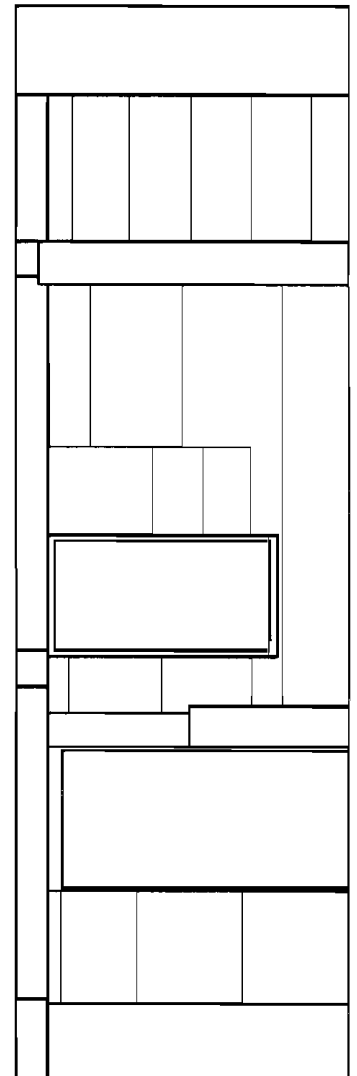


## ROOM 109

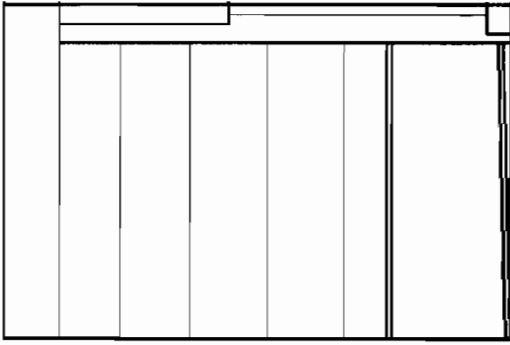
### The Kitchen

The kitchen seems to have been constructed as a single long, narrow room, encompassing the present kitchen, the small room to the west (room 110), the modern bathroom to the east, and the stairhall of the apartment or ell. The westerly end became a separate storage room or buttery in the Federal period, when the cellar stairwell and two large cupboards were added. The partitioning of the easterly end, which included a now-missing staircase, probably accompanied the construction of the ell.

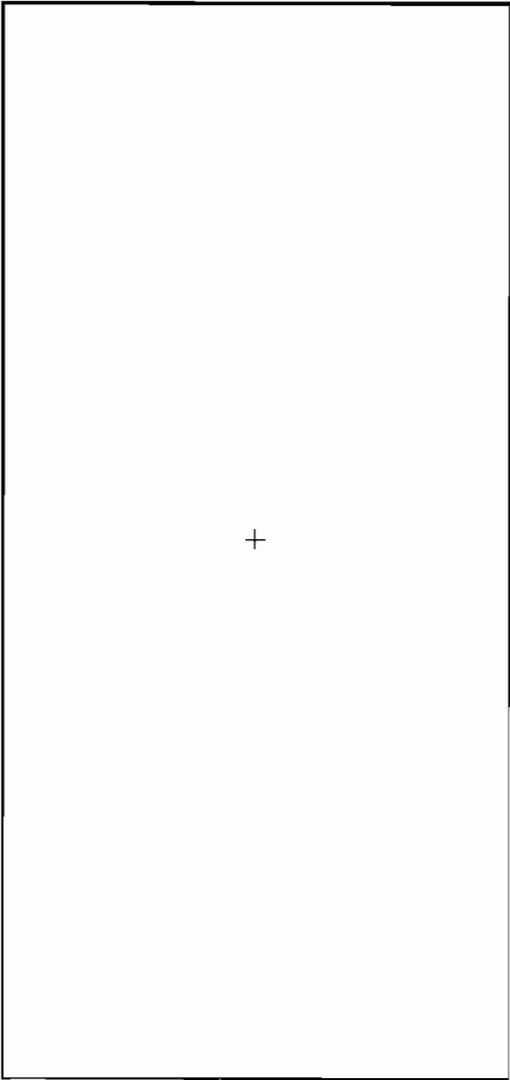
The kitchen was the subject of an over-vigorous restoration in 1953. Its Federal-period plaster ceiling was removed, re-exposing moulded studs covered with white distemper paint. All of this paint was unfortunately washed away. The oil paint layers on the wall were also stripped, and the kitchen was interpreted as an unpainted room. It was later given the present coat of yellow paint.



