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Historic Furnishing Plan

# BIG HOUSE-1858



by Jamie Morton

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HISTORIC FURNISHING PLAN  
BIG HOUSE - 1858

Fort Langley National Historic Park,  
Fort Langley, B.C.

by Yamie Morton

Historic Resource Conservation  
Environment Canada/Parks  
Western Regional Office  
Calgary, **Alberta**  
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ii	Table of Contents
iv	Approval Sheet
v	Introduction
vi	Glossary
x	List of <b>Illustrations</b>
1	Section 1: Historical Analysis, Structure A, Fort Langley
1	The Big House
1	Location
2	Direct Evidence
4	Chronology
4	Indirect Evidence
7	Conclusion
10	Role of the Big House
10	James Murray Yale
21	William Henry Newton
24	Office Function
25	Mess Hall
37	Transient Housing
40	<b>Food</b> Preparation
42	Section 2: Big House; Historic Furnishing Plan,
42	General Notes on Furnishing
46	Office
46	Summary of Articles for Office
52	Office; Notes
53	<b>Mess</b> Hall
55	Summary of Articles for Mess Hall
61	Mess <b>Hall</b> ; Notes
63	Newton's Quarters
63	Parlour
66	Summary of Articles for Newton's Parlour
72	Newton Bedroom 1
74	Summary of Articles for Newton Bedroom 1

77	Newton Bedroom 2
78	Summary of Articles for Newton Bedroom 2
86	Newton's Quarters; Notes
87	Yale's Quarters
87	Parlour
90	Summary of Articles for Yale's Parlour
95	Yale Bedroom 1
96	Summary of Articles for Yale Bedroom 1
99	Yale Bedroom 2
100	Summary of Articles for Yale Bedroom 2
101	Yale's Quarters; Notes
102	The Second Storey
103	Summary of Articles for the Second Storey
105	<b>Endnotes</b>
132	Floorplan
133	<b>Illustrations</b>

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## Introduction

This document is intended to provide a framework for the proposed refurnishing of the reconstructed Big House at Fort Langley National Historic Park. The structural appearance of the building has recently been greatly improved, to bring it more in line with Hudson's Bay Company conventions and the probable appearance of the original Big House. Refurnishing the structure in a more appropriate fashion will present a more accurate portrayal of the lifestyle and activities in the historic structure represented.

This historic furnishing plan is divided into two main sections, a historical analysis of the original Big House, and the furnishing plan proper. The first section is taken from the author's unpublished M.R.S., FORT LANGLEY: An Overview Of The Operations Of A Diversified Fur Trade Post 1848 to 1858 And The Physical Context in 1858, 1986. The second section is intended to synthesize probable furnishings based on the historical record for Fort Langley, comparative sources, and the existing Hudson's Bay Company furnishings in various collections throughout the Northwest.

Thanks are due to the repositories which have provided the documentary information, particularly the Provincial Archives of British Columbia and the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, and the representatives of the institutions holding Hudson's Bay Company furnishings, particularly David Hansen, the curator at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

## Glossary

applied mouldings ▪ mouldings struck on thin strips of wood and nailed onto a piece, rather than struck directly on the structural wood.

baize ▪ coarse napped woolen cloth.

bead ▪ a moulding with a half-round shape in section.

bolster ▪ a long stuffed under-pillow.

bombazette -a worsted dress material.

calico ▪ cotton cloth.

Canada stove ▪ a simple six-panel box stove, made of cast iron.

casement -a window with hinged sash.

cassette ▪ the standard Hudson's Bay Company travelling trunk, of softwood construction, with dovetailed corners and a gently cambered top.

chamberstick ▪ a portable candlestick.

counterpane - a coverlet or quilt for a bed.

country-made ▪ the H.B.C. term for any article produced in their territory, as opposed to imported.

cruetstand -a stand holding small bottles containing condiments.

deal - a rough plank.

diaper - light linen or cotton fabric with a woven-in pattern.

dish dresser - a kitchen sideboard with shelves.

double-hung - windows with sash which slide up and down in their frames.

dovetail - a cabinetmaker's joint which uses tenons shaped like a dove's tail to lock corners together.

dressng case - a wooden or leather box' filled with toilet requisites.

