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## EXCAVATION EXT-W1 (WEST WALL)

### The Original Siding of the Gable Ends: Thin Weatherboarding

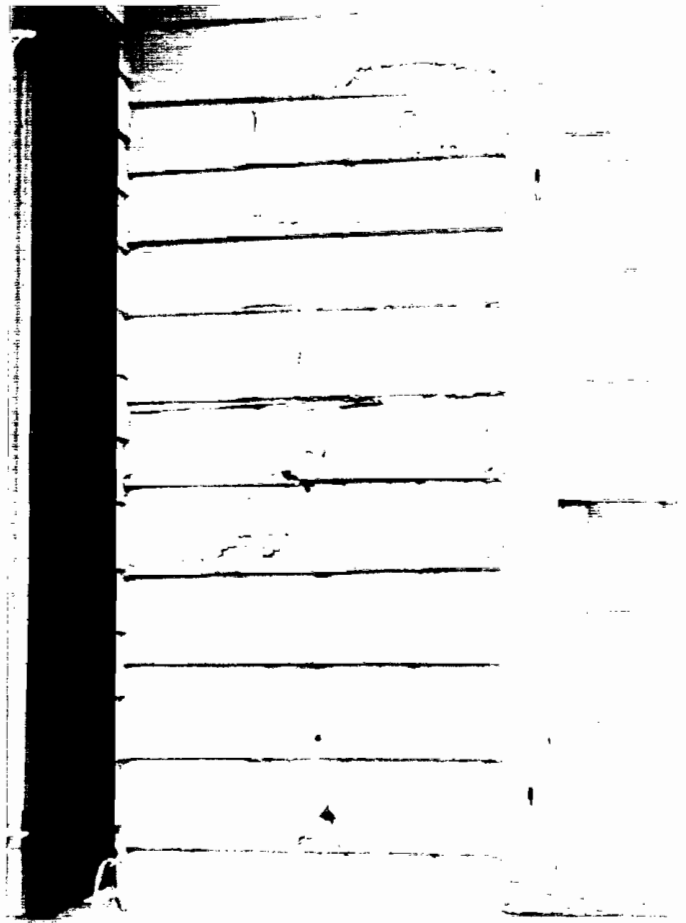
Removing weatherboards along the west wall of the house also exposed earlier siding, contemporary with the original sheathing on the facade. This material is not flush boarding, however, but early weatherboards, very similar in form and dimension to the c. 1800 weatherboards which mask them (A in photos 20, 23, 27; close-up photos 22, 28, and 29). The boards are attached with rose-headed wrought nails and are as deeply weathered as those on the facade, but survive intact even on the lower stories. There is no evidence of paint even in sheltered joints.

The early weatherboards are attached directly to the frame and the wall cavity behind is fully **nogged** to the second floor girt, that is, filled with bricks laid in clay mortar (photos 24 and 25). Nogging was a common feature of 17th-early 19th century houses, providing some degree of draft-resistance, rodent-proofing, and fire-proofing. We could not find it in any other wall cavity in the house (small holes were drilled into the outer walls on each floor); it likely existed in other walls but was removed during the c. 1800 remodelings. This is the only wall which retains its original plaster on one side and original siding on the other.

