex front toward the enemy in the north, comprehending the Neilson House and farmyard, which constituted lot number 14 of the Stillwater section of the Saratoga Patent.⁴

According to Varick's letter, Benedict Arnold and Brigadier General Enoch Poor were quartered in the Neilson house. While no other contemporary documents support this, later references do provide secondary evidence that the building had an important role in the military drama that was enacted on Bemis Heights during the autumn of 1777.

Jared Sparks provides one of these sources in the account of his visit to the Saratoga battlefield in August, 1830. His guides were Ezra Buel, local veteran and unofficial guide for all the VIP's who visited the region during the first fifty odd years after the battles, and John Neilson, the builder and owner of the house. Sparks wrote:

Within the limits of Gate's old camp we found Mr. Nelson/_sic_/, who lived there at the time on his own farm, and was present in the encampment nearly the whole time it was occupied by the American army. He, as well as Buel, recollected the location of several of the different Corps of the Army and Headquarters of the Generals. Arnold, Poor and Patterson occupied Neilson's House, which is now standing and makes the kitchen of his present tenement....⁵

On the basis of these sources, the evidence indicates that John Neilson's home was used as quarters by Arnold, Poor, and possibly Paterson during the period from September 12 to October 8. If this is so, it was undoubtedly the scene of much of the activity and bustle of an 18th century military camp. The preparation of orders, the coming and going of couriers, conferences, and if Arnold was quartered there,

scenes of violent argument and bitter recrimination, occurred within the walls of this small building.

Another aspect of the story of the house is the romantic account of how John Dyke Acland, commander of the British grenadiers, was brought there after he was wounded on October 7. His wife, Lady Harriet, daughter of the Earl of Ilchester was brought through the lines and nursed him. Contemporary sources do not name the Neilson House as the scene of their reunion, but Charles Neilson, William L. Stone, and Benson J. Lossing repeated it, and descendants of the Acland and Fox - Strangeway families, on the basis of tradition believe the story to be true.⁶

Because the people who lived in the Neilson House were frontier farm people, whose habits, customs, and social status differed from most of their contemporaries only in degree, no documentary evidence reflecting their manner of living exists. What may be learned would be inferential. John and Lydia Neilson lived like nearly all yeomen farmers of the period. Their furniture and comforts were those of nearly every farmer, except those who were wealthy. They were neither rich nor extremely poor. Their material goods were primitive, but no more so than those of a majority of the people.

The building had three rooms. The main room, the only one that was heated, served as a combination kitchen and living room, and perhaps even as sleeping quarters. A small lean-to to the rear of the room probably was used for storage purposes. The attic was apparently used for sleeping quarters.

In brief, we may infer that the rooms were used in the same manner as those of thousands of such homes. Cooking, baking, sewing,

spinning, carding, candle making, and all of the other housekeeping activities of the family were accomplished in the house, and its furnishings reflected these pursuits.

However, because the historic period is that of the occupation of the farm by the American army and of the house by general officers, the domestic character of the furnishings should be modified in a manner that would illustrate its temporary use. Amidst the furniture that would be found in a frontier home there would be the accoutrements of an officer's quarters: pen and well; order^{er}ly books; side arms; maps; and other paraphernalia of a military character.

C. Documentary Account of Historical Furnishings

Research has located no documents pertaining to the furniture that was in the house during the historic period. Although descendants of the Neilson family have various pieces that were owned by the original owner, none are of the historic period. The park collection includes a desk that belonged to John Neilson, but it is post-Revolutionary and the bill of sale is dated 1821.

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1. Neilson Papers, Saratoga N.H.P., Envelope #2.
 2. Neilson, Charles, An Original Compiled and Corrected Account of Burgoyne's Campaign and the Memorable Battles of Bemis Heights September 19 and Oct. 7, 1777, from the Most Authentic Sources and Information Including Many Interesting Incidents Connected With The Same, J. Munsell, Albany, 1844, pp. 82-84.
 3. Stone, Wm. L., "Lady and Major Acland," Magazine of American History, January, 1880.
 4. Lossing, Benson J., Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution, 2 vols., Har per Bros., New York, 1851, Vol. I, footnote, pp. 67-68.
 5. Interviews, Park Historian John F. Luzader with Mrs. R. C. Taylor (nee Acland), 274 Burns Pt., Forest Hills, New York, May 30, 1957, June 1, 1957, and May 30, 1958.

3. Schuyler Papers, New York Public Library, Italics the writers.

4. Orthographical View of the American and British Armies on the 7th and 8th of October 1777, by Rufus Putnam.

5. Sparks, Jardd, Journal, Jared Sparks Collection, Widmer Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

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6. 1. Neilson, op. cit., p. 154.
2. Stone, William L., The Campaign of Lieut. Gen. John Burgoyne and the Expectation of Lieut. Col. Barry St. Leger, Joel Munsell, Albany, 1877, p. 85.

The Porch: Size (18' 9" x 6' 9", 6' 10" high)
Drawing No. N.H.P. - S A R, August 1958

3057

Physical Description:

"In its original state a porch extended across the front of the building as evidenced by presence of used rafter beds, (Notches cut in the top surface of the plate that receives the rafter) on the front joists in the studs... It appears to be the same porch shown in Lossing's sketch and the photographs of 1884 and 1893... Judging from the pitch of the rafter beds the porch was about 6' 9" wide."¹ This is the architectural description given in Mr. Frederik C. Gjessing's Preliminary to the Restoration of the John Neilson House Architectural Survey Report 207, October 1958.

Interpretive Function:

The interpretive function of the porch is the presentation of an accurate and authentic atmosphere of a farm house porch temporarily used as part of military quarters of three American Generals and some of their men September 12 to October 8, 1777.² The porch will provide the visitor with the most accessible view of the interior from the door and window located here.

Historical Evidence Concerning the Furnishings of this Specific Porch:

No documentary historical evidence concerning the furnishings of this specific porch has been found. However, the dimensions of the porch established through archeological and architectural investigations³ suggest dimensions and possible locations of porch furnishings in common use in 1777. These findings are reported in Mr. Frederik C. Gjessing's Preliminary to the Restoration of the John Neilson House Architectural Survey Report 207, October 1958.

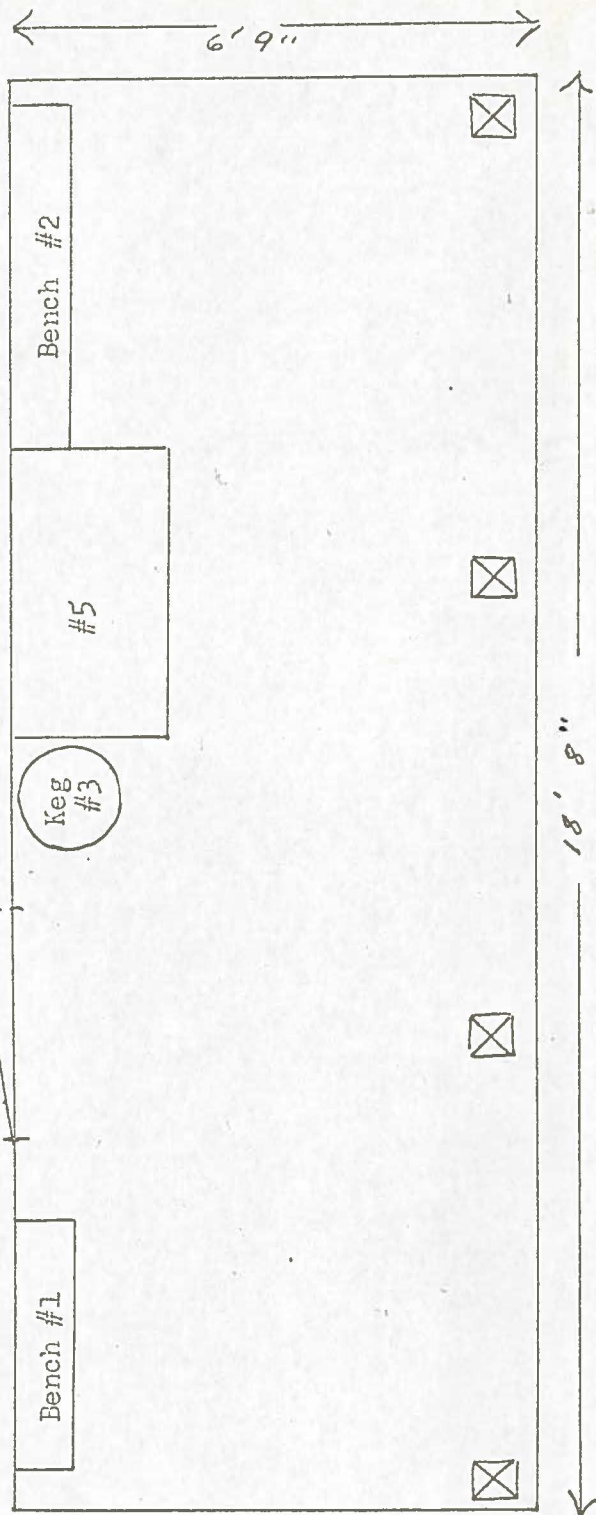
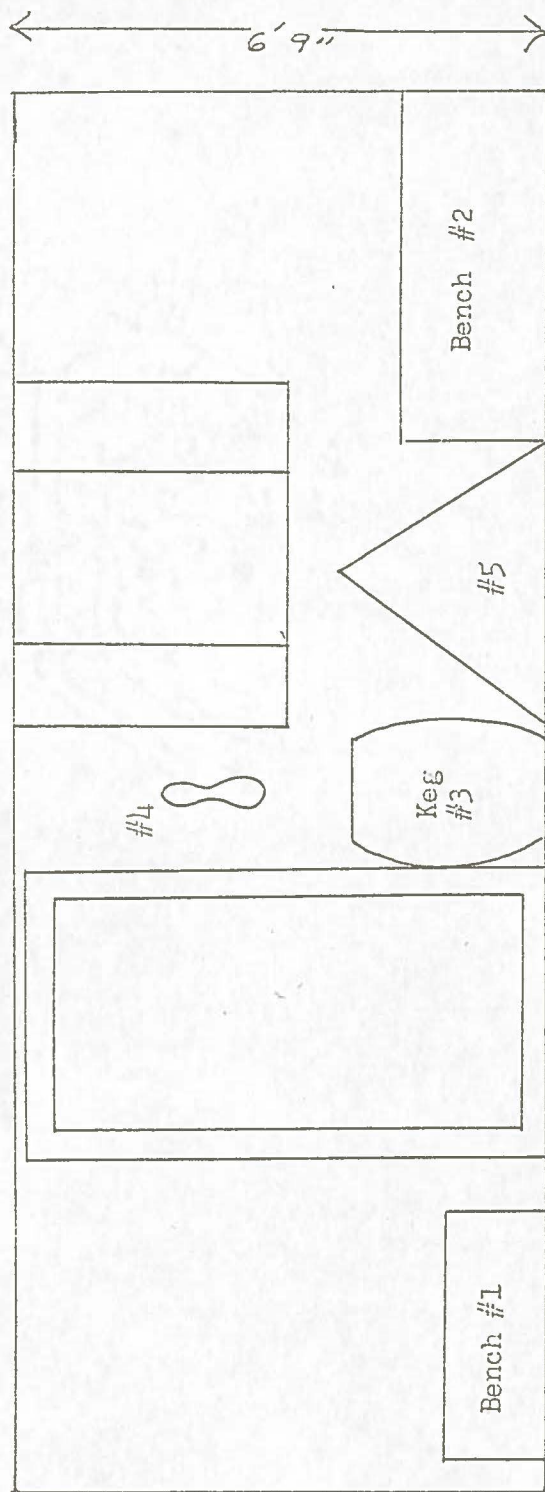
Historical Evidence for Furnishings of a Porch of this Period, Style and Vicinity:

