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GENERAL VIEW FROM SOUTH

THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION
SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

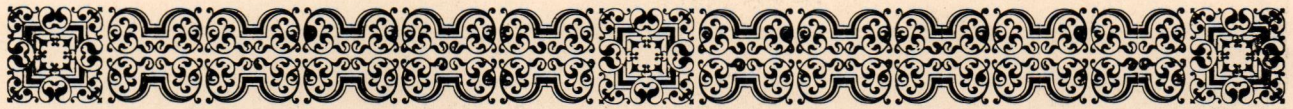
BUILT 1701

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VIEW FROM SOUTH-WEST, (1936) ON ORIGINAL SITE
THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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The INTERIOR DETAILS *and* FURNISHINGS of THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION

Built in 1701 at Salmon Falls, New Hampshire,
and Removed to Dover, Massachusetts, in 1937

Photographs by Arthur C. Haskell

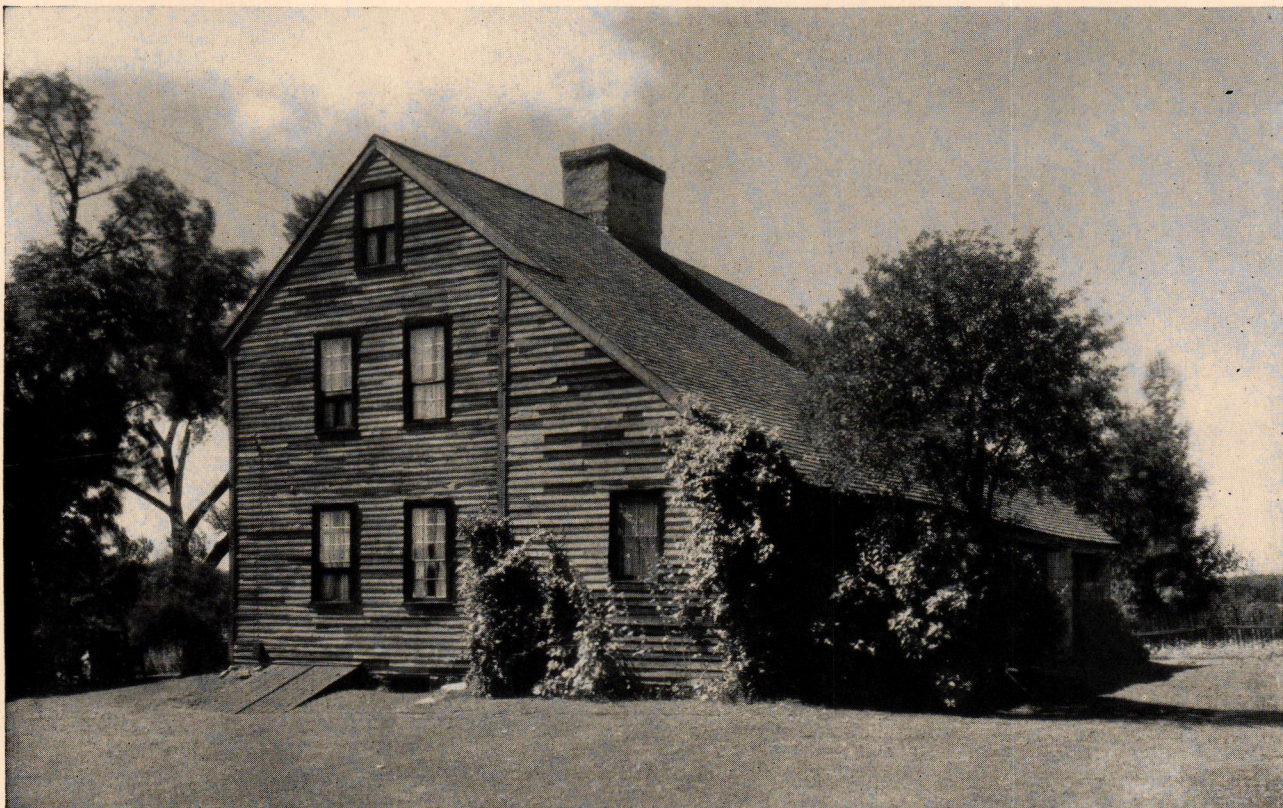
THE Wentworth Mansion at Salmon Falls was built by a grandson of Elder William Wentworth, born in England in 1617, who came to this country in 1639 to found an American branch of an old and famous English family. Many of his descendants still reside in and about Portsmouth, N. H. The dwelling built by the Elder's oldest son, Samuel, probably about 1670, just "south of Liberty Ridge and Puddle Dock," was in existence up to about 1926, and its principal room and staircase are now incorporated in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum, in New York City.

The fourth son of Elder William was Ezekiel (born 1651) who had six children. Ezekiel's second son (born in 1678) was Paul, and his third son was Benjamin, whose son, John, inherited the Salmon Falls property from his Uncle, by a will made in 1747-48. Paul was a first cousin of Governor Benning Wentworth (born 1696) whose father had been brought up with his on Garrison Hill, nearby, in Dover, N. H. Paul's father, Ezekiel, had settled at Salmon Falls, and it was therefore easy for his son, Paul, to establish himself on the top of a commanding knoll, nearby the falls named from the salmon that came up the river. There he established a sawmill, and conducted a profitable business in supplying lumber for the rapidly growing and important town of Portsmouth, at the river's mouth, and for export to England. A more detailed description of the family inter-relationships, along with the various important Portsmouth dwellings with which they are associated, may be found in "Old Time New England," Vol. XIX, No. 2, for October, 1928.

Long before 1936, the water power at Salmon Falls had caused the town to develop into a manufacturing community; the railroad had been carried directly in

front of the old house; and it was no longer a suitable or pleasant site for the later generations of the family, who still owned the old mansion. In order to preserve the structure and continue it in use, therefore, it was taken down in the fall of 1936, piece by piece, and transported to an appropriately rural—if quite different—site, beside another river, in Dover, Massachusetts, where it could become the home of new generations. And in the process of taking the old dwelling apart, many details of its past use and history were disclosed, to the recording of which this present publication is to be principally restricted.