**forbuck** - utensils with bone, ivory, or horn scales on an iron core forming the handle.

gentlemen - in Hudson's Bay Company usage, those employees of higher rank of status; specifically clerks, chief traders, or chief factors; the latter two groups known as commissioned gentlemen having shares in the company.

hallstand - a piece of furniture placed in entries to hang outer clothing on.

huckabuck - rough linen fabric.

muntin - thin piece of wood holding panes of glass in a window.

outfit - the business year of the Hudson's Bay Company, from June 1 to May 31 of the following year; also the stock of goods for the trade of such a fiscal year.

rail - horizontal frame component in a door or window.

sampler - a girl's piece of embroidery kept as proof of her skill.

sash - a frame composed of rails, stiles, and muntins to hold window glass.

sconce - a bracket candlestick.

secretary - piece of furniture combining desk and bookcase functions.

servants - in Hudson's Bay Company usage, all those employees other than gentlemen.

shaving box - a wooden or leather box **holding** shaving requisites.

Spanish brown - a reddish brown paint **colour** widely used by the Hudson's Bay Company.

stile - vertical frame component in a door or window.

stroud - napped woolen cloth similar to blanketing.

tablecover - a cloth cover for a table top.

tablet top - on a chair, curved ends on the top member of the back, flaring to the top.

ticking - strong fabric for **matress** and bolster cases.

tongue and groove - a carpentry joint using a long **mortice** and tenon.

wardrobe - a movable cupboard in which clothes are kept.

washstand - a piece of furniture to hold a jug, basin, and any other items for personal hygiene.

whipsaw(n) -a large saw used to cut planks from a log, operated by two men.

Windsor chair - a chair made with spindles and often a curved back.

## Figures

- Figure 1 • Detail of “Interior of Fort Langley Yard **looking south shewing ‘The Hall’**”, December 15, 1858, **by Edward Mallandaine**. P.A.B.C. pdp 3395.
- Figure 2 • Detail of “New Fort Langley South View”, showing **the Big House**, December 15, 1858, by Edward Mallandaine. P.A.B.C. pdp 3396.
- Figure 3 • Entrance of Structure A, c. **1860-1864**, with **clerk** in charge W.H. Newton and Mrs. Newton. Fort Langley N.H.P. collection.
- Figure 4 • Fort Langley from the west, 1867 or 1868, **by Frederick Dally**. P.A.B.C. photograph no. 11003.
- Figure 5 • **"Our Haircutter"**, 1878, by H. Bullock Webster, showing a residential interior in a New Caledonia H.B.C. post. From “Sketches of Hudson Bay Life”, U.B.C. Library, Special Collections.
- Figure 6 • **"A Hudsons Bay Ball"**, **1870s**, by H. Bullock Webster, showing a public room in a residential structure, probably at Fort St. James. U.B.C. Library, Special Collection.
- Figure 7 • Country-made desk from Fort Vancouver, reputedly the property of the baker, Joseph **Petrain**. Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.
- Figure 8 • Secretary designs from **Loudon's Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farmhouse and Villa Architecture and Furniture, 1839**, reprinted in **Loudon Furniture Designs**, Menston, S.R. Publishers Ltd., and **The Connoisseur, 1970, p. 11.**

- Figure 9 - Imported secretary, formerly at Fort Vancouver, in McLoughlin House, Oregon City.
- Figure 10 - Country-made bookcase, formerly the property of Dr. William F. Tolmie. Fort Nisqually Historic Site, Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma.
- Figure 11 - Detail showing construction of bookcase doors in Helmcken House, Victoria. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.
- Figure 12 - Details of moulding and muntin profiles and door construction, from Craigflower Manor. P.A.B.C.
- Figure 13 - Chair, country-made at Fort Langley. Fort Langley N.H.P.
- Figure 14 - H.B.C. cassettes, from Fort Nisqually (top), and that formerly the property of John Work (**bottom**). Fort Nisqually Historic Site; Fort Langley N.H.P.
- Figure 15 - Trunks with H.B.C. provenance, from Craigflower Manor (top), and **that** reputedly the former property of J.M. Yale, Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region; Fort Langley N.H.P.
- Figure 16 - Dish dresser designs from Loudon Furniture Designs, pp. 3-4.
- Figure 17 - Chest of drawers country-made at Fort Nisqually. Note construction, including blind dovetails on chest top and drawer fronts. Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma.
- Figure 18a - Armchair country-made at Nanaimo, in the Nanaimo Centennial Museum collection. Note tablet top on **back**. Maple and fir construction. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.

