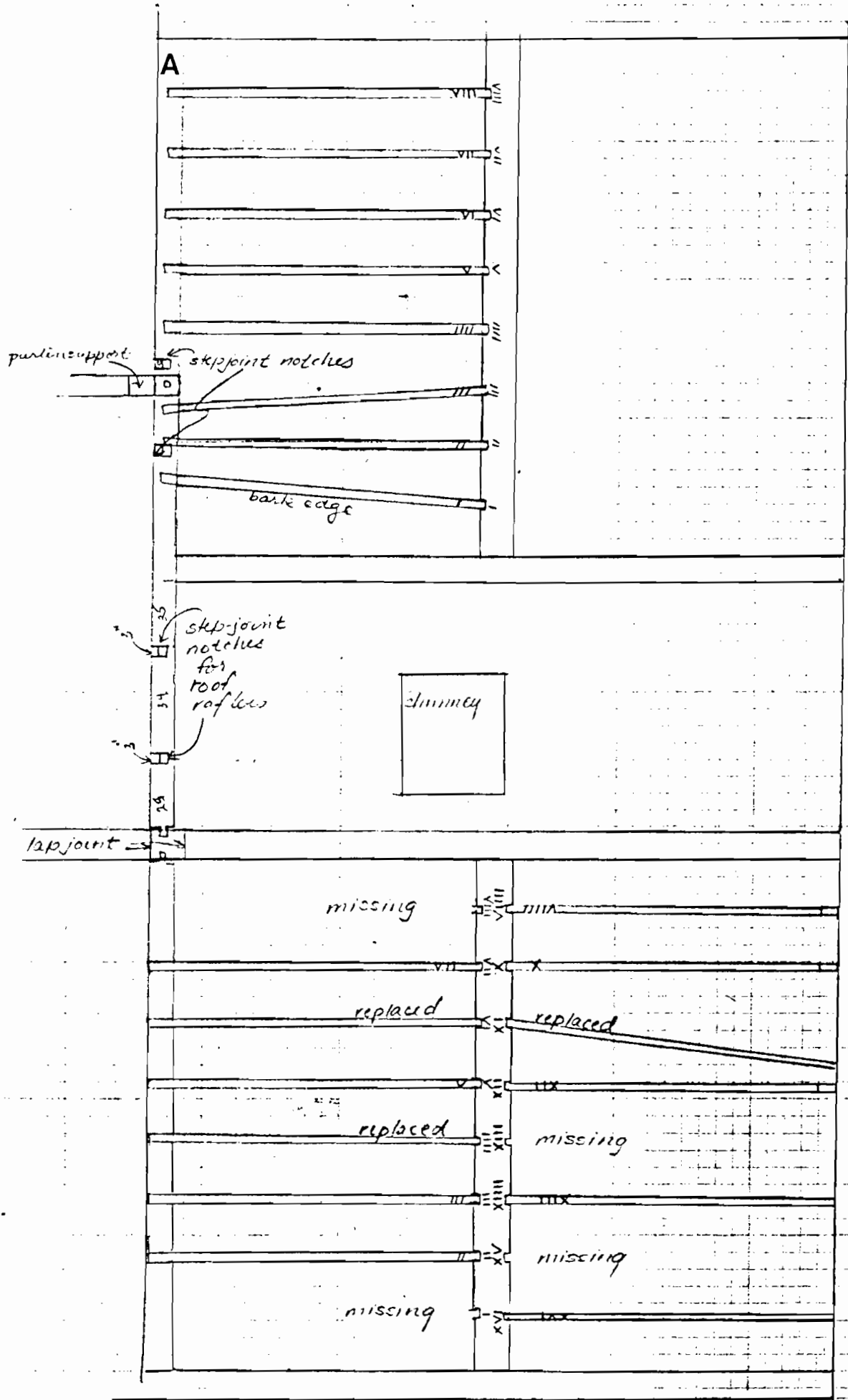

THE ATTIC FLOOR FRAME AND ROOF STRUCTURE

The plan at right is probably also by former assistant curator Nancy Rexford, and likely dates to the early 1980s. It shows the attic floor frame of the original house, about one half the floor frame of the present attic. The original rear plate (A) lies under the center of the present floor.

The "skipjoint notches" shown on Rexford's plan are the dovetail rafter seats of the original roof. The two beams which extend to the left of the plate carry the floor joists of the rear addition (not shown) and tie that addition to the earlier frame.

We can tell from the spacing of these mortices and their relation to the floor joists that the original roof was of the 'principal and common rafter' type: closely-spaced rafters kept rigid by a rather rudimentary purlin. This was an early 17th-century roof form which became relatively uncommon later in that century, only to experience a revival in the second quarter of the 18th century (Cummings, pp. 99-100). This lends added support to the thesis that the house dates from that period.

The present roof dates to the major remodeling of c. 1800. The rafters are supported by a massive central purlin pegged into a series of diagonal braces (photo 43 and 44). The rafter ends are pegged into a pentagonal ridge pole (photo 45). This roof system is typical of the period around 1800.

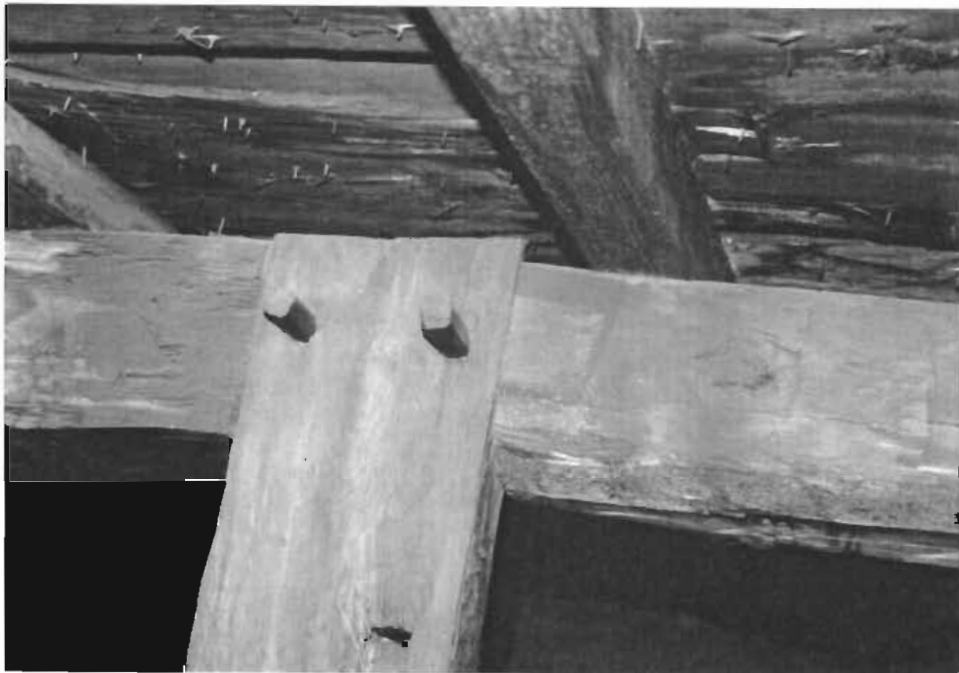


Attic

front



EXT - 43



EXT - 44



EXT - 45