First it should be said that as the house stood in Salmon Falls it contained no recent or "modern" improvements. No plumbing or heating had ever been added. It had been occupied of late years only in summer, and kept practically as a Residential Museum; the family, when in residence, having meals in the old barn nearby, which had been equipped with more modern cooking conveniences. And the house, when removed, has been as carefully maintained in all its original rooms, with no change, other than to introduce some inconspicuous electric and heating outlets. A small, but conveniently modern, kitchen has been installed, with a Maid's room over, in an eighteen foot extension of the old "Beverly Ell" to the East. The old fireplace in the "lean-to kitchen" has been restored, and the kitchen made, by inconspicuous minor changes, into the actual living room of the house. The lean-to was widened by three feet, to obtain necessary room, so that all modern plumbing, closets, etc., could be contained within the old "dark Attic" in the lean-to over the kitchen, the original appearance of which is shown on page 60, while the minor rearrangements made across the rear of the first floor plan have been indicated on the top of the measured drawing on page 54. As all the paneling in the various rooms—except one—had been in-



VIEW FROM NORTH-EAST, ON ORIGINAL SITE (1935)



VIEW FROM NORTH-WEST, ON ORIGINAL SITE (1936)

THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

[52]

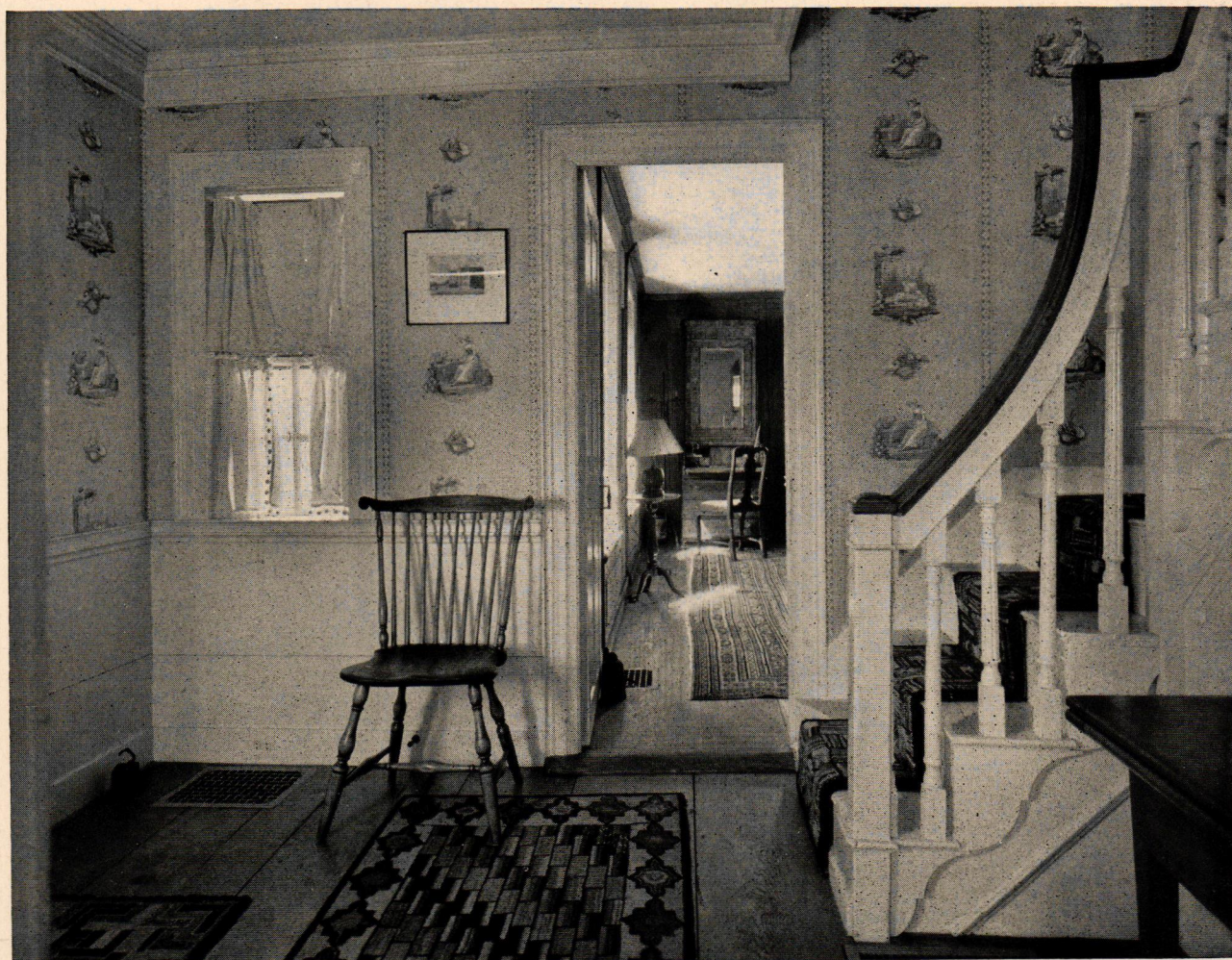
stalled after smaller fireplaces had been built within the original large openings, it was impossible to restore the original fireplaces, except in the "lean-to" kitchen-living room. The old fireplace originally in the dining room, was uncovered, however, and installed at Dover, Mass., in the new basement room immediately below the old dining room.