- Figure 18b - Armchair country-made at Victoria, in the Helmcken House collection. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.
- Figure 18c - Armchair country-made at the H.B.C. mill at Albert Head, in the Craigflower collection. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.
- Figure 19 - Bed, country-made for Dr. Helmcken at Fort Victoria. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.
- Figure 20 - Spodeware jug styles recovered from Fort Vancouver. From Lester Ross, Fort Vancouver, 1829-1860: A Historical Archaeological Investigation of the Goods Imported and Manufactured by the Hudson's Bay Company, Washington, D.C., U.S. National Park Service, 1976, pp. 520-521.
- Figure 21 - "Eating the Xmas pudding" and "The effect next morning", by H. Bullock Webster, showing the interior of H.B.C. servants' quarters in New Caledonia in the 1870s. U.B.C. Library, Special Collections.
- Figure 22 - Historic mahogany shaving box in the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site collection, showing configuration appropriate to a shaving box or dressing case. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.
- Figure 23 - Spodeware plate styles based on those recovered archaeologically at Fort Vancouver. From Lester Ross, Fort Vancouver, pp. 526-527.
- Figure 24 - Spodeware cup and saucer styles recovered archaeologically from Fort Vancouver. From Lester Ross, Fort Vancouver, pp. 512-514.

- Figure 25 - Wine glass and tumbler styles recovered archaeologically from Fort Vancouver. From Lester Ross, Fort Vancouver, pp. 548-535.
- Figure 26 - Fork styles recovered archaeologically from Fort Vancouver. From Lester Ross, Fort Vancouver, p. 564.
- Figure 27 - Hypothetical design for a country-made tin hanging oil lamp. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.
- Figure 28 - Wardrobe designs from Loudon Furniture Designs, p. 12.
- Figure 29 - Bench design from Loudon Furniture Designs, p. 25.
- Figure 30 - Hypothetical design for wooden curtain **rod** brackets and valance board for **the** curtains in the Newtons' quarters. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.
- Figure 31 - Hypothetical bed design based on the Helmcken bed (figure 19). Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.
- Figure 32 - Hypothetical washstand design based on the original piece from the "Beaver", in the **McLoughlin** House collection. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.
- Figure 33 - Towel **rack** design from Loudon Furniture Designs, p. 57.
- Figure 34 - **Iron** "French" bedstead design from Loudon Furniture Designs, p. 41.
- Figure 35 - Simple curtain rod, and bracket design from Loudon Furniture Designs, p. 47.
- Figure 36 - Construction details of mahogany-framed mirror in the Museum of the Fur Trade collection. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.

## Historical Analysis, Structure A, Fort Langley N.H.P.

### The Big House

At Fort Langley in 1858, as during the **preceeding** decade, there were only two “gentlemen” of the Hudson’s Bay Company in residence, a chief trader and a clerk. The chief trader had ultimate responsibility for **the** operation of Fort Langley and its subsidiary posts, and both men would have been involved primarily in managing the economic and other activities of the post, as well as keeping **those** records required. The personal and professional lives of **these** men were **centred** around the “Big House”. This building had an associated kitchen structure which would have also provided housing for those servants responsible for meeting the domestic **needs** of the gentlemen.

### Location

The role of the Big House at Fort Langley is positively defined **by** contemporary materials. Structure A is identified as **“the Hall”** **by** E. Mallandaine in two sketches from December 1858 (figures 1 and 2). The **McColl** map of 1862 lists Structure A as the “Managers Residence”.

These contemporary identifications are reinforced and clarified by early twentieth century reminiscences and historical writing concerning Fort Langley. The Jason **Allard** derived plans of 1920 to 1925, for example, identify the appropriate structure as “Chief Trader Yale”, “Officers Quarters”, “Officers’ Residence.”<sup>1</sup> This **theme** is repeated in slightly later sources such as Denys Nelson, “Officer’s residence, or ‘Big **House**’”,<sup>2</sup> Aurelia **Manson**, “At the top, Traders, Clerks dwelling **Houses**”,<sup>3</sup> and John Gibbard, “**Big House**.”<sup>4</sup>

## Direct Evidence

Two views of Structure A were sketched by E. Mallandaine (figures 1 and 2), which show much of its configuration in 1858. These show it to have been a large two storey post on sill structure with the first storey a few feet above the ground, and reached by a stairway. The north (front) wall of the building was divided into six bays; each one had an upper and lower floor window, and a simple plank door was located to the immediate right of the centre post. The roof was hipped, and apparently covered with nine or ten courses of shakes.

