

# YANKEE

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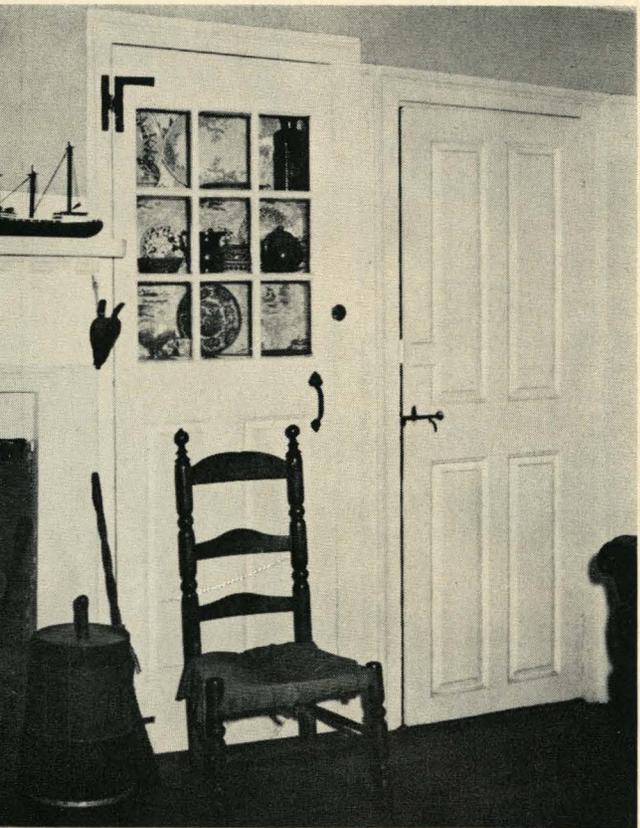
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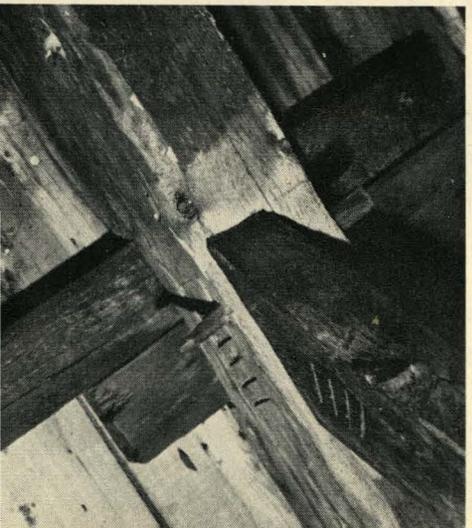
(1.)



(2.)



(3.)



# The Oldest

# House in Provincetown

■ THERE ARE MANY LOVELY CAPE COD houses in Provincetown, Massachusetts, but the only one open in its entirety to the public during the summer months is the one owned and occupied by Mr. John W. Gregory. Built in 1746 by a ship's carpenter with wood from salvaged ships, it happens also to be the oldest house

in town. Herewith, for those of you who can't make the Cape this summer, is a brief tour . . .

(Photo #1) Built in the center of the house, as an anchor against severe storms, is the massive central chimney — all handmade English bricks used as ship's ballast on the voyage to this country. The mortar

was made from burnt clam and oyster shells pulverized and mixed with sand and water. Note nine-over-six-paned windows. There are no nails in them — just wooden pegs in the corners.

(Photo #2) The house abounds with fine panelling, valuable panes of Sandwich glass and original Holy-Lord (HL) hinges. These hinges

The Oldest House in Provincetown



(4.)



(5.)



were used in combination with the Christian Cross doors to keep witches out. Although it's hard to perceive in this photo, the tops of the cabinets and the door frames slant downward. This is because these frames were originally constructed to follow the crown of the decks and cabins of the ships from which they were salvaged.

Thus, old Capes are often called "Ship Shape."

(Photo #3) Here are two of the pegged and notched roofing beams. This method of construction was used by the early boat builders and explains why the interior of the roofs in these old dwellings look like inverted ships' hulls.

(Photo #4) Leading up to the second floor, there is a steep "ship's ladder" staircase. The plank flooring is spatter painted white on a darker color—a common old-fashioned way of painting much-used floors.

(Photo #5) In the rear of this, the largest of the three fireplaces, can be seen the beehive-constructed Dutch

oven, founded only in Cape Cod houses built before 1750. Later, such ovens were placed at the sides for more convenience. After the embers were raked out, one would place a hand inside the oven. If the hand had to be removed on the final count of ten seconds, the oven was ready for baking. ◆◆