Benches could have been easily made from the native wood found on this farm in 1775. Several of the inventories examined mentioned benches. Russell Hawes Kettell's, The Pine Furniture of Early New England⁴ illustrates pine benches of the 18th century drawn from the original objects. By the last quarter of the 18th century, even on the Saratoga Patent wherever milled timbers were available, simple benches of more refined design than the split log furniture would have been in use. For the Neilsons this porch provided a protected area where they could pause before entering the main room of their house. When one contemplates the 18th century mud and snow which in certain seasons of the year covered the feet of those who crossed the threshold of this house, one can appreciate some of the uses for benches by the door. The soldiers who milled about these quarters would have used whatever was available while awaiting orders or the opportunity to complete their business at this place.

Reproduction furnishings are recommended for this porch so that they may be used by the visitor as he might have used them if he had stopped here between September 12 and October 8, 1777. For protective purposes, it may be advisable to fasten the furnishings in a semi-permanent manner.

List of Suggested Furnishings for the Porch:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Measurement</u>	<u>Price</u>
1. Bench Pine	(Reproduction) c. 1775	Kettell, Drawing 21, p. 63	3' 3" - length c. 15" - height 9" - width	
2. Bench Pine	(Reproduction) c. 1775	Kettell, Drawing 22, p. 64	4' 6" - length c. 20" - height 9" - width	
3. Keg	(Reproduction) c. 1775		30 Gallon size c. 26" - height c. 18" - diameter	
4. Dipper Gourd hung by raw hide tie from wrought nail	(Reproduction) c. 1775		c. 15" - length	
5. Fireplace wood				



THE PORCH
FLOOR PLAN

Scale $\square = 3''$

The Common Room: Size (16' 3" long, 17' 5" wide, 7' 9-3/4" high
between ceiling beams, 7' 1-1/2" under beams)

Drawing No. N.H.P. - S A R, August 1958

3057

Physical Description:

This room was in the process of restoration in May 1960 according to findings established in the architectural investigation of the structure. The stairs or ladder leading to the attic may have been originally located in the southwest corner just to the west of the front door.⁵ The original character and location of the fireplace was established and it is to be rebuilt on the east wall.⁶ The window north of this location is not original and will be removed.⁷ The Architectural Report recommends that the walls and ceiling of this room be whitewashed with an off-white-wash, mixed to match the original color and that the wood baseboards, window trim and doors be painted red following the traces of the old finish.⁸ There are four windows in this room which are believed to be original.

It is suggested that the placing of a peg board immediately west of the south door be considered. This would have been a logical location for the common coat hanger of the 18th century. This would be about a four foot strip running from the door to the wall.

Interpretive Function:

This family room served Lydia and John Neilson from 1775 to 1777⁹ as the common all purpose room. It is believed that only Mr. John Neilson and his wife Lydia were living in this room when the Revolution brought violence near Stillwater, New York. John served periodically with the Army.¹⁰ While he was absent from Stillwater, Lydia lived with her mother and father in their nearby farmhouse or had them with her in the Neilson house. In 1777, Mrs. Neilson's father, Abner Quitterfield, was killed by an Indian.¹¹ It is presumed that Mrs. Neilson had ample time to remove what valuables she wished from the house prior to the encampment of the American Army on Bemis Heights. Her family was sympathetic to the American forces and the house was used by general officers of some refinement. It is therefore probable that Mrs. Neilson stripped the house of only the most fragile and perishable possessions. The interpretive function of this room is the presentation of its appearance as a farmer's home modified by its immediate use as quarters for Generals Arnold, Poor, and Paterson.¹² It is believed from the statements made concerning the use of the house by Arnold, Poor, and Paterson that this room was the scene of active command, requiring office as well as sleeping and eating space for the men who used it in the chill of the New York fall of 1777.

Historical Evidence for the Furnishings Used in this Room by the
Neilsons and Members of the American Military Forces who Served Here:

The fireplace, the only source of heat in the house, is located in this room. Here the occupants ate, slept, and worked. Excavations in the area near the original foundations of this house uncovered a few objects which are included in the list of furnishings to be exhibited in this room. Historian John Luzader located an inventory of goods in the dwelling house of John Neilson, Jr. in 1818. This paper was among family papers in a small 18th century leather trunk which may well have been in the house at the time of the battle. A photostat of that inventory is found in Appendix B of this report. The goods listed in it are believed to represent the taste of the family to some extent and in a few cases may be furnishings inherited from among the original furnishings of this room. In the traditional report of Abner Quitterfield's death, he reached up to take a gun from a hook near the door.¹³ This may have been in the Neilson house or the Quitterfield house.

Historical Evidence from Comparative Contemporary Sources:

Selected inventories, included in Appendix B, list furnishings of sixteen (16) people who lived in the Hudson River Valley from New York City to Stillwater between 1773 and 1788. A wide gamut of wealth is represented in these documents from the New York City townsman of Dutch ancestry whose total inventory was worth 703¹/₂ 10 S 3 P to a tenant farmer of Stillwater of Irish background who was in jail for debt and owed more than his goods and chattel were worth. The sixteen inventories included in Appendix B were picked because of a date close to that of 1777 and a geographical location which might make their goods similar to those used in the Stillwater area. It was hoped that the inventory of Abner Quitterfield might be located, but administration papers on his estate were not filed until 1784 and no inventory for his estate was found among the papers examined. In this brief survey of more than 2,000 inventories included in this mass of rich source material, it seemed evident that during the Revolutionary War years many citizens neglected the usual legal processes concerning wills and estate appraisals. There seemed to be a greater number of inventories of estates between 1680 and 1700 than there were between 1770 and 1790. It is interesting and logical to find that regardless of wealth, the needs of life in the Hudson River Valley were answered by use of the same kind of furnishings. For example, coffee was made in a pot. The rich man might use brass or copper; the poor man might use tin or pewter but each had a coffee pot. The differences in common furnishings affected by wealth were reflected in the materials used and the number of furnishings held rather than great differences in form. On the basis of evidence gleaned from these inventories the following list of furnishings for this room is suggested.

The list of furnishings in this room, suggested by the household inventories of the period, were modified in September of 1777 by the arrival of the American Army and its equipage. This room became quarters for General Arnold, General Poor and perhaps General Paterson.

There is no specific evidence available at this time regarding their specific equipment but from a knowledge of the purpose which brought them to Saratoga and the use to which they would have put this room and house, some logical deductions can be made concerning the kind of furnishings they placed here. The excellent records available concerning the equipment carried by General Washington at this time provides us with accurate illustrations of camp equipment available and in use. Photographs of some of this equipment is included in Appendix A.

Historic Setting:

In order to make this historic house museum most meaningful in terms of accuracy and credibility, a time and condition have been envisioned regarding the placement of individual furnishings and room setting. The most important function which the common room has to tell in terms of this house's relation to the Battle of Saratoga is its use by American Army General Officers as headquarters. More important than their eating and sleeping was the active command activities which were executed in this room. The hour chosen to be reflected is not meal time nor bedtime but one of the hours between when the activity of command was in progress. The room should look as if the staff had just dashed outside to view some near and unexpected commotion, leaving the room as it was to return in a matter of minutes to their tasks. It could be anyone of several days which preceded October 8, 1777.

According to the best information available at this time, three American Generals, Arnold, Poor, and Paterson, occupied the house as headquarters. From both general and particular information concerning the General Officers of the Revolution, they traveled in greater luxury than one might expect. General Arnold was known for his extravagant taste.¹⁴ From a survey of the equipment used by General Washington, it is possible to ascertain accurately what officers' furnishings were available. It is possible that in acquiring furnishings, the particular taste of each of these generals may be taken into consideration. Their personal possessions which are extant may be located, listed, studied, and possibly acquired. With a knowledge of Washington's possessions and Arnold's taste, the equipage of the three generals has been suggested. It is believed that the staff who used these quarters had servants who prepared the meals and carried out other household chores. However, the refinements of permanent quarters were not contemplated for this area. These men had come to Saratoga to direct a battle and move. It is possible that they were living out of their military trunks. They would have used the furnishings which the Neilsons had left for them. One officer would not have put up his camp bed, but would have used

the bed already in the room. Mrs. Neilson's cooking utensils would have been used and even the linen which she may have left for that purpose would have been used. One table would have been used for kitchen work. The long sawbuck table which the Neilsons may have used for meals would have served as dining table and desk. In these crowded quarters only the general's bed would have been his own. This small space would have been crowded with whatever personal or professional articles were not packed or capable of being packed back in the trunk. However, the presence of servants or orderlies made this a scene of organized untidiness.