109 N

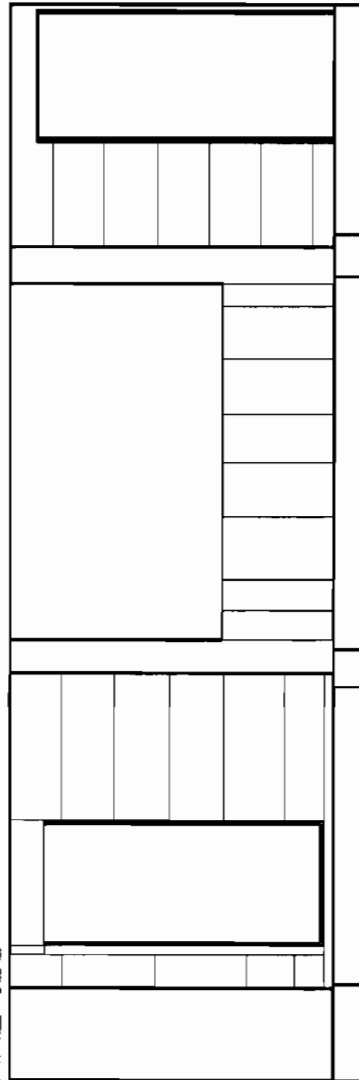


109 E

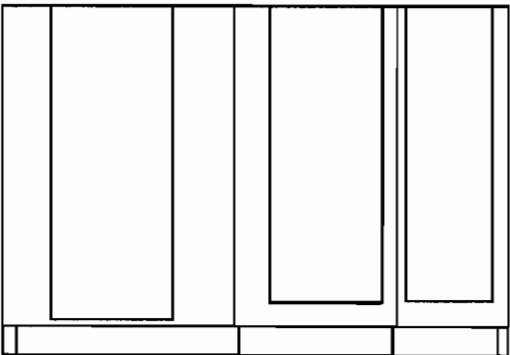


S 601

RML 109



M 601



## Kitchen Woodwork

The kitchen is fully sheathed with horizontal and vertical boards, difficult to date because of the paint stripping project of 1953. The majority of those along the north wall appear to be quite early - lap-jointed and occasionally moulded - and likely original to the structure. The south wall is a mixture of lapped boards and some with tongue and groove joints (photo 5), which are generally associated with Federal-period work. There have been some alterations, therefore, but their purpose is difficult to discern without excavating.