The original house was built as a four-room dwelling, with the usual central chimney and staircase against its south face, with casement windows, and a



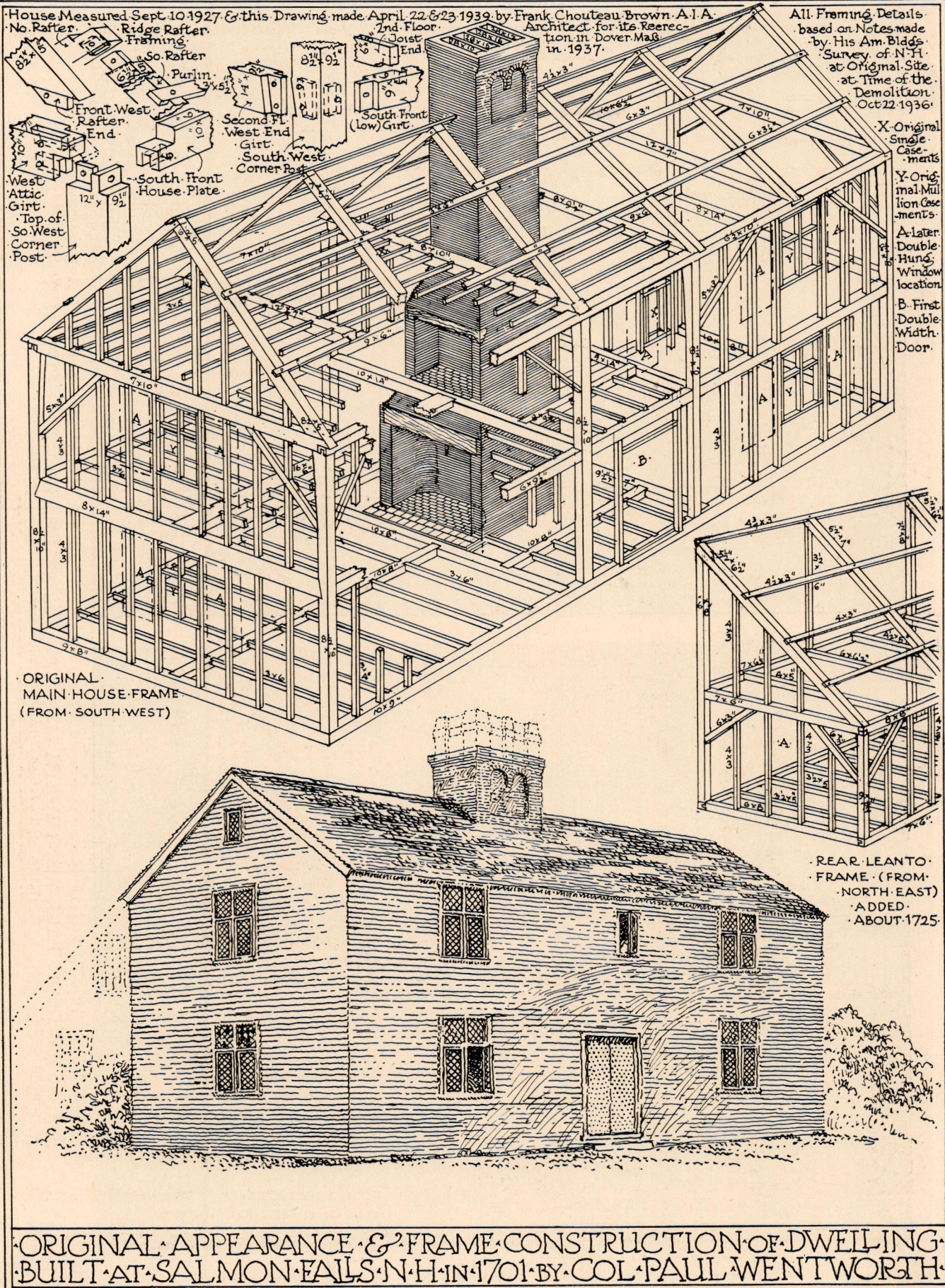
VIEW FROM SOUTH-WEST, ON NEW SITE
DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS (1939)

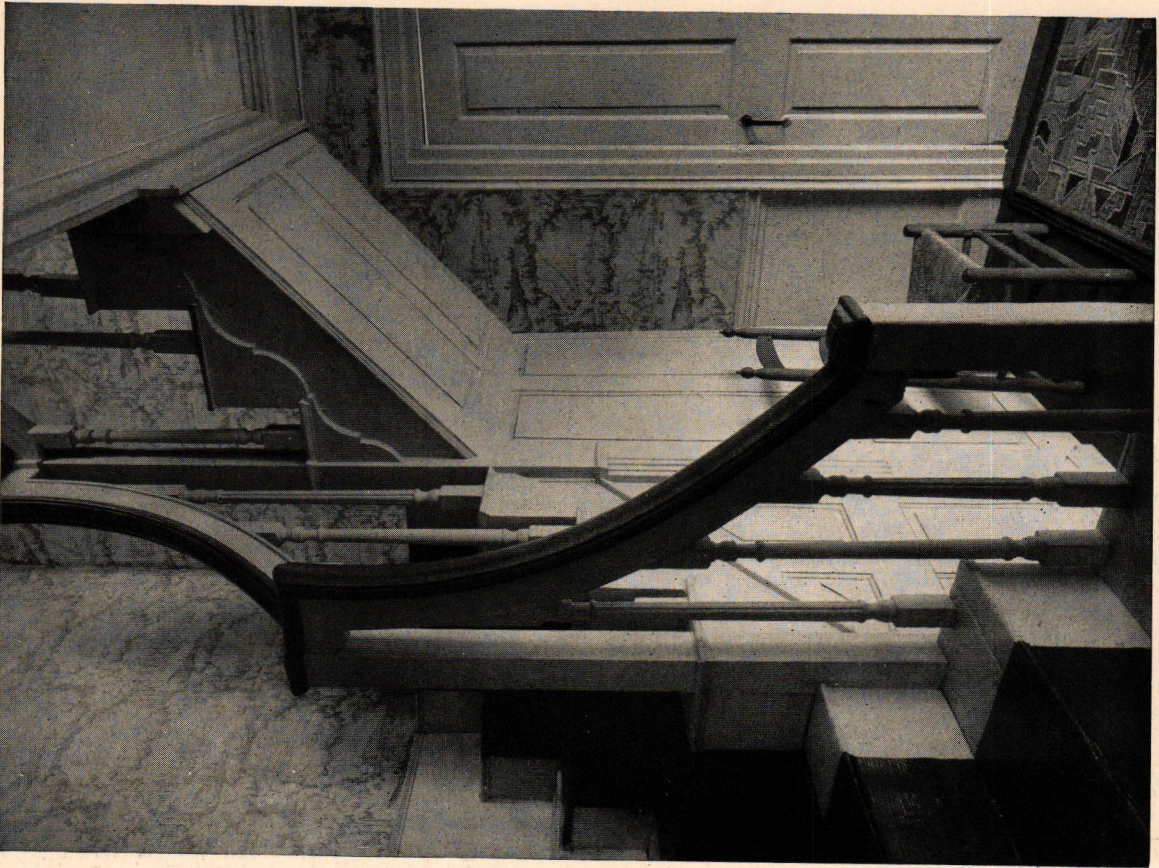
double width entrance doorway. Upon the rear, facing north, there were only three small, single casements and a kitchen door, which (according to the old accounts) connected through a low shed-like structure with the barn, at the northeast of the dwelling. The space along the low shed attic was the "slaves quarters." The plate on page 55 shows the original appearance of this house as well as the idea of its structural skeleton frame, with some of the more important timber jointings. The same plate also shows the framing of