Figure 1 also shows the roof and part of the second storey of Structure A from the southeast. The points noted above are confirmed, additionally, four windows are visible in the upper storey of the south wall and the upper storey of the east wall is shown to have contained two or three windows. Oddly, no chimney is evident in either of the sketches.

The **McCull** plan of September 1862 shows Structure A to have been approximately 21.7 metres (71' 2") long by 11.9 metres (39') wide. It was located 108.6 metres to 120.5 metres south of the south wall of Structure K, and 10.1 metres to 31.8 metres west of the west wall of Structure K, following the axes of the latter building. A porch is shown on the front of the building, perhaps a post-1858 addition.

A photograph taken c. 1860-1864 of W.H. Newton, the clerk then in charge of Fort Langley, and his wife, on the front stairs of Structure A gives more structural information (figure 3). The facade had changed in some respects from that shown in figure 1 a few years earlier. The porch shown in the **McCull** plan is prominent in this photograph, as is a six-panel front door with a transom light above. The building was painted white, with at least two trim colours, a darker one on the door, and a lighter one on the door panel mouldings, the door and window facings, and the window sash. Paint colours listed in Fort Langley inventories included Spanish brown, green, white, and crimson.<sup>5</sup>

Scaling from this photograph, the porch (and presumably first floor) level was about 1.5 metres (5') above ground level; the door and window openings were roughly 1 metre (3'4") wide, their tops were at the 2.4 metre (8') level, while the bottom of the window openings were 1.1 metres (3'6") above the floor level.

The Frederick Dally photograph of 1867 or 1868 (figure 4) shows the north and west roof and part of the north wall of Structure A. Its overall configuration is confirmed; the hipped, shake-covered roof, the whitewashed finish, and the overall appearance of the north wall. Again, no chimnies are visible.

Contemporary references to Structure A are limited both in number and information offered. In 1858 "**the** principal building" was noted as having a 'large room", when the colony of B.C. was proclaimed.<sup>6</sup>

In March of the following year, a Methodist missionary preached in "the dining hall of the Company's house".<sup>7</sup>

Ovid **Allard**, the clerk in charge of Fort Langley in 1868, incidentally described the layout of Structure A in recounting his problems with a teamster he had agreed to let Weep above my bedroom".<sup>8</sup> This named a specific room on the main floor, and by writing "above my bedroom" rather than just "upstairs", **Allard** hinted at defined areas upstairs **as** well.

**Allard** also stated in a letter on the same subject that he would not put the man on the "Ground floor" because the "stove of one end of the house was taken away".<sup>9</sup> This gives clues both to the mode of heating and space allocation with the structure being described in "ends".

The correspondence about building a new manager's house in 1872 provides more information. **Allard** thought he could salvage most of the materials needed from the old buildings, except weather boarding, as "**the** lining that is in these old houses is not fit for weatherboarding".<sup>10</sup> This implies wooden interior wall finishes, and the presence of this wallboarding in Structure A specifically was confirmed by **Allard** referring to "pulling down the lining of the old **Hall**" for reuse.<sup>11</sup>

The revived interest in Fort Langley during the 1920s produced more information, mostly from Jason **Allard**, the son of Ovid **Allard**. In his plan of September, 1920 he identified the "officers' quarters" as being "2 storey 70 x 40", which agrees well with the dimensions shown in the **McCull** plan. In 1925, a description of Fort Langley attributed primarily to J. **Allard** described the "Officers' Residence" as:

"a log building with cedar shake roof. It was 2 1/2 storeys high and was the residence of the factor and clerk and their families. The rooms on the second floor were reserved for the use of the officers in charge of the fur **brigades...during** their temporary stays at the fort".

It also mentioned "the small reception room on the lower floor", and "a pile of stones from the chimney", which was by 1925 the only evidence of the building.<sup>12</sup> This description seems to have served as the prototype for later writers such as Nelson and Gibbard.