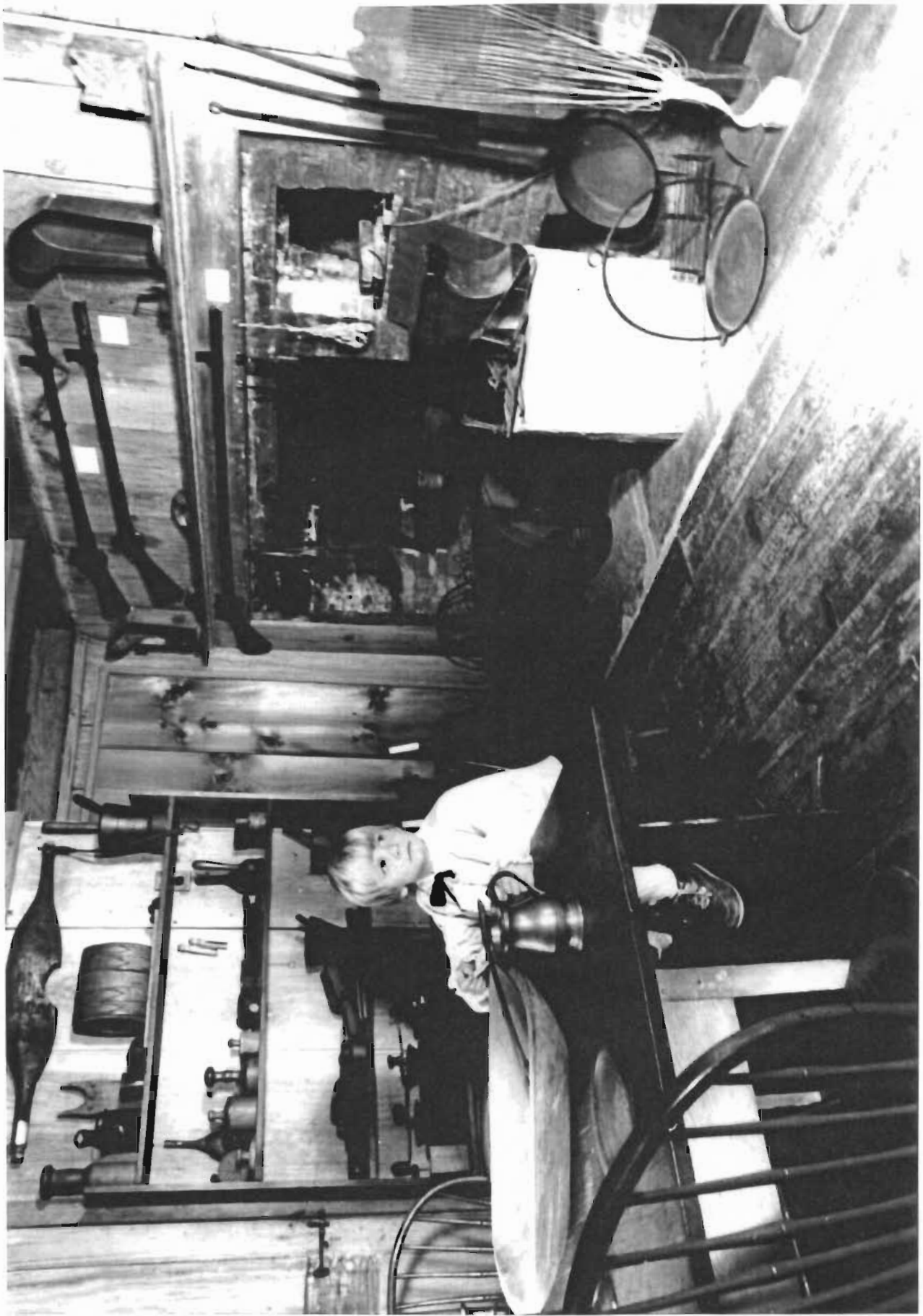
The most obvious alteration is the closing in of an early window opening (photo 3) next to the present north window, <sup>which</sup> must have related to a space-usage problem. The new window was covered with a sliding shutter, which we know only from a 1976 photograph (no.7).

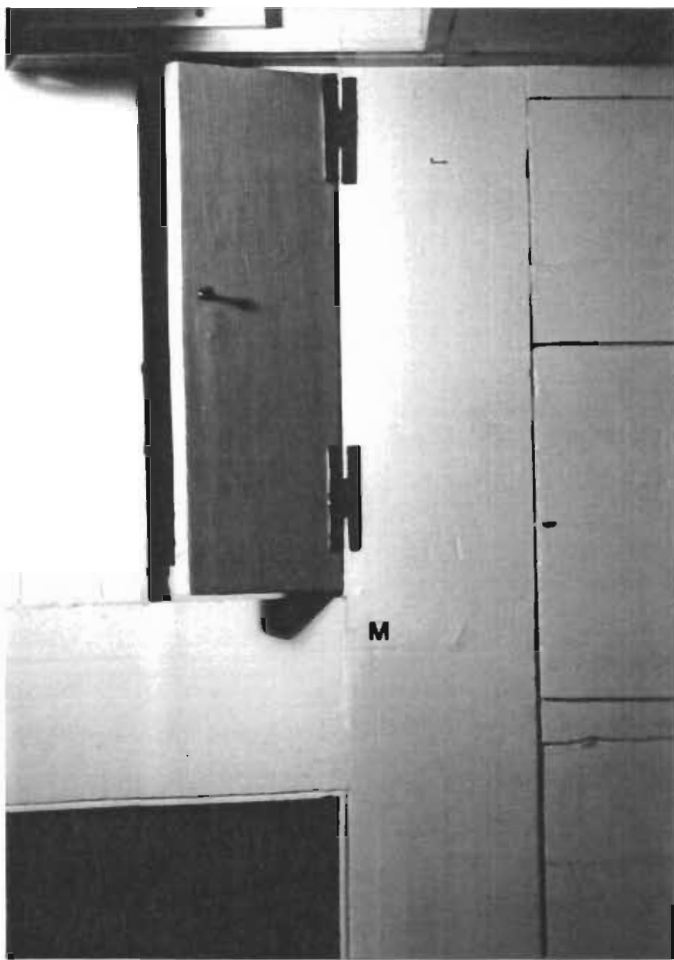
The small cupboard and door above the fireplace (photo 2) appear to be early and virtually untouched. There was a mantel just below this cupboard (at M), which is also visible in 1970s photographs (no. 1 & 6) but was later removed.