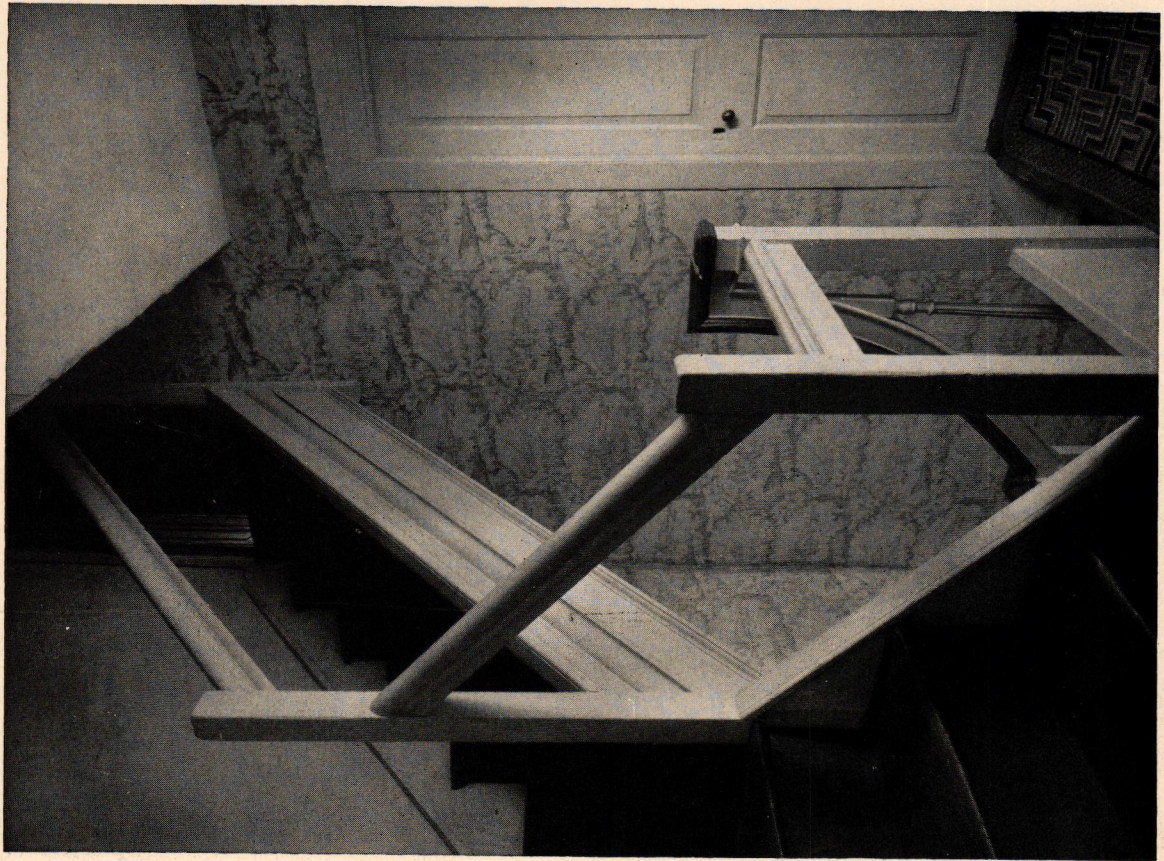
LOOKING ACROSS VESTIBULE INTO PINE ROOM AT WEST (DOVER)
THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE







LATER STAIRCASE, FIRST FLIGHT FROM FRONT VESTIBULE



STAIRCASE, SECOND FLIGHT TO ATTIC, ORIGINAL STATE
THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE



ORIGINAL LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE, RESTORED AT DOVER, MASS.



ORIGINAL KITCHEN FIREPLACE, AS RESTORED AT DOVER, MASS.

THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—NOW AT DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