It is believed that the attic above this room was used by members of the generals' staffs for sleeping. It is true that tents could have been pitched nearby and undoubtedly were. At times when Arnold raged with Gates, either he or the other two generals would have gone elsewhere.¹⁵ The temporary character of their intended stay and the uncertainty of the weather would have influenced these men to suffer the crowded shelter which this small three room house afforded them. It is only circumstantial evidence on which we base the assumption that these three generals shared sleeping, eating, and working quarters in this house. However, without evidence to the contrary, this historic house must answer their needs in this regard. In doing this it illustrates to the visitor some of the surprising anachronisms of a gentleman's war.

It is felt that among the crowded confusion of this waiting camp the farmers sent gifts of food to the officers. The presence of apples and other fresh fruits and vegetables native to this area in this room would have been appropriate for the fall of 1777. The viewer of this scene should be forced to recall the people who used this room between September and October 1777 by the selection of specimens and the manner in which these things are arranged.

By the time the day's work began, breakfast was over and the camp beds with their hangings were in order. Papers, ink, and quills were in use at the table. A beaker or two of tea or coffee might be within the writers' easy reach. A man out on inspection on returning may have placed his cape on a peg, his gloves and a spyglass on his bed and his coat over the back of a chair near the fire so that it could warm and if necessary dry, while he sat to plot what he had seen of the terrain on his maps. Apples might well be in the center of the work table. The cloth from the last evenings meal might be neatly folded over the corner of the "turn up" table awaiting its use. The table turned up to conserve space until preparation of an indoor meal made its use necessary. One of the servants might well be working quietly with a mortar and pestle near

the fire on which the beginnings of the evening meal were simmering in a small iron kettle. The clock on the wall should be running or stopped to an hour in mid-morning or mid-afternoon. An officer's watch might be open on the table next to his maps and his pipe. Personal jewelry might be seen on the wash stand or the fireplace ledge. A snuff box or powdered wig might have been found among the articles left near Arnold's bed.

The officers of the engaging Armies brought a refinement unfamiliar to this frontier house which had witnessed Indian raids within the year. The common room was a scene of crowded living conditions, bustling activity and surprising touches of luxury when it was used by the American Army in the fall of 1777.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Measurements</u>	<u>Price</u>
14. 2 linen pillows	c.1775	(may be made from old material)		
15. 1 linen bolster	c.1775	(may be made from old material)		
16. 1 tin kettle	c.1775	Colonial Living p.139	c. 12" diameter	
17. Tinder box	c.1775	Colonial Living p.41 American T & T p.111, pl.221	c. 6" - 8" diameter	
18. Teapot (Tin)	c.1775	American T & T p.62, pl.113	c. 8" - 10" tall 6" - 8" diam.	
19. Crane (fireplace)	c.1775		c. 36" x 24"	Park Collection
20. 1 pr. Andirons	c.1775	Appendix A pls. 21 & 35		Park Collection
21. Ash Shovel	c.1775			
22. Tongs	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.21		Park Collection
23. Dutch oven (Bake kettle)	c.1775	Colonial Living, p. 38	12" - 18" diam. c. 8" deep	
24. Chopper	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.32		Park Collection
25. Spatula	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.26	c. 11" long	Park Collection
26. Skimmer	c.1775	Colonial Living, p.38	c. 12" - 18"	c.\$10.00
27. Meat fork or toasting fork	c.1775	Colonial Living, p.38	c. 12" - 18"	c.\$10.00
28. Laddle	c.1775	Nutting, pl.3868	c. 12" - 18"	c.\$10.00
29. Sadiron and heater	c.1775	Smithsonian Bulletin 141, pl.93, fig.1	c. 5 1/2" high 4 3/4" long 3 1/4" wide	
30. 4 Pewter tumblers or beakers	c.1775	American Pewter, fig. 33	c. 4" high 2 1/2" diam.	

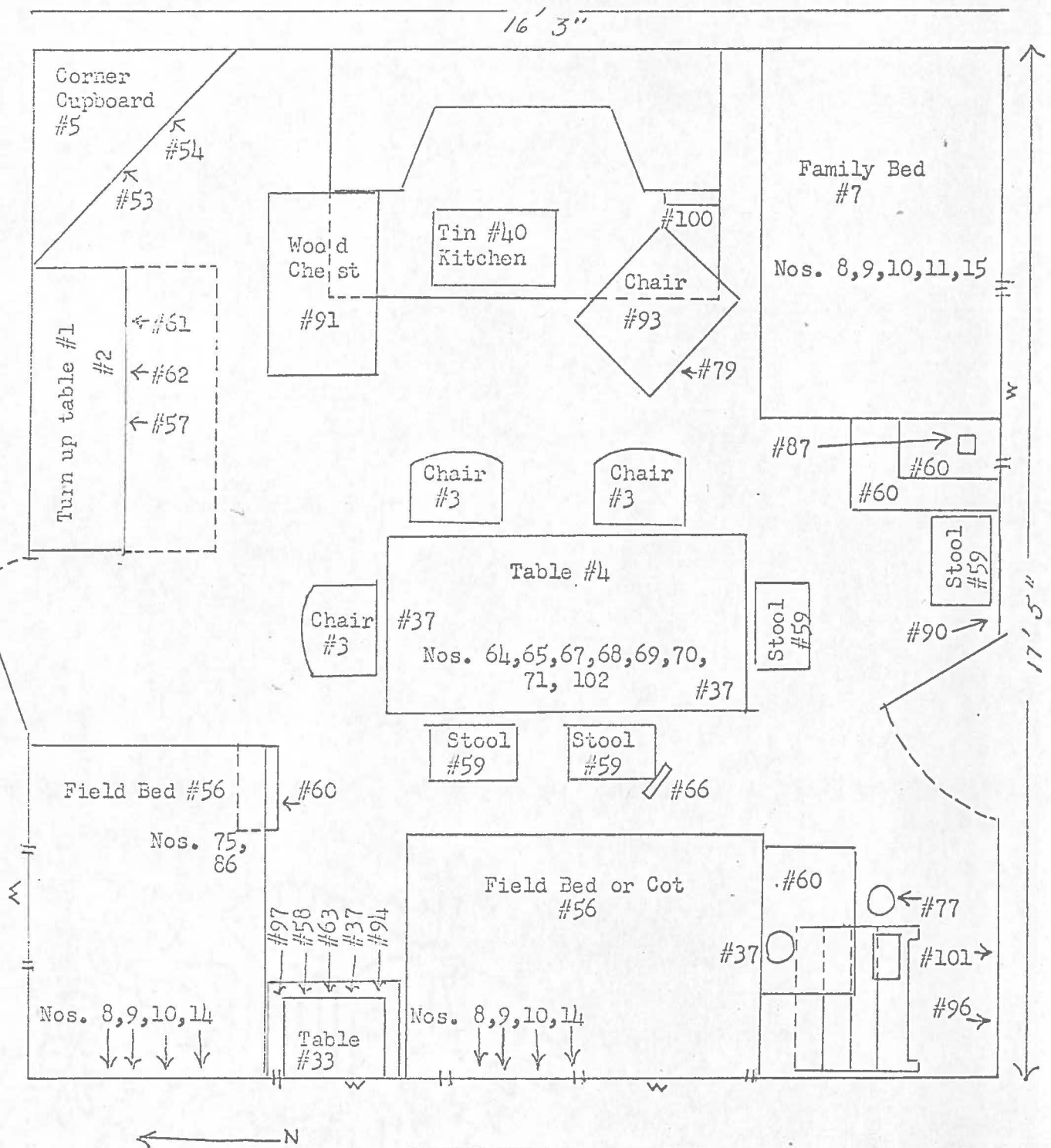
<u>Item</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Measurements</u>	<u>Price</u>
31. 2 Large plates	c.1775	American Pewter, fig. 47	c. 12"-14" diam.	
32. 8 Small plates	c.1775	American Pewter, fig. 47	c. 6"-8" diam.	
33. Pine stand or table	c.1775	Kettle, pl.98	c. 26" high 29" diam.	
34. Powder horn	c.1775		c. 8"-12"	Park Collection
35. Candlebox	c.1775	Kettle, pls. 1 & 2	c. 15"x8"	
36. Pipe box	c.1775	Kettle, pls. 6 & 7	c. 12"-18" x 4"-6"	
37. 5 Candlesticks (tin)	c.1775	American T & T p.95, pl.182	c. 6" high 3 7/8" diam.	
38. Lantern	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.31 Colonial Living,p.59	c. 12" x 5"	
39. 1 pr. snuffers (iron)	c.1775	Colonial Living, p.134	c. 6½" x 2"	\$5.00 to \$10.00
40. Tin kitchen	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.20	c. 24" x 13½" x11"	Park Collection
41. Coffee pot (tin)	c.1775	American T & T p.62, pl.113 p.115, pl.228	c. 15" high 8" diam.	
42. Iron kettle	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.22		
43. Broiler	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.21 Colonial Living, p.139	24" x 12"	
44. Frying pan	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.22 Colonial Living, p.139	c. 12"diam.- 18" diam.	Park Collection
45. Spider	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.20	c. 4' long x 12"	Park Collection
46. Toaster	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.20 Colonial Living, p.139	c. 3' x 8"	Park Collection

<u>Item</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Measurements</u>	<u>Price</u>
47. 2 Iron kettles	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.22		
48. 1 Dripping pan	c.1775	American T & T, p.13, pl.5	12" x 8"	
49. 1 Trammel	c.1775	Index A.D., p.92, pl.183 Appendix A, pl.15 Colonial Living, p.38	c. 12"-24"	c.\$25.00
50. Pot hooks	c.1775	Colonial Living, p.38	c. 8"-18"	
51. Salt box	c.1775		c. 13 1/3" x 7 3/4" x 6"	
52. Coffee mill	c.1775	Index A.D., pl.315 American T & T, p.23, pl.25	c. 12"-18" x 6"-8"	
53. 1 Wooden bowl	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.34		Park Collection
54. 1 Willow basket	c.1775			
55. Mortar and Pestle (wood)	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.34	c. 8"-12" high	Park Collection
56. 2 Campbeds w/hangings and spread	c.1775	Appendix A, pls.42 & 43	c. 6' x 4'	
57. Camp chest	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.44		
58. Razor case	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.36	c. 4 1/2" x 7" x 3 1/4"	
59. 4 Camp stools	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.43		
60. 4 Small trunks	c.1775	Appendix A, pls. 29 & 37	c. 33 1/2" x 18" x 15"	
61. Liquor chest	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.47	c. 18" x 12" x 13"	
62. 3 Sets of camp knives and forks		Appendix A, pl.45	c. 7" long	
63. Toilet set		Appendix A, pl.46	c. 5" long	