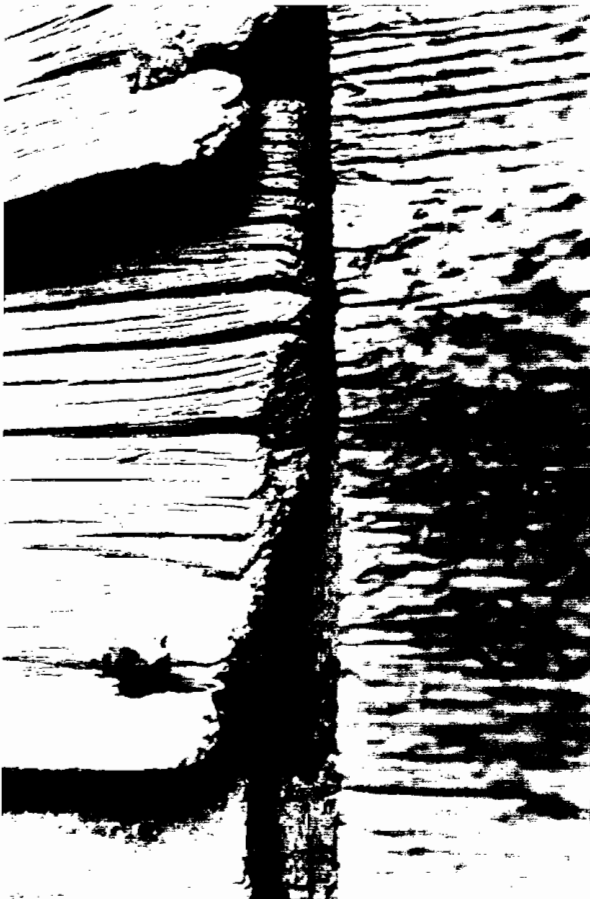




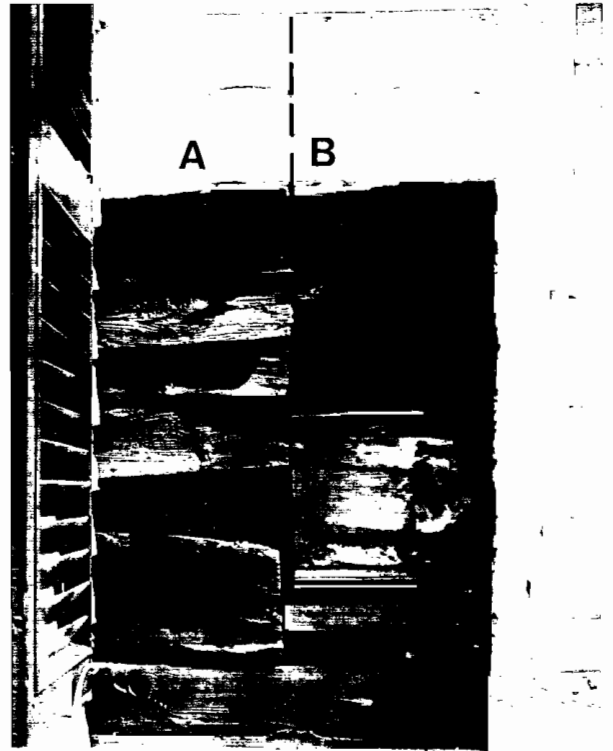
EXT - 20



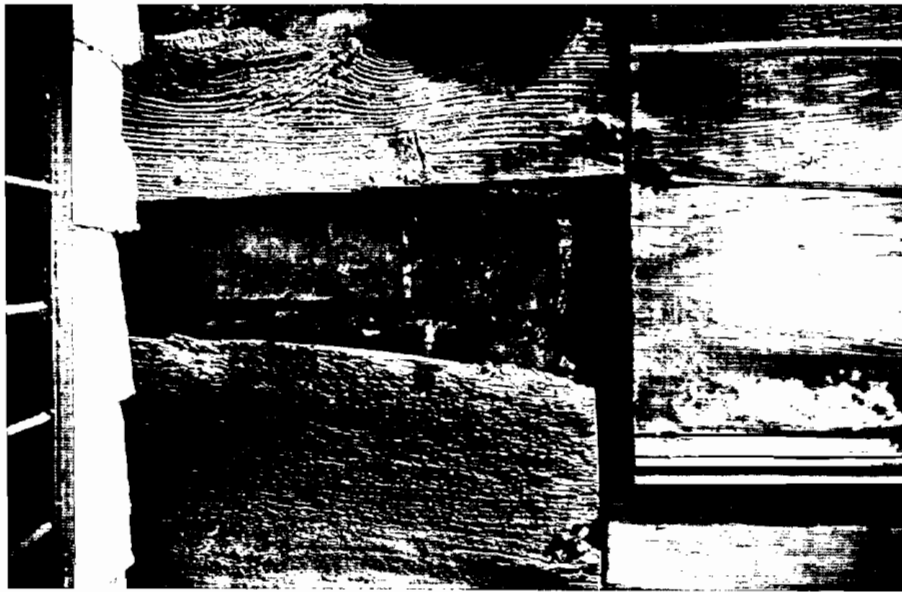
EXT - 21



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EXT - 26



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EXT - 28



EXT - 29

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### An Original Window Opening: Evidence for a Bank of Casements

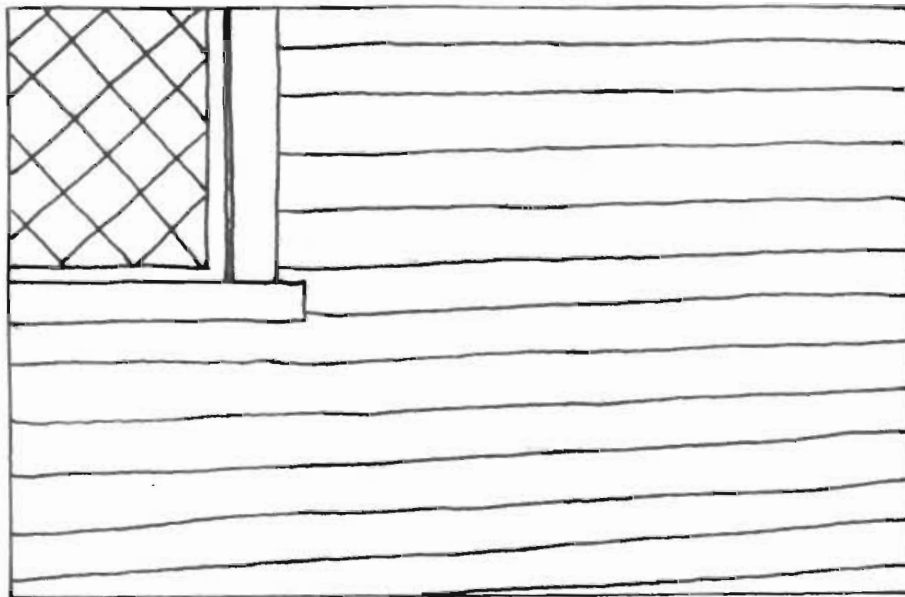
The excavation also revealed that the first floor window opening on this wall was originally much wider - wide enough to suggest **a bank of casement windows**. The dimensions of the original opening are framed by the ends of the early weatherboards (**B in photos 22, 23 and 27**). There is also a cut in one weatherboard designed to receive a window sill (**C in photos 27 and 30**). Drawing 32 illustrates a section of the wall and window as they might have appeared shortly after construction.

When the opening was reduced (c.1800), the remodelers filled the un-nogged spaces on either side of their new window with sawn-up, moulded finish boards (**photos 24 and 25**). One possible origin for these boards was the fireplace wall of the room inside (Room 112, the west parlor) which was probably remodeled about the same time that these exterior changes were occurring. More information about this window opening was found on excavating the interior face of the wall (see Excavation 112-W).

Evidence of a similarly-wide window opening was found on the second floor of this same wall, lighting the west chamber (see Excavation 210-W). Late 18th century alterations to the other walls make the complete fenestration pattern of the original house difficult to reconstruct.



EXT - 30



EXT - 32