We removed a board which was covering the lower half of one of the kitchen posts (photo 4) exposing its rough surface. The post had two mortises cut into it, neither of which correspond with the nearest floor joists, indicating it was re-used from another structure.

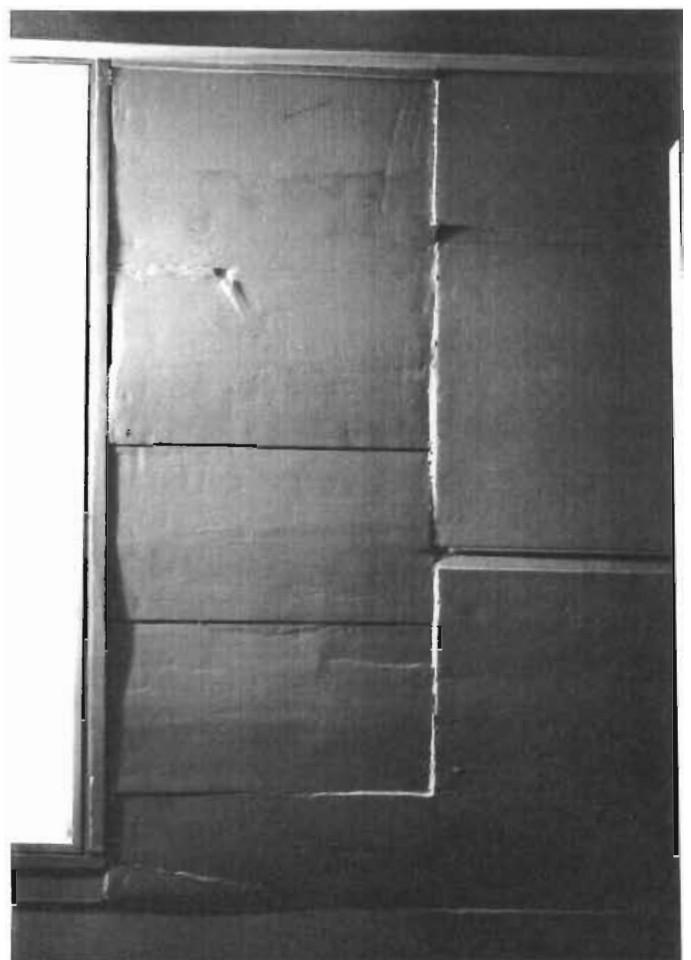


Microphotograph of paint cross section from the kitchen side of the door to Room 112. The dam is the only kitchen woodwork feature which escaped stripping.