<u>Item</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Measurements</u>	<u>Price</u>
64. 3 Ink wells		Appendix A, pls. 5 & 34 Colonial Living, p. 61	c. 3"-5" diam.	
65. 4 Quills		Appendix A, pl. 5 Colonial Living, p. 61		
66. Dispatch case		Appendix A, pl. 48	c. 13" x 18"	
67. 3 Sanders		Appendix A, pl. 38 Colonial Living, p. 61	c. 4" x 2½"	
68. Paper		Colonial Living, p. 61		
69. Ink		Colonial Living, p. 61		
70. Rolled piece of parchment or linen paper				
71. Sealing wax		Colonial Living, p. 61		
72. Spurs	c. 1777			
73. Pistols and holsters	c. 1777	Appendix A, pls. 39 & 40	c. 13 1/4" x 4 3/4"	
74. Belt or sash	c. 1777			
75. Gloves	c. 1777			
76. Hat	c. 1777			
77. Boots (steps)	c. 1777			
78. Shirt	c. 1777			
79. Coat (chair by fire)	c. 1777			
80. Breeches	c. 1777			
81. Vest	c. 1777			
82. Shoes	c. 1777			
83. Stockings	c. 1777			

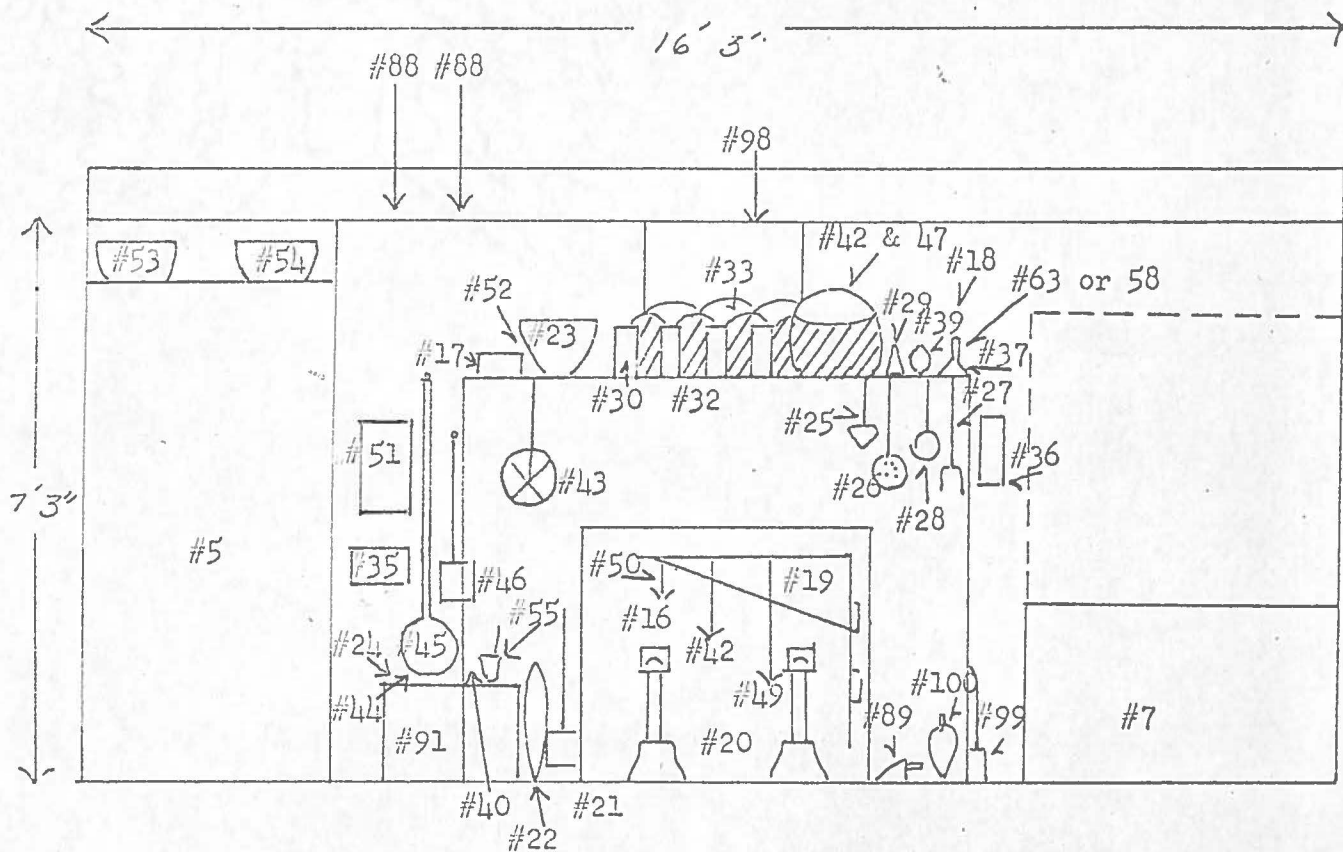
<u>Item</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Measurements</u>	<u>Price</u>
84. Overcoat or cloak	c.1777			
85. Sword	c.1777			
86. Telescope	c.1777	Appendix A, pl.41	c.33" x 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	
87. 3 Bibles (pocket size)	c.1777		c. 6" x 4"	
88. Drying herbs and vegetables hung from beams such as: Lavender Peppers Indian corn Rue Rosemary Apples Grapes				
89. Ember carries	c.1775	Colonial Living, p.41 American T & T, p.20, pls.21 & 22 Appendix A, pl.22 Index A.D., p.52, pl.96		Park Collection
90. Looking glass	c.1775	Kettle, p.172, 177	c. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	
91. Wood box	c.1775		c. 3' x 18"	
92. Gun (gun hooks over door)			c. 5' long	
93. Chair	1775	Appendix A, pl.30	c. 1'9" x 3'6" high, 5' deep	Park Collection
94. Wash Basin with pitcher				
95. Footstool		Appendix A, pl.30	c. 10" x 6"	Park Collection
96. Peg Board		Reproduce for house		
97. Chamber pot				
98. Betty lamp		Colonial Living, p.42	c. 5" long	Park Collection

<u>Item</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Measurements</u>	<u>Price</u>
99. Waffle Iron		Colonial Living, p. 69	c.18" long 6" x 8" plate	Park Collection
100. Bellows		Appendix A, pl. 20	c.12"-15" x 11"	Park Collection
101. Yoke		Appendix A, pl.33	c.24"-36"	Park Collection
102. Farmers' gifts to officers such as: Apples, Fruits, Vegetables or Pastries in season and native to the area in the fall of 1777.				