Slightly more information is found in Jason **Allard's** reminiscences; in a story about the reason for building the 1872 manager's house, he describes Structure A as having had private accommodation for his father, a room for a visitor (Dr. **Toimie**), a potato cellar, and a mess **table**.<sup>13</sup>

A detailed reference was made to the "chimney stones" by W.L. Marr, the son of Dr. **Marr**, who had built a house on the site of Structure A shortly after the First World War. Mr. Marr was specific as to the word "chimney, rather than fireplace", and remembered the stones, which numbered about 75 to 100, to have been 'about the size of a man's head', to have had no mortar adhering, and to have been concentrated near the southeast corner of his father's house.<sup>12</sup>

#### Chronology

Structure A, according to Jason **Allard** in his "Reminiscences", was built "in the early **forties**".<sup>14</sup> In the absence of contrary evidence, this date may be tentatively accepted. Its presence in 1858 is confirmed by figures 57 and 58, in 1860-1864 by figures 4 and 7, and in 1867 or 1868 by figure 8. It definitely served as a residence until 1872, when a new house was built, and occupied late in the **year**.<sup>16</sup> When Structure A was actually demolished is not known, although presumably it would have been concurrent with the occupation of the new residence, especially if material salvaged from the older building was used in the newer.

#### Indirect Evidence

The overall configuration of Structure A is largely revealed by iconographic sources. The areas requiring clarification include interior layout, interior finish, doors and windows, and heating mechanisms.

Two relevant Big House plans are those from Fort Vancouver and Fort Nisqually. That from Fort Vancouver is particularly applicable, being a composite developed by John Hussey based on archaeological and historical information. It is laid out within a similar plan area to Structure A at Fort Langley, to meet the residential needs of two Company gentlemen and their families.

Contemporary descriptions of chief traders' accommodation usually ignore the structures themselves, but some observations were made. The Big House at Fort Colvile, intended for one family, had an inside hallway with "a fair sized comfortable room on each side" in 1853.<sup>12</sup> John Keast Lord, upon entering the same building a few years later, found a large room with only two windows, furnished with a few rough chairs and a large deal table. There was a trap door leading to a storage cellar under the table, a large fireplace for light and heat, and this room apparently also served **as the** bedroom for the chief trader.<sup>12</sup>

A new residence was built in the early 1860s at Colvile; it contained a 'large room 20 by 30 feet' in which New Year's Day was celebrated.<sup>18</sup> Jason **Allard** described this room as "**the** hall or mess room", noted the absence of carpets, and the serving of refreshments at the office, suggesting that this office was in the same structure as the mess **hall**.<sup>20</sup>

The manager's dwelling at Fort Nisqually was described as having "five rooms below, finished with cloth and paper, ceiled above with **plank**".<sup>21</sup> The equivalent house on the Cowlitz Farm was noted as being 'lined and papered on the inside'.<sup>22</sup>

Charles Wilkes, at Fort Vancouver in 1841, stated that the "interior of the houses in the fort are unpretending. They are simply finished with pine board panels, without any paint: bunks are built for bedsteads; but the whole, though plain, is as comfortable as could be desired."<sup>23</sup>

The bachelors' quarters at Fort Colvile (gentlemen's quarters) were said to be "partly ceiled inside with tongued and grooved **boards**".<sup>24</sup> This detail is countered by the reminiscences of James Anderson, a student at Fort Victoria in the early **1850s**, whose dormitory was over the bachelors' hall. He referred to "raising up a board in the flooring and which formed the ceiling of the room below" to spy on the gentlemen.<sup>25</sup> Anderson also described his dormitory:

The garret we occupied was not lined, simply the bare logs; the interstices, where the roof joined the wall, was a veritable runway for the numerous rats which infested the building and through which the fresh air had unimpeded access even in the coldest weather.<sup>26</sup>

Descriptions of the gentlemen's quarters at Fort Victoria are found in the reminiscences of Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken. On his arrival at Fort Victoria in 1850, Helmcken was introduced to the men in charge in their quarters:

. . .the room of Mr. Douglas, partly an office and partly domestic, stood open, and there I saw Cecilia his eldest daughter flitting about,...