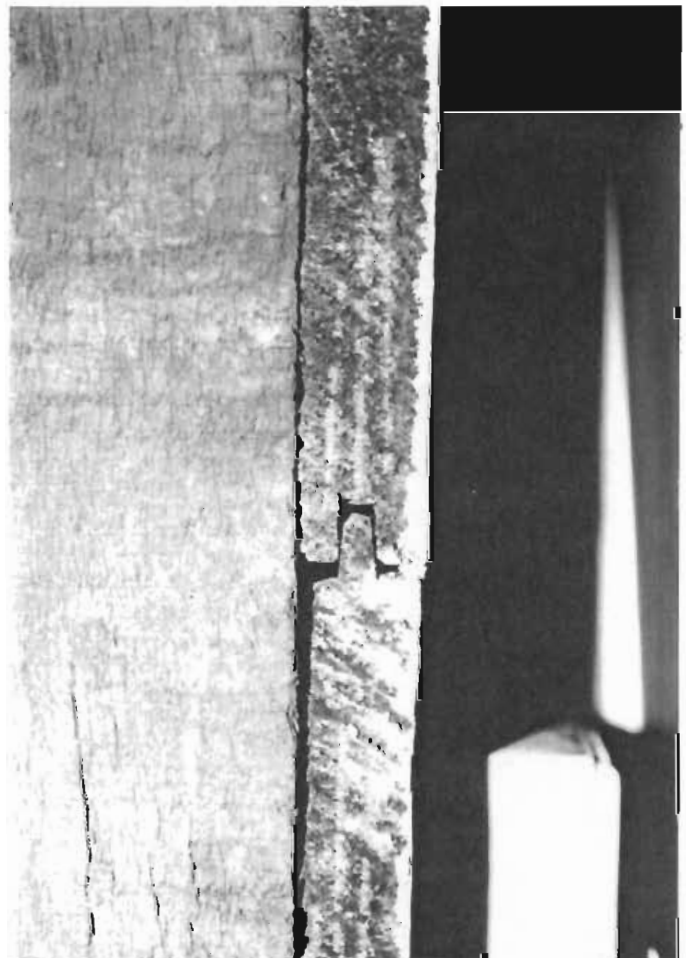
109 - 2



109 - 3



109 - 4



109 - 5

## The Easterly End

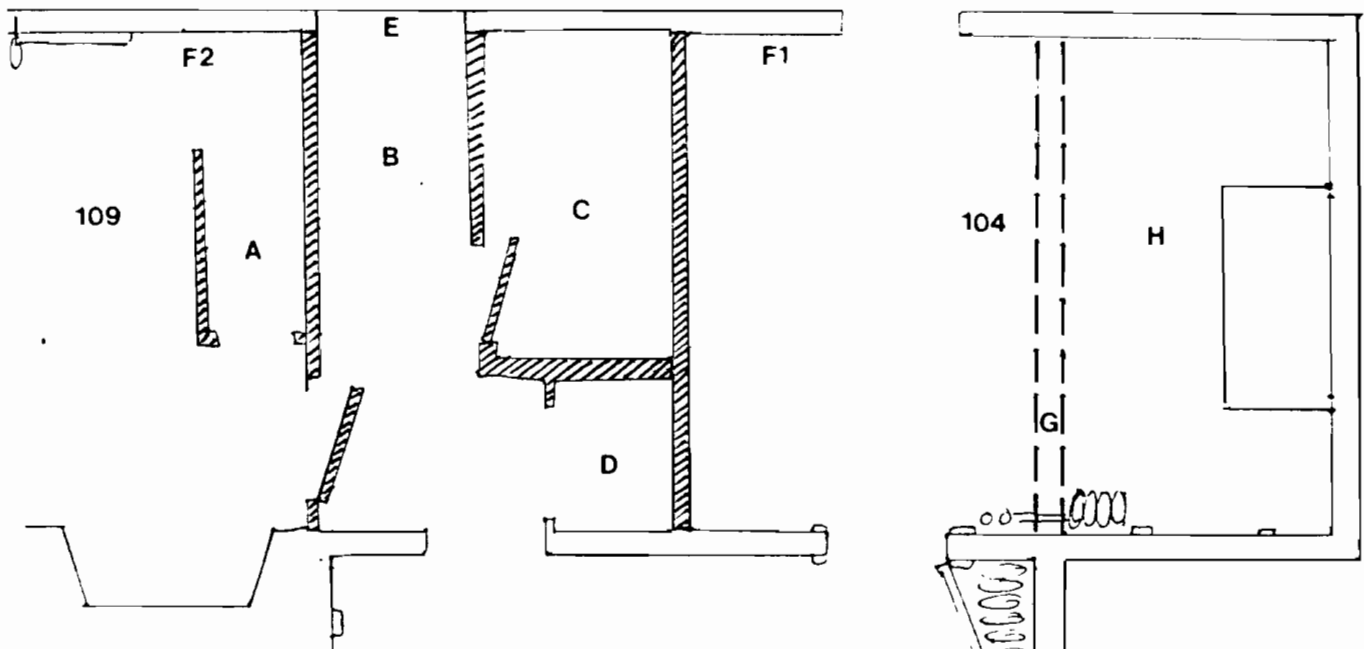
Most of the partitioning at the east end of the original kitchen was removed in the early 1980s and the space remodeled into a bathroom and staircase for the ell apartment. Our images of this area are only partial: an anonymous floorplan made before the restoration (**below, with the removed partitions indicated with diagonal lines**), and some c. 1972 photos of the partitioning from various angles (**photos 6,7,8**). Together with some perceptive notes kept by former curator Nancy Rexford, these sources give us a good idea of the appearance of this area before it was altered, but not of its historical development.

The partitions enclosed a staircase (**A**), a corridor linking the kitchen and room 102 (the old kitchen) with the ell (**B**), a bathroom (**C**), and a closet (**D**). The staircase and the door to the ell (**E**, and **photo 8**), at very least, are contemporary with the ell. We have too little information about the two closets/rooms to evaluate their age.