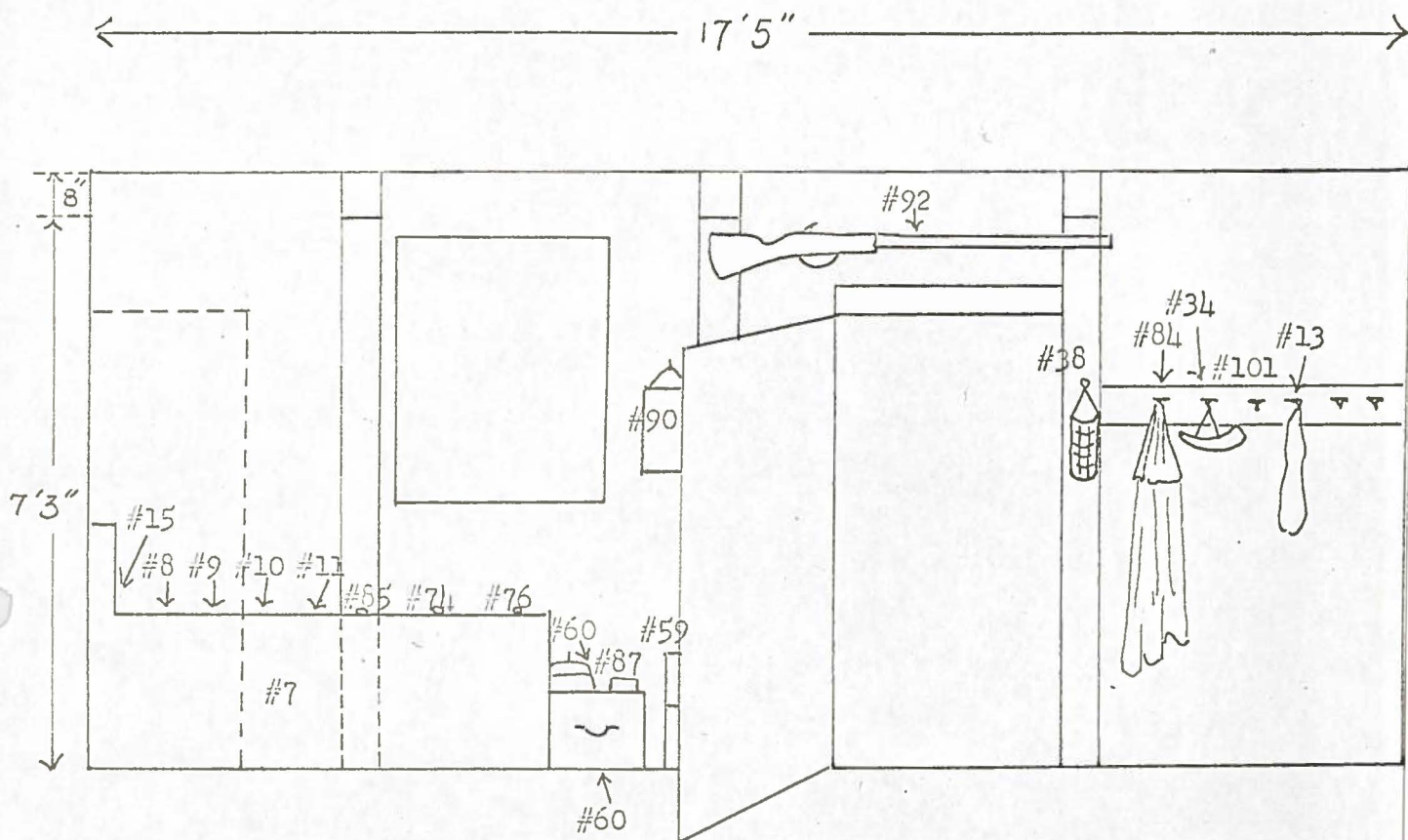


COMMON ROOM
FLOOR PLAN

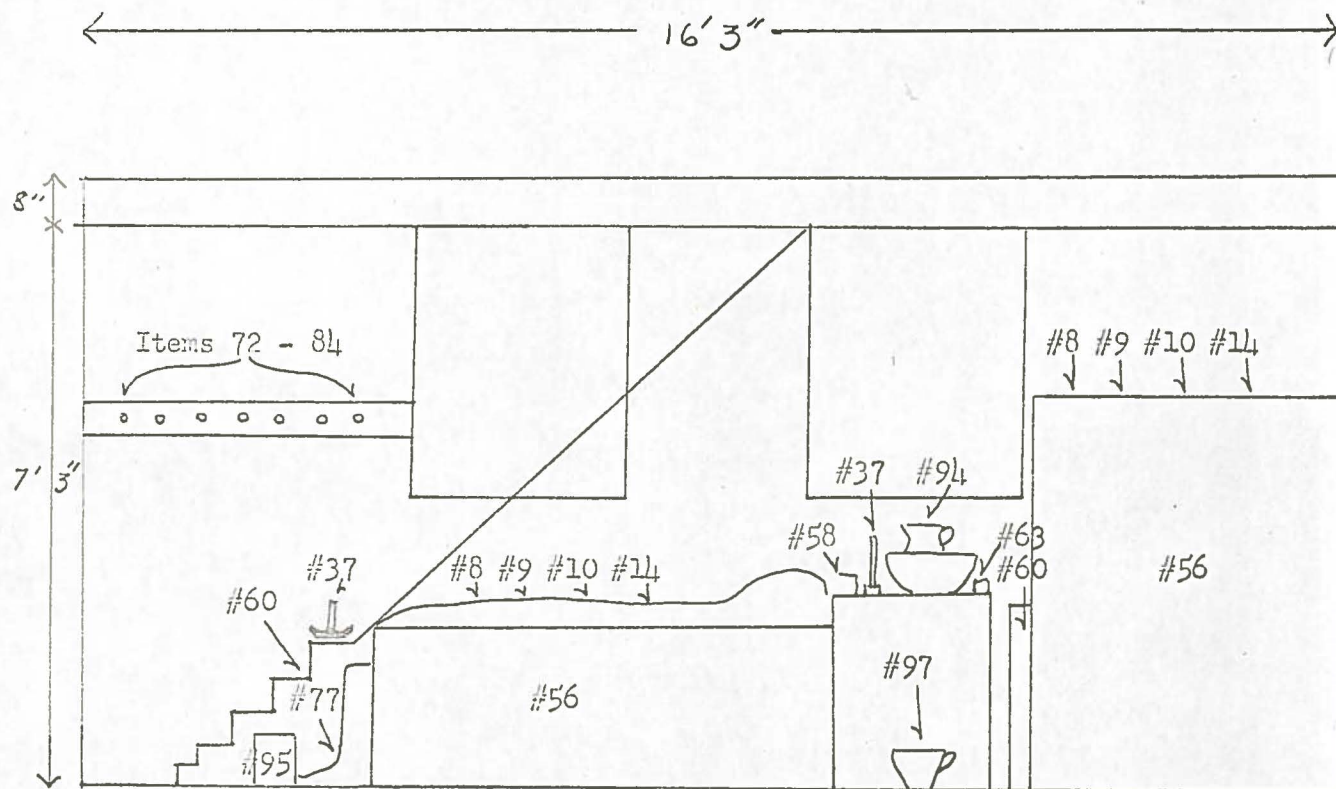
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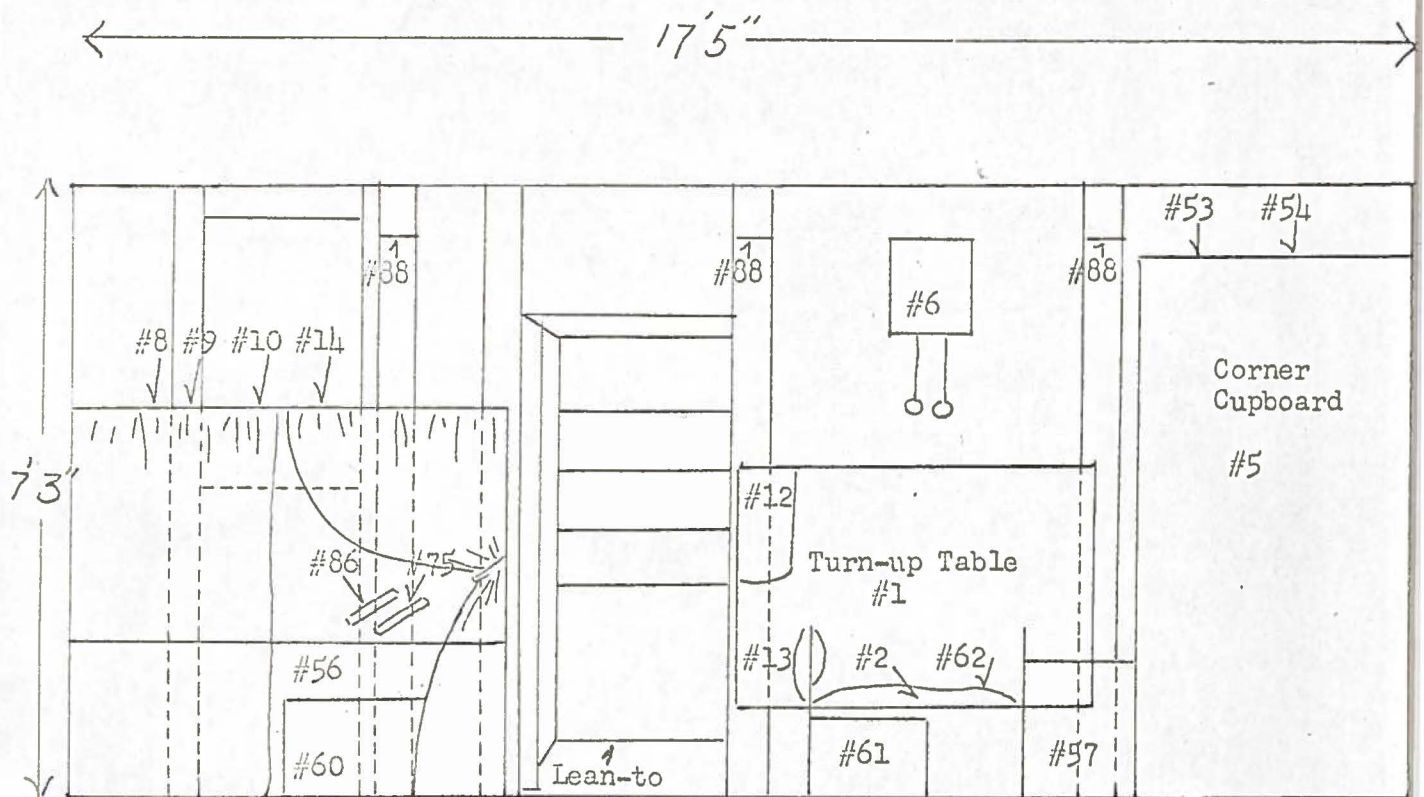
THE COMMON ROOM
EAST WALL ELEVATION



THE COMMON ROOM
SOUTH WALL ELEVATION



THE COMMON ROOM
WEST WALL ELEVATION



THE COMMON ROOM
NORTH WALL ELEVATION

The Leanto: Size (12' long, 6' wide)
Drawing No. N. H. P. : S A R
3057

Physical Description:

The leanto is attached to the original frame on the north side of the house. It has a small window in the east wall. A door from the common room is located in the south wall. The beaded sheathing of its walls is its distinctive feature. Much of the apparently original sheathing remains in place.⁶ The finish of this part will be retained and where new sheathing is used it will be beaded and finished to match the original.

Interpretive Function:

Since there is no source of heat in this room and no exterior door, it was designed to supplement the use of the common room. This is the logical place for Mrs. Neilson to have stored her foodstuffs and utensils which were not in constant use. It is also the logical place for the storage of small or prized tools. When the Army moved in, it became the most available and expendable place in the house to store excess furnishings left by the Neilsons but not needed by the officers quartered in the house. During occupation of the house, the attic was probably used by servants and some of the soldiers for sleeping quarters. This section afforded better sleeping space than the leanto because it contained larger floor space and received a greater share of heat from the room below where the fireplace was located.

Historical Evidence Concerning Specific Furnishings of the Leanto:

No historical evidence concerning 1777 furnishings of this specific room has been found.

Historical Evidence from Contemporary Comparative Sources c. 1777:

The original section of the Lippitt Homestead at Cooperstown, New York, (c.1797), although furnished to a later period (1800 - 1810),¹⁷ is architecturally very similar to the construction of this house. The leanto section of this house was designed for storage and auxiliary kitchen work space. Even after modification took place in the structure, the original use of this area was continued.

The suggested list of furnishings for the leanto of the Neilson house is based on the foodstuffs and storage containers mentioned in the inventories in Appendix B. In this plan other furnishings, such as the spinning and weaving equipment, are moved into this section just as the army would have moved them had Lydia Neilson left them in the house. It is believed that the house where Lydia Neilson stayed during the occupation would have been equipped with all the heavy spinning and weaving equipment needed. Therefore, any in the Neilson house would have remained there.