Mrs. Finlayson was introduced to me by Benson at her residence, a room in her husband's office...<sup>37</sup>

John Hussey, in determining interior finishes appropriate to Fort Vancouver's Big House, surveyed many <sup>of</sup> the available primary and comparative sources, and concluded that vertical wall panelling, and tongue and groove ceilings, all planed, were appropriate. The question of papering or painting remained unresolved, green and blue paint traces were found on archaeological brick remains inside the perimeter of the Big House.<sup>38</sup>

Windows in these gentlemen's residences usually seem to have been quite large, with the sash often arranged four panes wide by six panes tall, in both double hung and casement sash. Both varieties were found side by side at Fort Vancouver in 1860, and the "new manager's residence" at Fort Langley, photographed in the early twentieth century, had classic H.B.C. casement sash but in a four panes wide by five panes tall arrangement. This sash was probably salvaged from an older building.

The door in figure 3 was nearly identical to those in the bachelors' quarters at Fort Vancouver. This type of door is also found today in at least one **H.B.C.-**related structure along the coast, the **McLoughlin** House in Oregon City. In this house six-panel doors, with mouldings applied rather than struck on the rails, are used throughout the interiors as well. Similar door construction, but in a **four-**panel style, may be found in H.B.C. related structures on Vancouver **Island**.

It is difficult to determine how Structure A was heated. The comparative iconographic materials all show chimneys, ranging from a small single one at Fort Vancouver to two huge ones at Fort Colville, and contemporary documentary sources do not clarify the issue, except for the one reference to a stove (above p. 3).

## Conclusion

The 1858 Mallandaine sketches of Structure A provide the baseline data for the building's configuration. In general terms this information is supported by later photographs. Structure A was clearly a two-storey post on sill building with a hipped roof. As its plan size is known, and the height to the top of the front door and windows was about 4 to 4.2 metres (13' to **14'**), the height of the building to the plate was about 6.7 to **7** metres (**22'** to **23'**), and the overall height, judging by figures 1 and 7, was some 12.2 to 12.8 metres (**40'** to **42'**). The shorter east and west walls of the structure were probably divided into three bays, judging from normal bay lengths at Fort Langley.

In the absence of **coloured** iconographic sources from 1858, the presence or absence of paint remains in doubt. The photographs of 1860-1864 (figure 3) and 1867 or 1868 (figure **4**) show Structure A to have been whitewashed, with trim painted contrasting **colours**. Structure A and its associated kitchen were the only whitewashed buildings at Fort Langley in the 1860s; this is shown in **Figure 8** and confirmed by other iconographic sources. It is probable that the building was also painted in the **1850s**; certainly the paint was available in quantity at that time, and **the** practice seemed common enough.

The door in figure 1 is drawn as a simple plank door which was a typical for gentlemen's dwellings. The door and window openings were **the same** height both in this sketch and figure , and the photograph reveals no hint of the size of the openings having been modified in the interim. It is unlikely that an opening intended for a warehouse type plank door would accommodate so neatly a typical H.B.C. six-panel door and transom light without changing the height of the opening relative to the height of the surrounding window openings. Therefore the door configuration shown in figure was probably consistent throughout the life of Structure A.

The size and prominence of the porch, and the **possibility** of its being overlooked by a trained architect like Mallandaine makes it likely that the porch was a post-1858 addition.

The window opening sizes seen in Structure A are not tall enough to have accommodated the twenty four pane **sash** noted as typical. The left window opening in figure 3 shows what is probably the edge of a side rail of casement **sash**, opened inwards. The sash would have been only five panes tall, due to **the**

window opening size in Structure A. The presence of this particular sash configuration in the later manager's residence, and the probability of it having been recycled from an older building supports this configuration in Structure A. The second storey windows appear to have **been** somewhat smaller than those of the first storey. This was typical; the sash would have been to the same pattern, only one or two panes shorter, and perhaps one pane narrower.

Window locations in the north wall are clearly shown, with six windows per floor. **The south** wall had a window in each of the four inner bays on the second storey. The east wall had two or three windows on this storey as well. However, other window locations are unknown.

The interior layout is also largely unknown. The first floor had a mess hall, and provided accommodation for the Chief Trader and his family as well as a clerk and his family. It would seem that Structure A also contained the fort's office. An 1860 reference to removing the sale shop and "Office dwelling" to a new site implies this dual role, as it is unlikely that **servants'** quarters would have contained such a **facility.**<sup>29</sup>

In 1868 **Allard** was living in one end of **the house, as "the stove** of one end of the house was taken away". This implies a modular or symmetrical layout.