When this area was remodeled in the early 1980s, physical evidence of an earlier stair was found on one of the walls of the bathroom. This was the basis for constructing the present stair in the ell apartment.

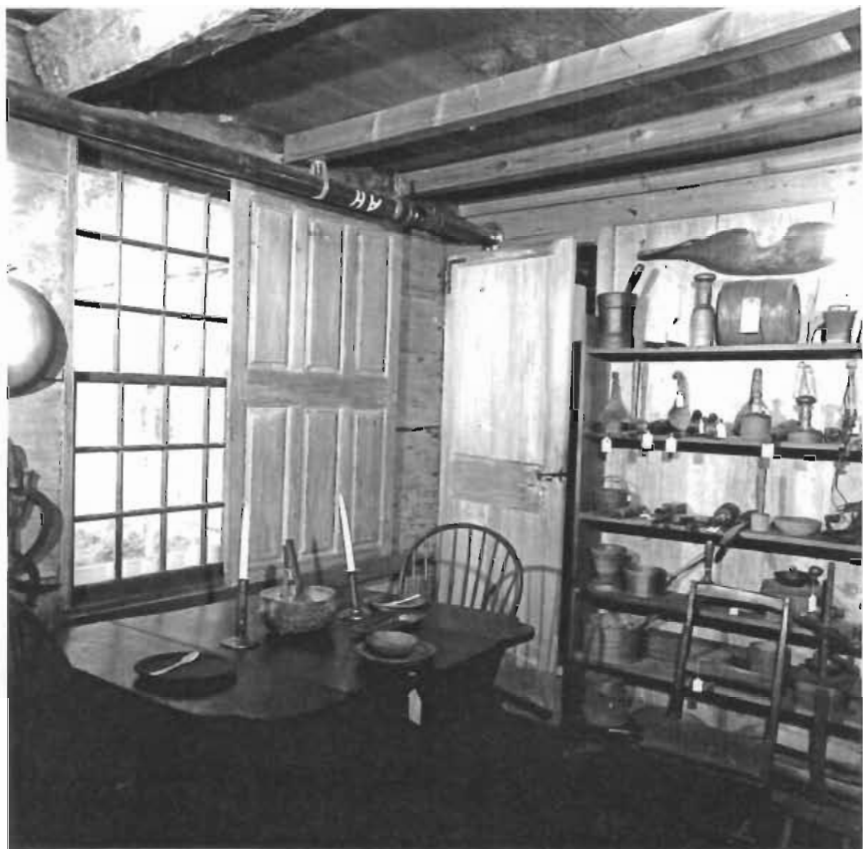
Another piece of evidence worth noting is the horizontal boarding at the base of the ell stairs (**F1**), which is continuous with the sheathing on the north wall of the kitchen (**F2**). This suggests that the kitchen originally extended through this whole area, probably as far as line **G**, the original eastern wall of the lean-to. The "east wing" (**H**) seems to have been added in the Federal period to accommodate a fireplace.

An excavation made in 1981 into the ceiling of room 104, (by taking up floorboards in the room above), revealed white-painted beaded joists identical to those in the kitchen (**photo 9**). The underside of the floor board in the photograph is also covered with white paint, probably the same white distemper found on the kitchen joists (**see Excavation 109 -E below**). These joists were to the left of line **G**, so their discovery proved that the kitchen and/or its ancillary spaces extended at least to that point.