Historic Setting:

While most of the activity of the headquarters transpired in the common room, the leanto was used to store extra supplies of foodstuffs and to supply additional work space for kitchen operations. With all the spinning equipment stored at the east end, the area near the door could be employed when needed as a place to clean vegetables, mix batter, make butter, etc. At such times, a chair could have been brought in from the common room and a barrel top used as a table.

At the time suggested in the floor plans attached, such activity was not in progress. All was quiet in the leanto and the "KP" operation which was in progress was taking place at the fire side in the common room.

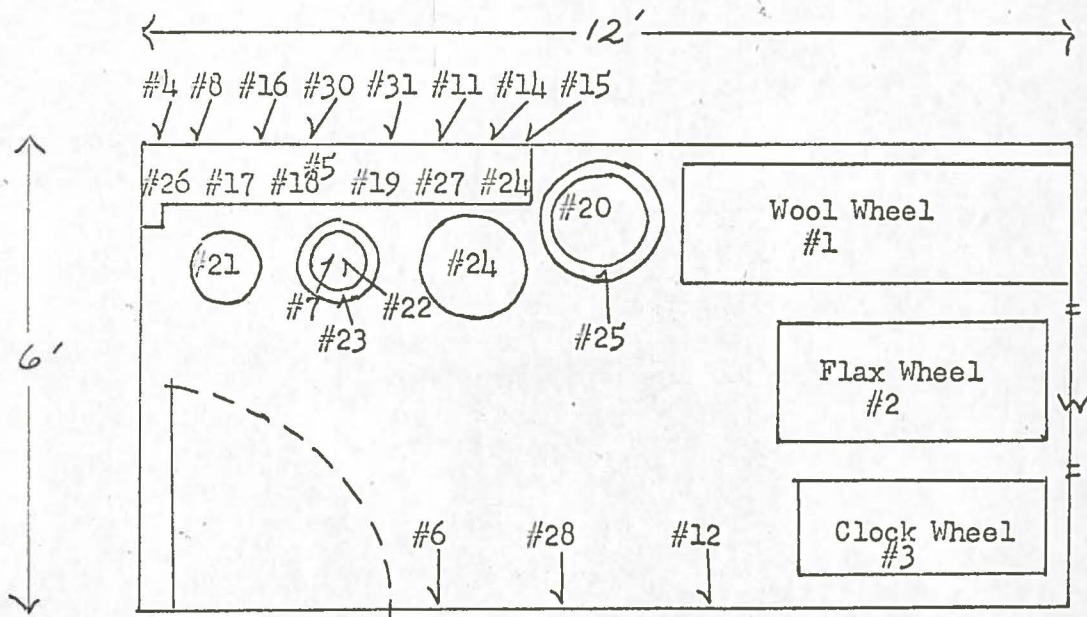
To add color, if needed and practicable, fresh fruit or vegetables could be placed in storage in the leanto where they would be visible from the door. It is presumed that the farmers who sent gifts of food would have sent enough that storage for the surplus would be needed. Some military and medical equipment might have been added to the shelves and extra liquor stores placed here. The leanto, like the common room, would have been crowded but in greater order when not in immediate use as was the case visualized in the placement of furnishings in this plan.

List of furnishings suggested for the Leanto:

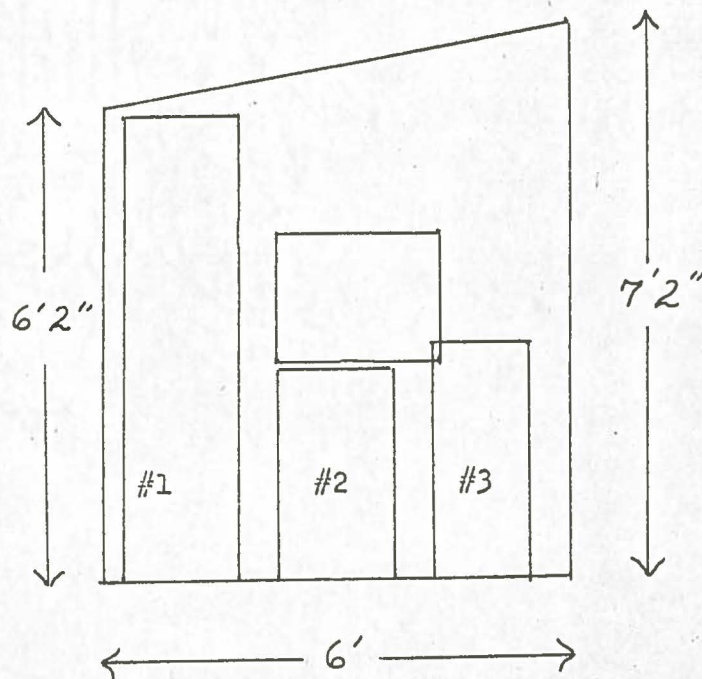
<u>Item</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Measurements</u>	<u>Price</u>
1. Wool wheel	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.24	5'1" x 6'1" x 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	Park Collection
2. Flax wheel	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.25	3'3" x 2'9" x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	Park Collection
3. Clock Reel	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.23	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 2' x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ '	Park Collection
4. Raw Flax				Gift
5. Dresser or free shelving	c.1775	Nutting, Vol. I, p.476 Kettle, p.126	c.6' x 5' x 9"	c.\$250.00
6. Lantern	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.31	c.9"	Park Collection
<u>Tools such as:</u>				
7. Hammer	c.1775	(Reproduce handle for head in artifact collection at park)	c.5" head	Park Collection
8. Hatchet	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.26 (Reproduce handle for head in artifact collection at park)	c.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " head	Park Collection
9. Broad Ax	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.33	c.18" x 10"	Park Collection
10. Adz	c.1775	Index A.D. (19th century but same head design as 18th)	c.3' handle 12" head	
11. Wood cards	c.1775	Appendix A, pl.20 Colonial Living, p.46	c.9" x 5"	Park Collection
12. Flax hatchel	c.1775	Colonial Living, p.49 American T & T, p.66, 124	c.3' x 8"	

<u>Item</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Measurements</u>	<u>Price</u>
13. Broom	c.1777	Kettle, p.30 Colonial Living, p.68		
14. 2 Milk pans (tin)	c.1777	American T & T, p.51, pl.68		
15. Candle- molds	c.1775	Appendix A, pls.28 & 31 American T & T, p.102, pl.194	(12 candle size)	Park Collection
16. Cake of tallow		(Reproduce same)		
17. Colander (tin)				
18. 3 Funnels (tin or wood)	c.1775			
19. Scale and beam set of cut weights	c.1775			
20. Washtub	c.1775	American T & T, p.73, pl.135		
21. Churn, (wood)	c.1775	Colonial Living, p.45		c.\$25.00
22. 1 qt. barrel	c.1775	Possibly reproduction	c.10" - high 5" - diam.	
23. 5-Gallon barrel	c.1775	Possibly reproduction	c.12" - high 5" - diam.	
24. 30-Gallon barrel	c.1775	Possibly reproduction	c.26" - high 18" - diam.	
25. 50-Gallon barrel	c.1775	Possibly reproduction	c.35" - high 20" - diam.	
26. Meal tub	c.1775	Kettle, p.126		
27. Assorted woodenware 2 mortars and pestles 2 butter paddles 1 wooden cup 1 wooden bucket		Appendix A, pl.34		Park Collection

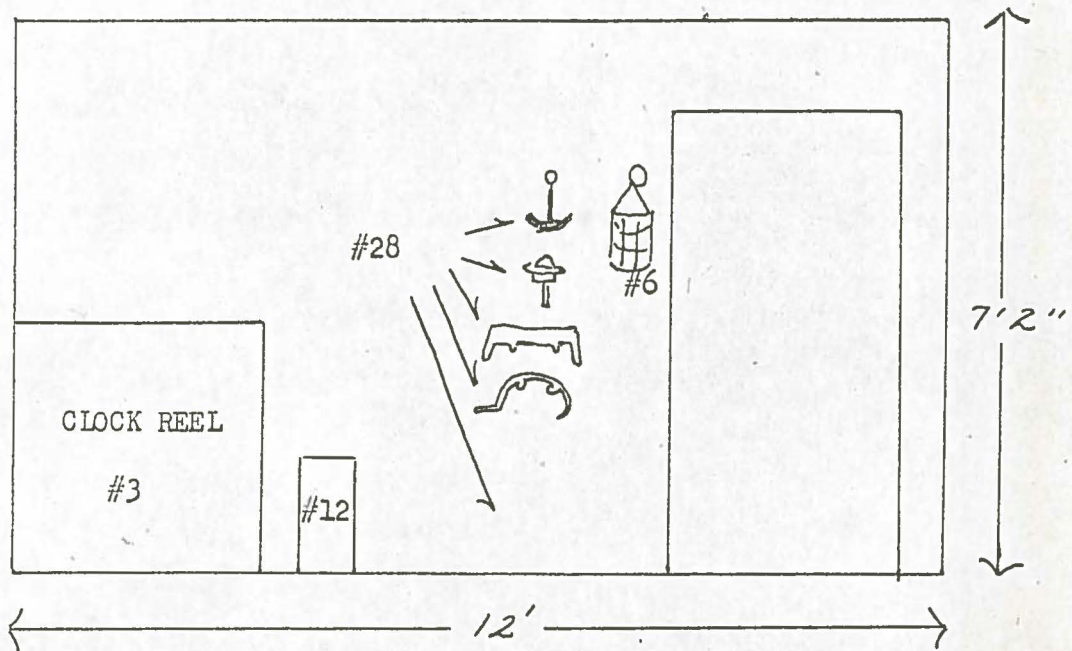
<u>Item</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Measurements</u>	<u>Price</u>
28. Assorted tools		Appendix A,		Park
1 grass knife		pls. 32 & 33		Collection
1 bed wrench				
1 chopping knife				
2 drills				
1 hammer				
1 hand saw				
1 rake				
1 straight grass knife				
29. Medical Supplies				
30. Liquor Supplies				
31. Fresh food Supplies				