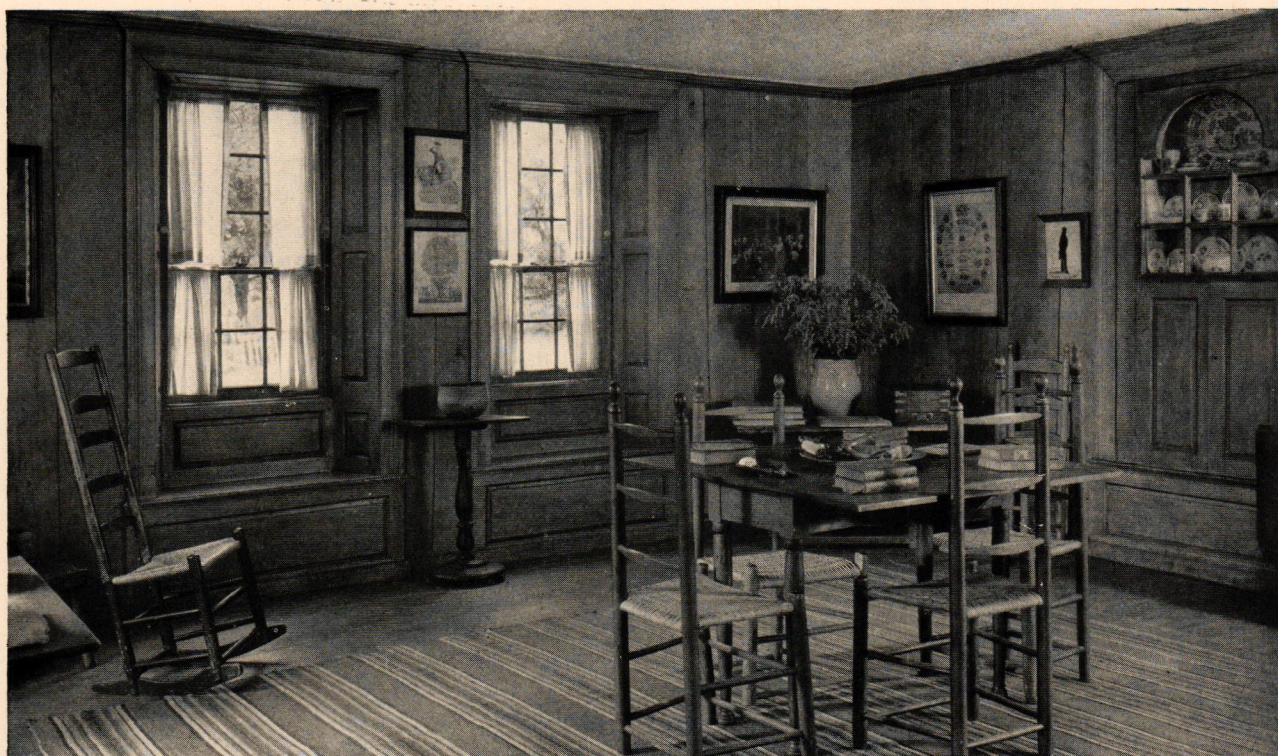


GENERAL VIEW ACROSS DINING ROOM FROM HALL DOOR



DINING ROOM PANELED SIDE AND FIREPLACE
THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PINE WEST PARLOR, VIEW FROM HALL DOORWAY

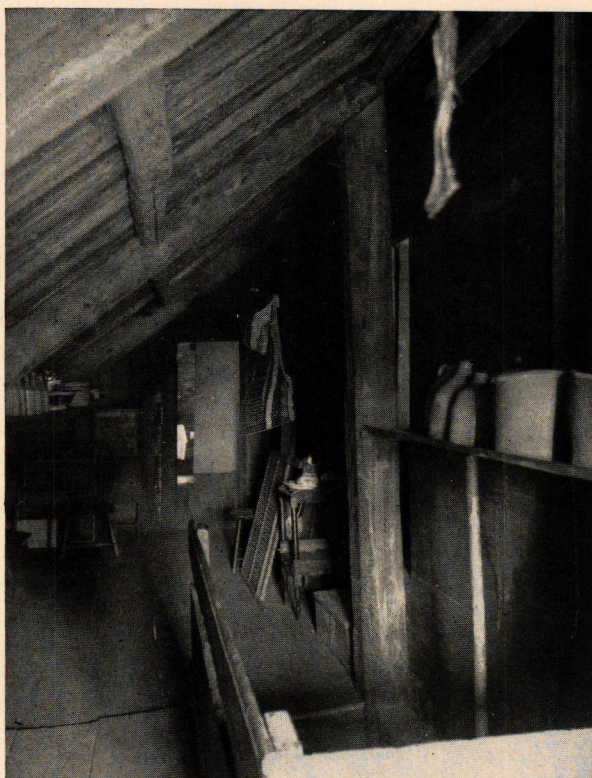


DETAIL OF FIREPLACE AND WALL TOWARD STAIR HALL, WEST PARLOR
THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

[59]

the later lean-to, added sometime between 1725 and 1740—unusual from the fact that it had a frame completely separate from the main house, as appears distinctly in the section at the head of page 54, where a space of about seven inches at the point marked "V," between the two frames, was spanned only by the roof shingling.