The arrangement of the second floor is even less clearly defined, but it seems probable that it too was partitioned in some fashion. Given the reference to the building being two and a half storeys tall, and the height of the roof, it is possible that there was a ceiling and attic space above the second storey.

The height of the first floor above the ground supports the reference in **Allard's** reminiscences to a cellar in Structure A. The Big House at Fort Vancouver, with its main floor five or six feet above the ground, had such a cellar used for the storage of wines and spirits.<sup>66</sup> The storage cellar under the Fort Colville Big House has already been noted.

The interior walls of Structure A were lined with planks. If Company convention was followed, these would have been narrow, random width softwood planks, hand-planed, tongued and grooved, with a bead detail down the edge, and vertically applied. Partitions would have **been** similar material, either battened, as at Fort Vancouver, but more likely tongued and grooved, as at Fort Victoria, to ensure a tight fit.<sup>81</sup>

As there were no ceilings in the Fort Victoria Bachelors' Hall, externally a more elaborate building, it is uncertain if they were included in Structure A. If present, they would have been constructed in the same way as the walls, perhaps without the bead detail.

Floors would have been random-width softwood planks; probably **hand-**planed two-inch stock, tongued and grooved for better fit. Stairs would have been better finished than in the more functional buildings; those in figure 68 provide some guidance.

Following the examples of Fort Vancouver and Fort Victoria, it was unlikely that the public rooms of the Big House would have been painted. However, the interior of the Fort Simpson Big House was whitewashed in 1853, so the practice was not totally unknown on the coast.<sup>32</sup> Private residential areas were probably painted or perhaps even papered but such elaboration would have been the responsibility of the **individual occupants** rather than the Company.

Interior doors probably would have followed the pattern of the front door; six panels, applied mouldings, and relatively simple hardware. The typical moulding used for embellishing window end door surrounds would have been beading, possibly with some ogee mouldings also used, particularly on the door panels.

Box or Canada stoves provided heat in the late 1860s. The lack of evidence for chimneys in contemporary iconographic sources suggests that this also applied a decade earlier. In figures 1 and 2 an artist's oversight is a possibility, but the Dally photograph (figure 4) seems to confirm the lack of chimneys.

There were certainly no chimneys visible similar to those seen in comparable buildings at other posts. The "Chimney stones" remembered by Mr. Marr were located to the southeast of the former site of Structure A. They could have related to the Big House, but equally well to the kitchen (Structure Q), which would typically have had a stone chimney. In the absence of any positive evidence for stone chimneys or fireplaces, and the confirmed presence of Canada stoves at Fort Langley, both in the inventories of the 1850s and in the Big House in the **1860s**, it seems certain that this building was heated with such stoves, vented through metal pipes. Assuming three "zones" on the main floor, one public and two private, it is likely that three stoves would have been utilized to heat the building.

...having spent the greater portion of his life in seclusion, he seems at times much at loss, on getting into Company.<sup>41</sup>

In late 1866, Tod enlarged on his opinion of Yale:

I saw little Yale the other day (I call him the antediluvian fossil) he **seems** fated to wind up the latter part of his career, like the majority **of the** Coy at rather an advanced period of life, with, however, this difference • Yale is perfectly temperate in all his habits • but a long life of total seclusion from the haunts of civilized beings, has given a chimerical, and even childish cast to most of his ideas and opinions, and thereby to a considerable extent, **unfited (sic)** him to cope successfully with the change of circumstances, into which he has recently been brought **as a** Colonist on V.I.<sup>42</sup>

Just over a year later, the task of taking care of the now ill Yale had apparently devolved on Tod, provoking more comment on the man:

Poor Yale, I am sorry to say, has lately had a paralytic stroke, which has rendered him entirely speechless and unconscious • no one seems to care about him • not even his own children • There he lays in his big **house**, (in one end of which I counted 27 windows) alone without attendance of any kind • **Altho'** at the distance of 4 miles **from** me I assure you I have had my hands **full** in looking after him.<sup>42</sup>

In two more letters, written later in 1868, Tod gave more insight into the personality of his old friend:

∴**he is** indeed a curious specimen of human kind • the more prominent (sic) features of his character have certainly no small resemblance to those of **Cowper's** Red Stocking, and, I take it, are the result of his Fur Trade education • having all along evinced a decided aversion, and total incapacity to cope with the most simple occurrences of human life, he should never have left the solitary haunts of the Savage.<sup>44</sup>