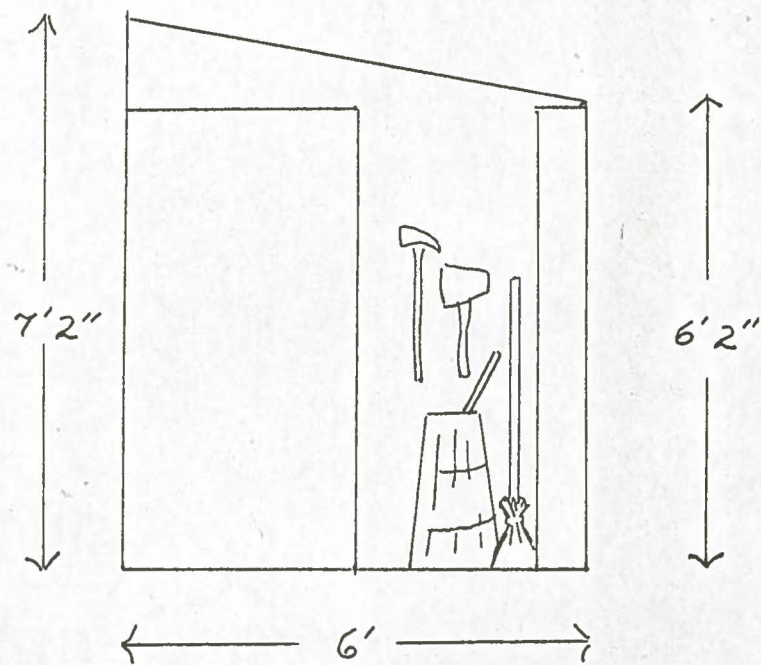
LEAN-TO
FLOOR PLAN



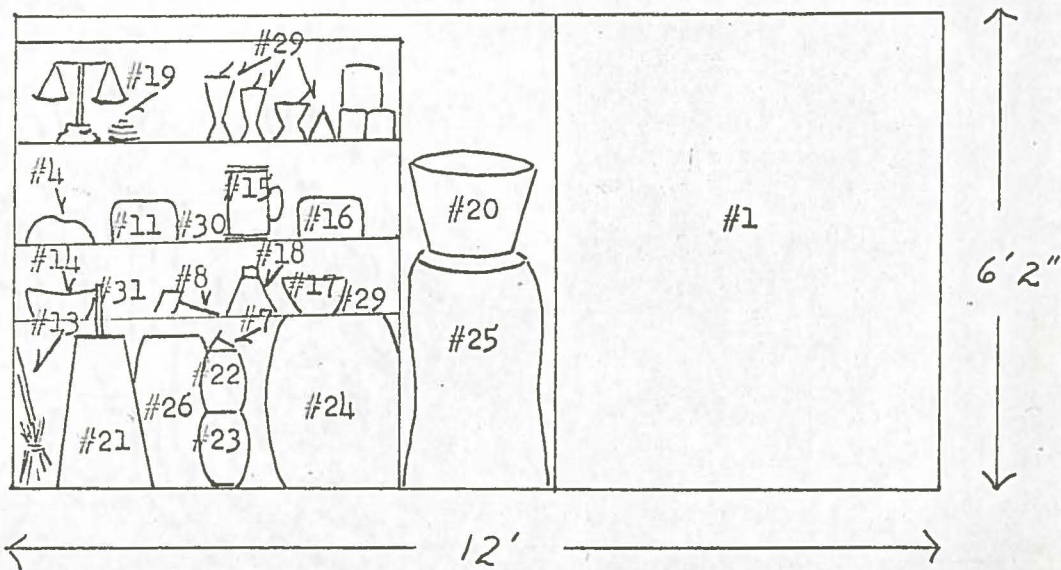
LEAN-TO
EAST WALL ELEVATION



LEAN-TO
SOUTH WALL ELEVATION



LEAN-TO
WEST WALL ELEVATION



LEAN-TO
NORTH WALL ELEVATION

F. Sources for Furnishings with Estimated Costs:

The primary immediate source of furnishings for this restoration is the Saratoga National Historical Park Collection. Any artifacts of the proper period excavated at the original site of the Neilson House should be used in its furnishings as original to the site and probably the house. Three such items are included in this plan, (hammer head, hatchet head and spatula). When the house was turned over to the National Park Service from the State of New York, it was furnished. Some of these furnishings were of the proper period and style for continued use in the restoration. On the suggested lists of furnishings these are marked. Items 27 and 28 for the leanto should be re-examined to determine if they were made prior to 1777. There may be other items in the park collection which correspond to the items described on the lists and floor plans. These should be used. The only cost involved would be repairs or refinishing.

Some of the Neilson descendants live in the area near the Park. Mr. Luzader has contacted them. As of April 1960 no furnishings or possessions other than the small trunk and family papers had been located in family hands. This source should be cultivated so that members of the family understand the potential importance to the restoration of any of the old furnishings that may turn up in the future in their possession or that of other relatives who no longer live in the area. Frequently furnishings located from this source come to the park as gifts.

To insure accuracy of interpretation, furnishings which have survived in the neighborhood from the period c.1777 or earlier which are of the proper style are preferred to furnishings from other localities. When they are located in family hands they are more easily authenticated than when found in the hands of a dealer. Much of the furnishings on the market, even in the hands of local dealers, is later than it appears or is imported from foreign countries rather than American made. These differences are not always easily recognized.

In this restoration we are interested in the use of military as well as civilian furnishings. There are some items of military nature which have been excavated in the area or preserved from the time of the battle and returned to the Park. Powder horns, side arms, bayonets, guns, parts of uniforms, shoe buckles etc. should be considered for use in the Common Room where items 72 - 87 are indicated on the floor plan and wall elevations. Some of this material may be in the Park Collection. There are some private collections in the area of material used at Saratoga from which appropriate material might be gathered. There are private and public collections which contain material from Saratoga. It is possible that some of this material might be returned to the park through trade.

Since the Neilson House was used by Generals Arnold, Poor, and Paterson, descendants of these men should be traced in an effort to discover present location of material used by them during the Revolution and if possible effect its return for use in refurnishing this house. It is possible that this material may be in organized collections. It might be possible to trade for its return. Historical societies in the towns and states from which these men came or where they lived after the Revolution might prove helpful. The Association of Military Collectors and Historians might prove a profitable contact. Some tactful use of their publication might be considered in an effort to locate and return this material to Saratoga for use in the restoration.

If the furnishings original to the military use of this house cannot be secured perhaps period pieces may be located and used. A camp bed used by Peter Gansevoort is in the collection of the Division of Military History at The Smithsonian Institution. It is not now on display and plans for its future exhibition are uncertain. With proper negotiations, it might be possible to trade the National Museum some specimen in the possession of National Park Service for the use of this bed in the Neilson House. This bed was used in New York during the Revolution and is much like Plate 42, Appendix A. Some Saratoga material is in the possession of the State of New York. If any of this material is expendable as far as the state is concerned it might be secured for use.

If parts of uniforms cannot be found, it would seem advisable to consider the reproduction of the items located on the floor plan and wall elevations of the Common Room. Both Morristown National Historical Park and Colonial National Historical Park have reproduced parts of Revolutionary War Uniforms. Mr. Harold Peterson, Branch of History, National Park Service, is well qualified to estimate costs and possible location of military material and should be consulted.

In searching for New York furniture of the period and style used by the Neilsons before 1777, the Van 'Cortlandt' Manor at Croton-on-Hudson, New York was visited. Here a very generous budget has made it possible for the staff to use Ginsburg and Levy and secure a fine collection of Hudson River Furniture. The Ferry House has been used as a setting to show common inexpensive and unsophisticated furniture of the 18th century. In the literature it is clearly stated that no real attempt has been made to recreate the setting of a room that could have been afforded by the 18th century owners of the furnishings. They are showing more furnishings than the simple houses of the Hudson River Valley could have had in them in the 18th century. The aim of the collection is to show the type of furnishings which were used in a pleasing setting. The furniture in the Van 'Cortlandt' Manor House is far too sophisticated for the Neilson House but the furnishings of the Ferry House are helpful in indicating 18th century taste. This material is being catalogued and is photographed. The Van 'Cortlandt' Manor

Furnishings Report (unpublished) by Mrs. Antoinette F. Downing and John M. Graham, III completed in August 1, 1959, was the most helpful guide to New York furnishings seen. Other sources consulted are listed in the bibliography. If the illustrations cited in the suggested lists of this report are not sufficient indication of style, etc., it is suggested that a more detailed study be made of the furnishings report and the furniture collected at The Ferry House, Van 'Cortlandt' Manor. If photographs of objects are desired the Director of Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Inc. should be contacted.

Miss Isabelle Miller; Curator of Furniture, The Museum of the City of New York, who wrote "Furniture by New York Cabinetmakers 1650-1860", a catalog for the exhibition held at the museum in 1956; concentrated on New York City pieces but with some examples from the Hudson River Valley. In an interview with Miss Miller she expressed interest in the restoration of furnishings to the Neilson House and said that The Museum of the City of New York would be interested in loaning any material not on display should loans be desirable.

In collecting furnishings to augment those already in the Park Collection for this house it should be remembered that the Dutch influence was strong and many pieces of New York furnishings now available reflect the Dutch influences rather than the English. Since no Dutch ancestry has been established for the Neilsons, less furniture showing the Dutch influence would have been found in their house than in houses of Dutch settlers in the Hudson Valley below Albany. Physical specimens of New York furnishings were seen in Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh, New York; The Van 'Cortlandt' Manor Restoration; The Museum of the City of New York and the Headquarters of The New York Historical Society. It is difficult to locate the simple furnishings many of which were made by the people who used them and in most cases used until they wore out.

In searching for examples of furnishings from the Stillwater area prior to 1777, some private homes on the east of the Hudson were visited. Much of the furniture seen there was later than the date set but of New York craftsmanship. One blanket chest in a private home in Cambridge, New York, was typically New York and fine in age and history of ownership. There must be many private homes on both sides of the Hudson near the Stillwater area where pieces like this one can be found and some of these should find their way into the Neilson House Restoration. It might prove worthwhile to list such furniture at the Park, even when the present owners have no immediate plans for the pieces' future distribution. Such a list of appropriate and extant furnishings could prove helpful in comparative study and furnish a possible source for future acquisition.