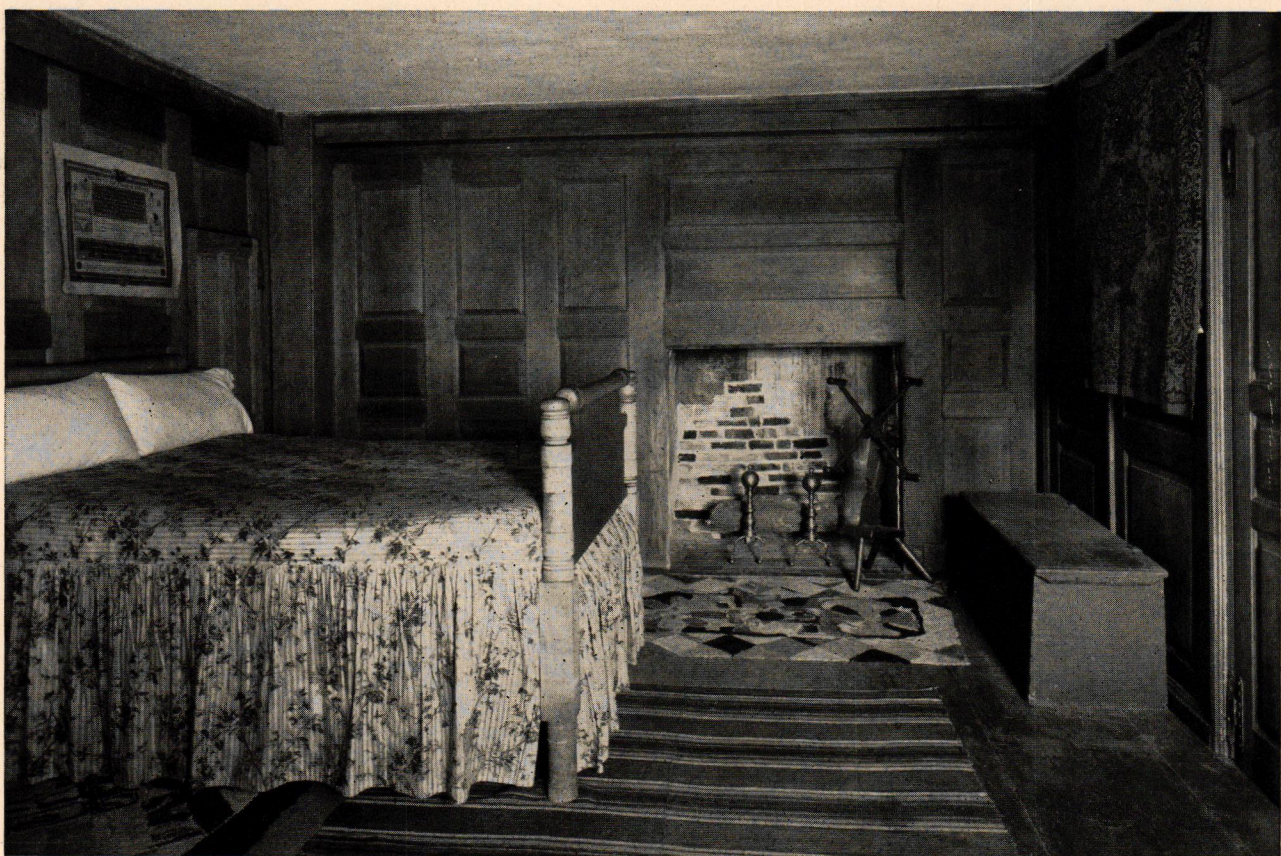
While none of the double-casement frames was found in position, there could be no doubt as to their location and dimensions, as the notches into which these window frames fitted were disclosed in the original wall studding. Contrary to the usual belief, that double-hung windows were added



OLD LEAN-TO, OR "DARK ATTIC," LOOKING EAST

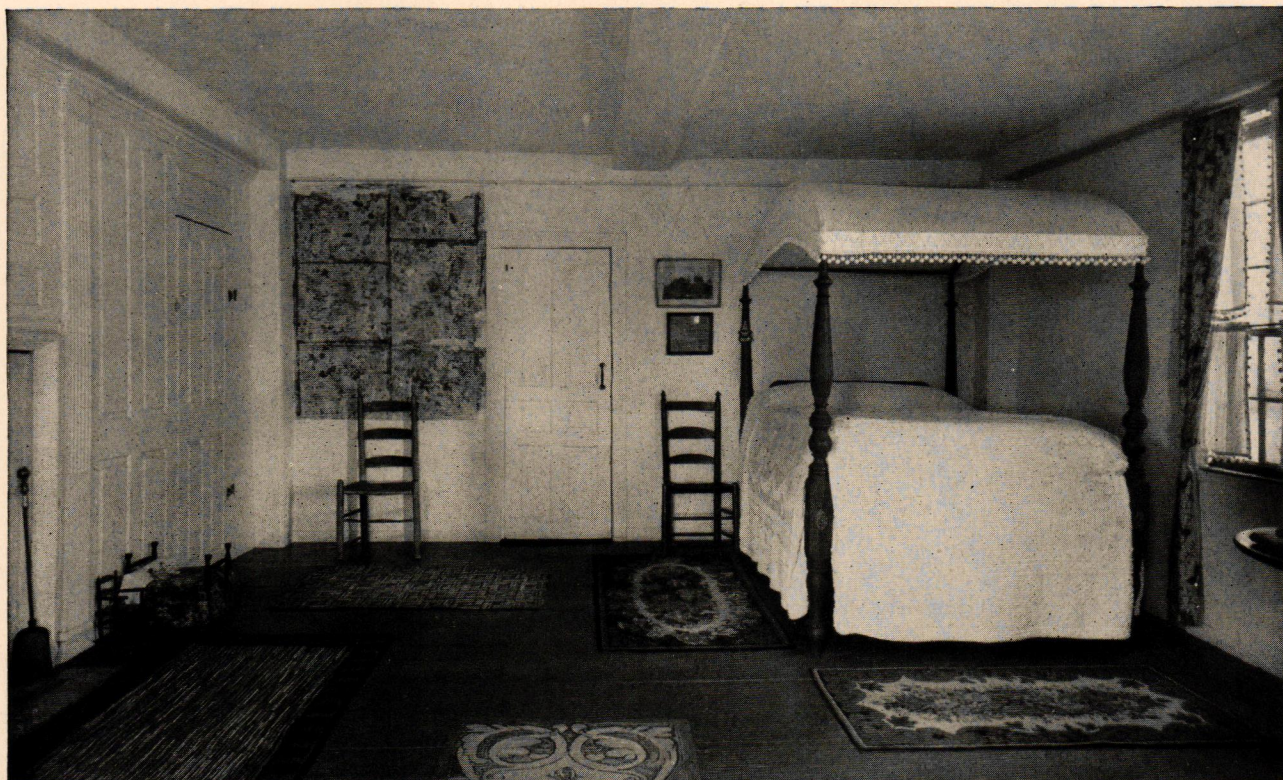
at the original window locations, which were widened and lowered for that purpose, the frame structure on page 55 and the floor plan at the top of page 54 show that the larger casements were centered in the rooms, and when the double-hung frames were added, they were placed *outside* the studs that had been set each side of the original double casements. This fact explains the somewhat closer spacing of the pairs of double-hung windows; and may be the reason for the similarly closer spacing that occurs on many another old house, as well!