109 - 6



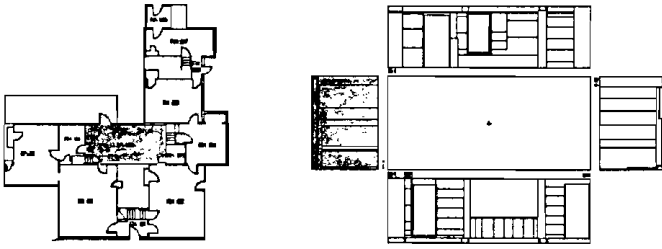
109 - 7



109 - 8





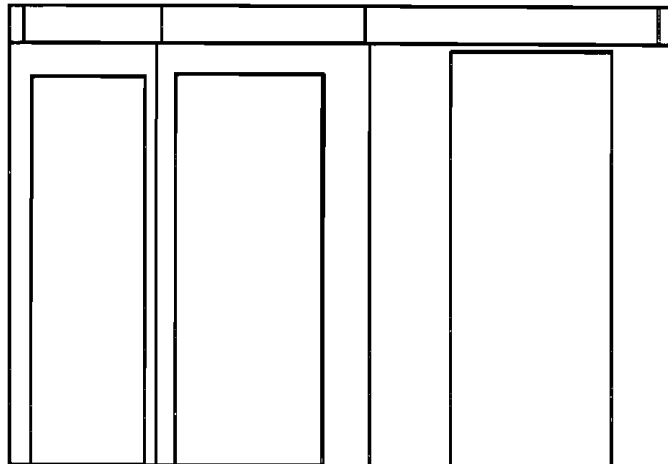


## EXCAVATION 109-A

### The Westerly Partition

The complex of partitions, cupboards and cellar stairs at the west end of the kitchen, and which separates the kitchen and buttery, was all added in the Federal period. Prior to this, the kitchen and buttery (room 110) were probably a single large space. The physical evidence is abundant:

- The horizontal boarding on the south wall of the cellar stairwell (**A in photo 11**) is painted yellow. These same painted boards form the back wall of the cupboard in the buttery (**photos 110-6**). Virtually identical boards run along the north wall of both rooms. These are also painted where they run through the kitchen cupboard (**B in photo 12**).
- The vertical partition boards which form the cellar stair enclosure, and the two cupboards (in the kitchen and buttery) are all fastened in place with cut nails.
- The kitchen floorboards were clearly sawn through to create the cellar stairwell. The edges of the boards within the stairwell retain small fragments of yellow floor paint, doubtlessly applied before the stairwell was constructed (**A in photo 13**).
- The back wall of the kitchen cupboard (**C in photo 12**) is made from re-used, painted sheathing boards, now vertical, but perhaps horizontal originally.