Miss Anna Cunningham is working for the State of New York under Dr. Albert Corey, the State Historian. She is responsible for the furnishing plans and acquisition for the Historic Sites of New York State. She has recently been successful in locating interesting and

appropriate furnishings for the Washington Headquarters at Newburgh, New York. One of the sources of supply for this restoration is a dealer in the Newburgh area who specializes in Hudson Valley pieces. Her name is Mrs. Edna S. Fletcher, RD #3 North Plank Road, Newbury, New York. Much of her furniture comes from south of Albany and shows a heavy Dutch influence. If her counterpart exists in the area north of Albany, New York, it would be most useful in locating furnishings to be purchased. In the short time available for scouting in the area of Stillwater (C. 50 mile radius), no dealer of the same quality and prices was discovered. April 30th is early for the Antique season in the area and the better shops may not have been open. Several shops which belong to the Battenkill Antique Dealers Association were visited. Dealers did not seem to be knowledgeable. Specimens were chiefly for the 19th century and seldom from the local area. The prices seemed high.

The Eastern States Antique Fair took place in White Plains, New York, from May 2nd - 7th, 1960. There were some choice pieces of New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts 18th century furnishings here. This offered an opportunity to acquire a general idea of dealers' prices for the area. Most of the prices cited on the suggested lists of furnishings are based on these prices. It was interesting to note that the prices generally speaking were less than those asked in the Washington, D. C., area and the quality of material seemed generally better.

The following dealers and prices were surveyed at this fair. This information is not intended as a recommendation or advertisement but as a summary of information gathered. Mrs. Fletcher, address given, discussed the following 18th century objects and prices.

Settle	\$385 finished \$335 rough
Windsor Chair	\$ 50 - \$75
Attic beds	\$45 - \$60
Wagon Seats	\$100
2 Seamed Coverlets	\$ 40 - \$45
Linen Sheets	\$ 7 - \$12
Linen Ticks	\$ 42 - \$48
Short Blankets	\$ 8 - \$12
Corner Cupboard (Red Finish)	\$325

Mathilde K. Kuss, 1259 Post Road, Scarsdale, New York

Blue Cupboard	
Dough Trough	\$ 25
Hanging Cupboard	\$ 75

Lillian Blankley Cogan Antiquary, 22 High Street, Farmington, Conn.

1 salt Glaze Dish	\$ 25
Pewter Ink Stand	\$ 38
Wood Bench	\$125
Candle stand	\$350
Stretcher table	\$285
Settle	\$750
Tick	\$ 45
12 yards of blue & white hand loomed linen	\$ 60
Dresser	\$475
Dresser	\$1200

J. C. R. Tompkins, Shunpike Road, Millbrook, New York

Sawbuck table (small)	\$225
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Mildred & Herbert Kaufmann, American Country Furniture,
Scotts Corner, Pound Ridge, New York

Pewter Cupboard	\$395
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The above listed items were of the proper period and style contemporary with the furnishings of The Neilson House 1775-1777. It is wise to remember that show prices may be higher than shop prices.

It is recommended that gifts of appropriate material be sought from the sources listed. If this fails to produce the necessary furnishings, that plans be made to locate and purchase the more important pieces while awaiting the donations of smaller and less expensive furnishings. In keeping with Park Service policy, it is suggested that loans be avoided except in rare and well considered instances. Prices for many of the objects recommended are based on whatever the market will bring. A very flexible market is difficult to evaluate accurately.

FOOTNOTES

1. Frederik G. Gjessing, Architect, "Preliminary to the Restoration of the John Neilson House; Architectural Survey Report 207", October, 1958, National Park Service, p. 7.
2. John Luzader, "Historic American Building Survey; John Neilson House", July 15, 1957, National Park Service, p. 8.
3. Drawing, "Restoration Neilson House", Sheet 1 of 1.
4. Russell Hawes Kettell, The Pine Furniture of Early New England, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1929, p. 64.
5. Gjessing, Op. Cit., p. 14.
6. Ibid., pp. 8 - 9.
7. Ibid., p. 8.
8. Ibid., p. 19.
9. Luzader, Op. Cit., p. 5.
10. Ibid., p. 5.
11. Ibid., pp. 6 - 7.
12. Ibid., p. 19.
13. Ibid., p. 7.
14. John Luzader, "Arnold at Saratoga"
15. Ibid., pp. 19 - 37.
16. Gjessing, Op. Cit., p. 15.
17. Cooperstown Publication

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Area: Saratoga National Historical Park
Designer: F. G. Gjessing
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THE JOHN NEILSON HOUSE
STILLWATER, NEW YORK

Furnishing Plan
by
Agnes M. Downey, Park Historian

Historical Research
by
John Luzader, Park Historian

Part II

Saratoga National Historical Park
National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior

1960

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APPENDIX A

INTRODUCTION

Appendix A consists of photographs and illustrations of objects and room settings which are of comparative value in designating the type and style of some of the furnishings recommended on the suggested lists for use in refurnishing the Neilson House.

Plates 1 - 3 were made at LaFayette's Headquarters at Chadd's Ford, Pa. This building is restored to the period 1777 when it was in use, for a short time, by the American Revolutionary Army. Inventories of the families who owned it and their neighbors were used for evidence of furnishings. Articles are authentic to period and locality. Little has been done to indicate the presence of troops.

Plates 4 - 8 were made at Washington's Headquarters at Chadd's Ford, Pa. This house is reconstructed to the period 1777 when it served as Washington's Headquarters. The furnishings are authentic to period and locality based on inventories of the possessions of the family who occupied the house and their neighbors. The kitchen furnishings and arrangement have value for comparison with the Neilson House.

Plates 9 - 14 were made at Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh, New York. The State of New York is restoring this house with authentic 1779 furnishings some of which are believed to have been in the house while Washington used it. This house was built and used by a Dutch family and the specimens and room arrangements reflect this influence. This house is larger, older, and of a different style architecture from the Neilson House. The furnishings are determined by a greater span of time, more wealth, and a different national heritage from that of the Neilsons and their house. However, this house was used in 1779 as Headquarters for a general of the American Revolutionary Army. The common utensils such as kitchenware differ from those used by the Neilsons only in the kind of material and the number possessed. The furnishings of this house are chiefly from the Hudson River Valley of New York near Newburgh.

Plates 15 - 17 are post card photographs of three interiors from the restoration of the Manor House and the Ferry House at The Van 'Cortlandt' Manor, which is administered by the Sleepy Hollow Restorations Inc. The furnishings of the Manor House are much too grand in style for comparative purposes but those of the Ferry House represent one of the finest collections of Hudson River Valley furnishings of the style used in the Neilson House in the 18th century.

Plates 18 - 35 are photographs of the objects in the park collection at Saratoga National Historical Park.

Plates 36 - 48 are photographs and illustrations of Military
furnishings from: General Washington's Swords and Companion Equipment,
published by The Mount Vernon Ladies Association; Catalog of the
Division of Political History, The United States Museum of The
Smithsonian Institution; and Catalog of the New York Historical Society.

APPENDIX B

Selected New York Estate Inventories Taken Between 1773 and 1788

These inventories are filed in the Albany County Surrogate Court records which are at present stored in the basement of the New Court House in Albany, New York. Examination was made of over 2,000 of the inventories filed here from letters "F" through "Z". "A" through "E" were not examined. The inventories selected for reproduction were chosen on the bases of date, geographical location and content of information concerning furnishings which might be of comparative value in refurnishing the Neilson house. Only two inventories from Stillwater, New York were located. Although Abner Quitterfield died c. 1777, papers on the administration of his estate were not filed by his widow until 1784. No inventory for his estate was located among the papers filed in Albany. At the time of the battle of Saratoga, Stillwater was located in Albany County. It may be that some of the papers pertaining to the Quitterfields and Neilsons, such as estate inventories, are now filed in the county clerk's office for Saratoga County. Mr. John Neilson Sr.'s will and inventory would be of assistance in ascertaining more about the taste of the people who lived in this interesting small three room house. Mr. Neilson died in 1834; at that time Stillwater was in Saratoga County. A check of the court records of Saratoga County might turn up a legal case involving the estate of Abner Quitterfield which could include an inventory of his possessions as of 1777. The name of Ashbal More, who married the widow Ester Quitterfield between 1777 and 1784, might be checked through these records. He died in 1790. No inventory or will was found for him or his wife in the Albany County Records. The legal case involving John Neilson, Jr. in 1818-1821, if examined would make his inventory more meaningful.

Few inventories for the 1775-1780 period were filed among the Albany County Records examined. Very few of those located were from the Stillwater area. Those selected were photostated and used as a basis for selecting items included on the suggested lists for furnishings in this plan. Because they are so rich in information and evidence concerning possessions held in New York at this period, they are attached for further study.

List of Inventories Included:

<u>Goods and Chattel of:</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. Jacob Hinder	March 8, 1773	Livingston's Manor, Albany City, N. Y.
2. Elbert Haring	December 14 and 15, 1773	New York City, N. Y.
3. Michael Hopkins	February 1, 1774	Amenia Precinct, Dutchess County, N. Y.
4. John Rider	March 26, 1774	South East Precinct, Dutchess County, N. Y.
5. John O'Farrel	June 7, 1774	Stillwater, N. Y.
6. Thomas Rockwell	March 15, 1775	Salem, The County of Westchester, N. Y.
7. Joseph Purdy	February 3, 1777	New York
8. Joseph Harris	June 19, 1777	New York
9. Thomas Haviland	March 17, 1787	East Chester, N. Y.
10. James McCobb	November 12, 1774	Precinct of Hanooe, County of Ulster, N. Y.
11. Thomas Horton, Capt.	June 12, 1778	New York
12. Noah Grindley	September 21, 1779	Kings District, Albany County, N. Y.
13. Thomas Fowler	August 22, 1780	New York
14. Samuel Hallock	April 7, 1783	Ulster County, N. Y.
15. Jesse Hubbel	October 11, 1788	Stillwater, Saratoga Patent, Albany County, N.Y.
16. John Neilson, Jr.	June 19, 1818	Stillwater, N. Y.