An unusual contribution to our knowledge of old



PANELED CHAMBER, LOOKING TOWARD ORIGINAL FIREPLACE
THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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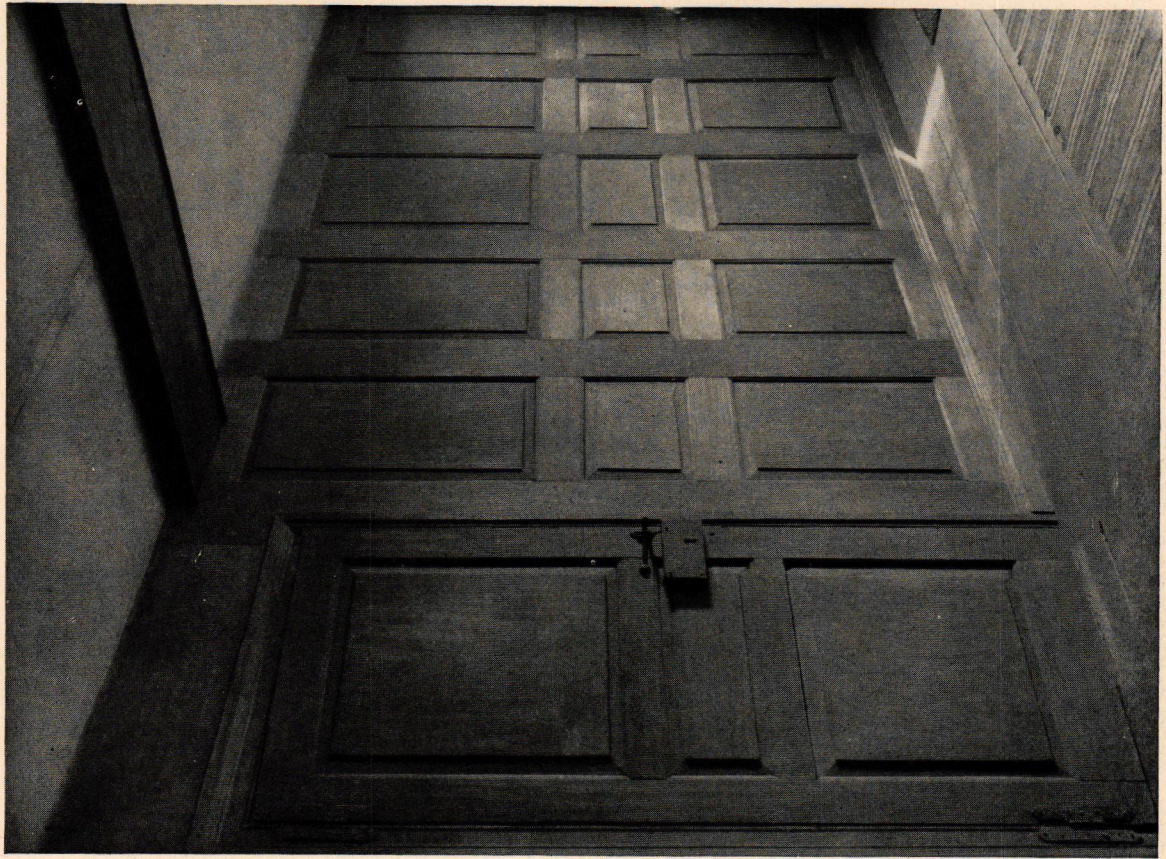


EAST FAMILY CHAMBER, LOOKING TOWARD NORTH END, (SHOWING OLD WALL PAPER)

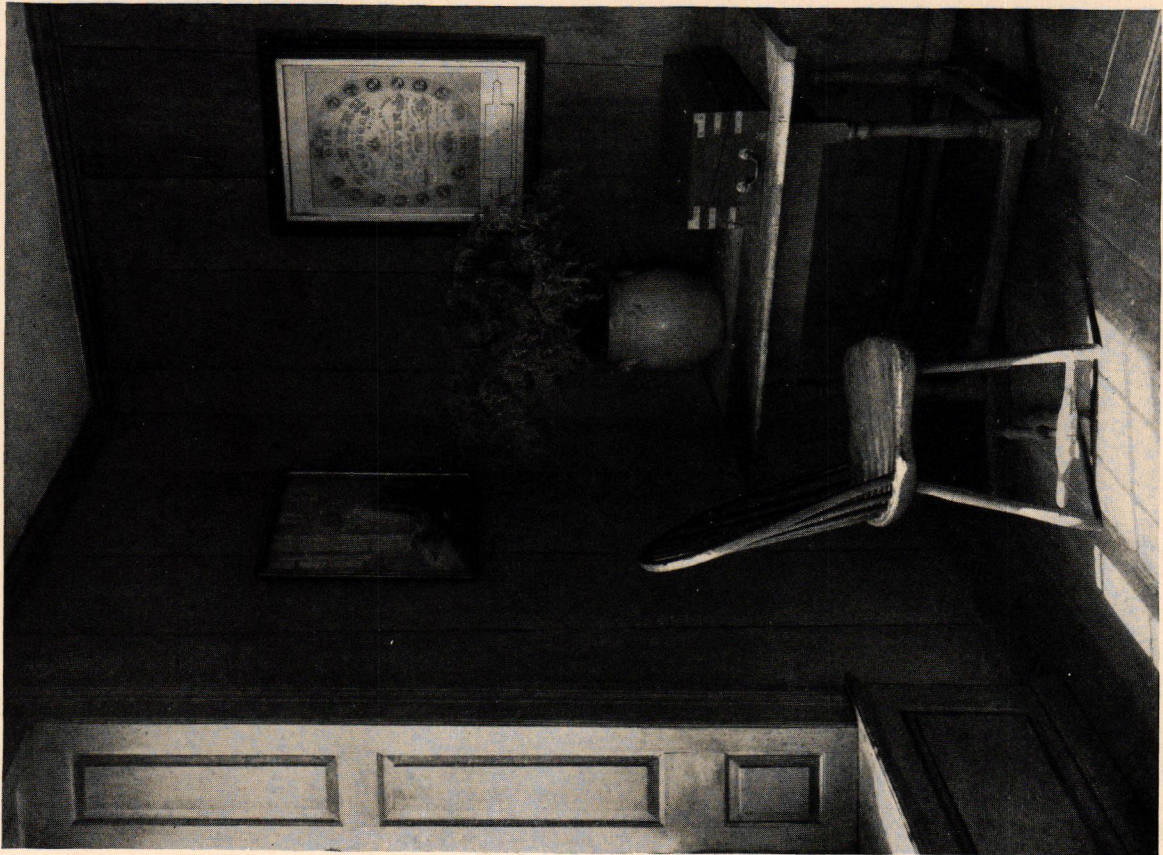


EAST FAMILY CHAMBER, LOOKING TOWARD FIREPLACE SIDE (DOVER, 1939)
THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DETAIL OF DOUBLE FACED PARTITION IN PINE CHAMBER
THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE