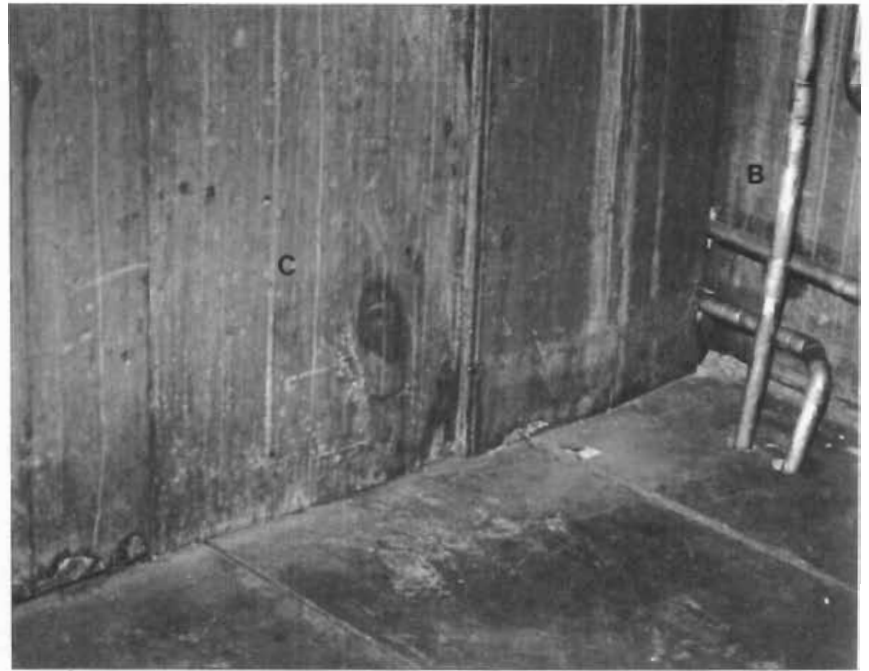




109 - 10



109 - 11



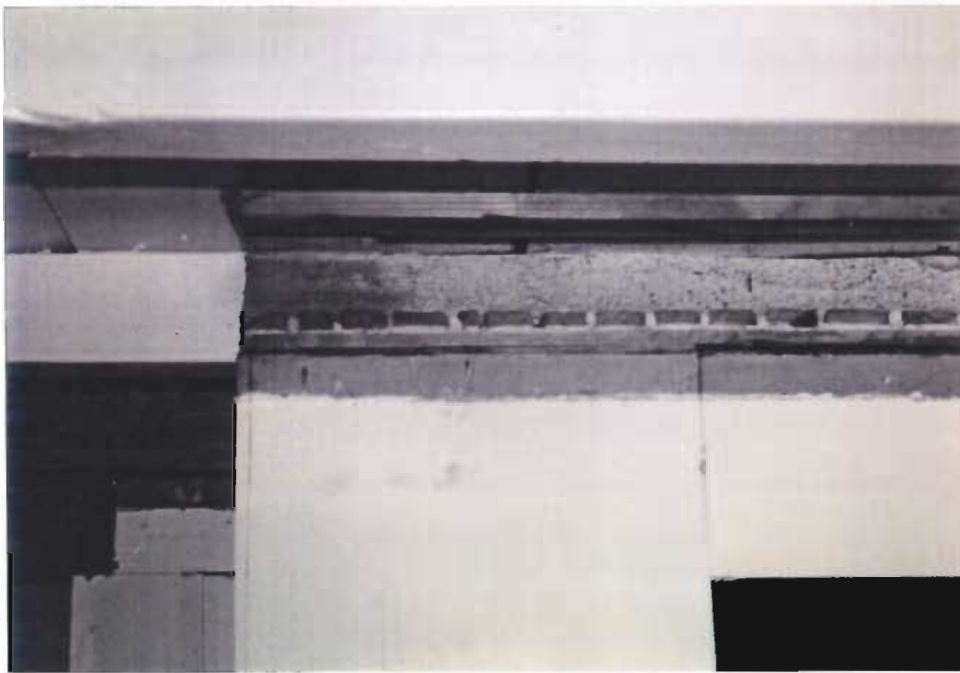
109 - 12

- The partitioning and cupboards were built under an existing ceiling of split-board lath and plaster. This was revealed by stripping away some rake boards applied in 1953 to access two cavities above the cupboard and cellar stairwell (**K in photo 10**). The plaster ceiling (**P in photo 14**) extended across the whole room prior to 1953. Its underside was still covered with calcimine paint (color chip --) applied before the partitions were constructed in the early nineteenth century,

Above the plaster ceiling, the joists and ceiling boards were still covered with white water-soluble paint, probably distemper (**D in photos 14 and 15**) (color chip no.--). This was probably applied in the 18th or very early 19th centuries. Small sections of the wall sheathing, also sealed within these cavities, were covered with an ochre-colored distemper.

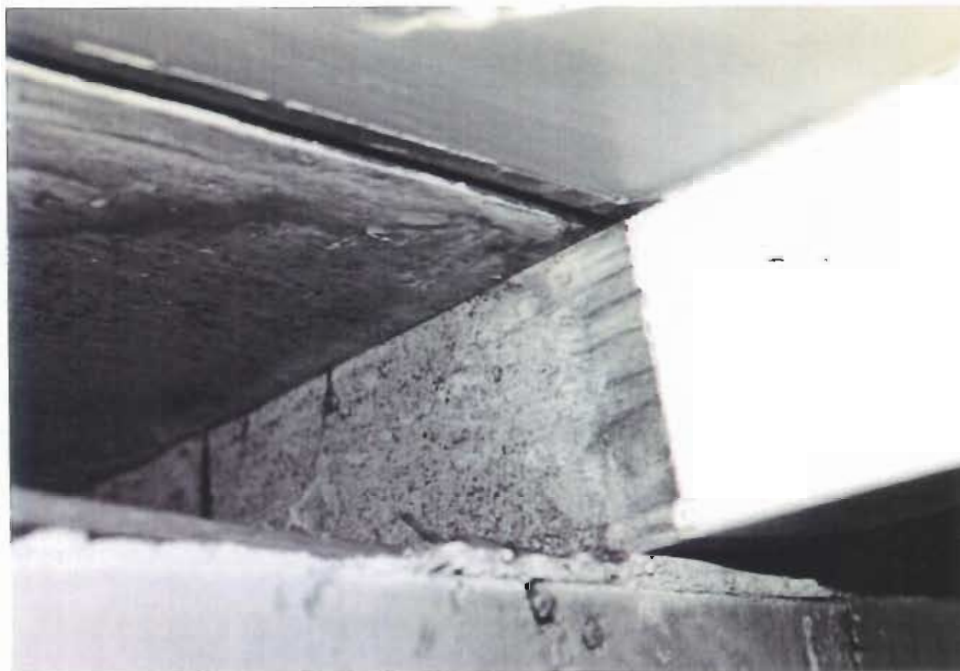


109 - 13



D  
P

109 - 14



109 - 15



109 - 16