DETAIL OF NORTH-WEST CORNER IN PINE PARLOR
THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—SALMON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

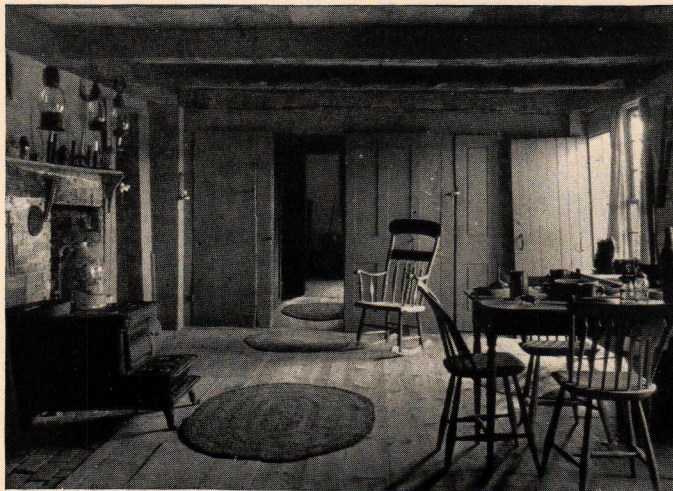


OLD LEAN-TO KITCHEN WITH ORIGINAL FIREPLACE (RESTORED) LOOKING SOUTH-WEST
THE COL. PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION—1701—NOW AT DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

building customs was made by the several single casement frames, which were found in place in the walls, covered by later paneling or changes, with their interior wooden shutters, fully shown on page 54. These windows, along with some old split spruce clapboards, which still showed the old red paint, and rear eaves trim had been preserved under the lean-

to. The one in the second story closet-room, back of the chimney, was easily seen in the attic in Salmon Falls. Unfortunately, none of these windows had retained either the sash or the leading; which have been supplied from contemporaneous material, along with the restoration of the double-casement window, developed to fit the spaces and notches found in the old house frame. The upper opening is shown with a fixed leaded filling, though a sash, if installed (as seems unlikely) has been outlined by dotted lines.

But meanwhile, the double-hung sash windows had been installed in the principal rooms, even before the lean-to was added, as clearly appeared in the arrangement of the pine paneling on the north walls of the two rooms west of the fireplace. The pine walls in the West Parlor were probably added at this same time; but the double-faced partition and paneling in the bedroom over—despite the fact that this is the only room preserving the original fireplace—was probably added at a still later date; as was also the vestibule built out at the front en-



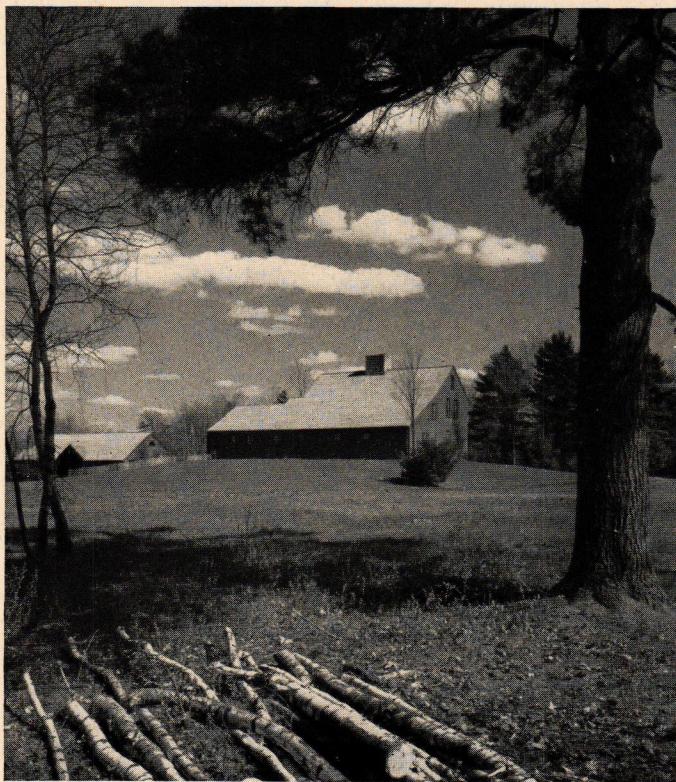
OLD LEAN-TO KITCHEN LOOKING WEST (SALMON FALLS)

early wall paper in the east second story bedroom, still displaying the tax stamp with the English crown, was moved (along with the section of plaster wall upon which it was pasted), in one panel, the only piece of original plaster preserved in the dwelling in its new location.

The lean-to Kitchen (shown above, as it last stood at Salmon Falls) was the only old room much altered by the necessary uses of the various intervening generations.

Its old windows had full-length sliding shutters, and beneath its floor was a shallow circular pit—or “Indian Cellar”—with original movable steps from the trap-door in the floor above. The original Kitchen fireplace has been rebuilt in Dover, with the old bricks, and the one from the West Parlor is restored in a room with primitive furniture and fittings, (page 57) beneath the present Dining Room. The original Kitchen Dresser (to be illustrated in a later issue) was found in the pantry and replaced in the Kitchen-Living Room, between two windows at North wall.

FRANK CHOUTEAU
BROWN, A.I.A.



VIEW FROM RIVER BANK (FROM NORTH-WEST)
NEW KITCHEN END AND GARAGE AT LEFT
PAUL WENTWORTH MANSION, DOVER, MASS.