Poor Yale, I regret to say, is now in a state of almost helpless imbecility, and, **withall**, so morbidly suspicious of everyone and every thing few feel disposed to go near him, so that he still continues to luxuriate in the same sort of life, **he** did for so many years in the Coys Service • a sort of Autocrat hermit, lord paramount of all he **surveys**.<sup>45</sup>

Several posthumous comments were offered on Yale, and while not as immediate, insightful, or entertaining as those of Tod, perhaps add to **our** picture of the man. First, there is Tod's statement in a **Bancroft** interview of 1878:

Mr. Yale was a small man in stature, but courageous, showing as the Indians said, a big heart.<sup>48</sup>

James Anderson, a contemporary of **Yales's** two younger daughters and himself the son of an H.B.C. officer, recalled Yale as:

. . .a man of studious habits, rather reserved in his bearing, and an exceedingly well thought of and trusted officer of the **Hudson's Bay** co.<sup>47</sup>

Anderson described Yale again in his memoirs, as he remembered him in 1850:

He was then a man of about 50 years of age, of medium height, somewhat dark complexion, and of a rather taciturn demeanour, **well-fitted for** the post he was then **in** charge of as the Indians at that time were occasionally apt to be troublesome.<sup>48</sup>

Another impression was provided by Jason **Allard**, via F.W. **Howay**, in response to a request for information about Yale from Brenda Peers, one of Yale's granddaughters:

Mr. Yale, altho' energetic and zealous for the welfare of the company's interests -his excitable temperament and recluse deprived him of **promotion**.<sup>49</sup>

J.A. Grant, Yale's grandson-in-law, wrote a biography of Yale in the **1930s**, which gave another opinion:

He was, she (**Aurelia**, Yale's daughter) recalled, most outspoken and direct in **his** opinions, but had always kept a strict reign upon himself, and had never to her knowledge allowed himself to display undue violence of nature.<sup>50</sup>

Little direct evidence is available concerning Yale's personal **life**. The first evidence of a relationship dates from 1824, when Yale was in charge of Fort George, in New Caledonia. Yale had gone to Fraser Lake and Stuart Lake on "some frivolous pretext", leaving the post in the charge of two servants. Two Indians came to Fort George in Yale's absence, "one of whom had formerly been the lover of Mr. Yale's woman; **the** servants discovered **some** familiarities between the woman and the young man and threatened to inform Mr. Yale". The servants were murdered to silence them, and "Mr. Yale's woman" ran away with the two murderers.<sup>51</sup>

The path of romance continued tortuous for Yale in New Caledonia. He and his fellow clerk, James Douglas, were subordinate to Chief Factor William Connolly, whose country-born daughter, Amelia, was apparently the object of both the younger men's affections. In 1827 Yale was forced to leave New Caledonia to receive medical treatment to an injured hand at Fort Vancouver. While Yale was absent "Mr. Douglas immediately after his return from Alexandria was married to Miss Connolly the young lady promised to Mr. **Yale**".<sup>52</sup> It would **seem** that the resentment of Douglas that **Kautz saw** in Yale some thirty years later may have owed as much to personal as to professional differences.

After this second rejection, Yale seems to have made some sort of decision that he would not attempt any more liaisons with country **women**. **This** resolution was applauded by his Montreal correspondent **Mary Julia Mechtler** in a letter of **1828**.<sup>53</sup> However, Yale apparently did not hold to this resolution for too long after his transfer to Fort Langley.

In November 1828 Yale and a "**Quitlines**" **chief's** daughter were married, as Archibald McDonald, who had taken over **the** post the preceding month "thought it good **policy**".<sup>54</sup> Less than two weeks later, it was discovered that the Kwantlen chief had given **his** daughter to Yale in spite of her **being** already the "lawful wife" of a "**Scatchad**".<sup>55</sup> In January 1829, the "**Quoitline** chief", also described as a "**scamp**", was still Yale's father-in-law.<sup>39</sup> On March 21, 1830 the Fort Langley journal notes the birth of a "young daughter" to "Mrs. **Yale**".<sup>57</sup> This daughter was Eliza, Yale's eldest known child.

She was referred to in October 1832 **by one** of Yale's correspondents as "your little **girl**".<sup>58</sup> In her "Recollections of **School Days**", written in 1928, Aurelia **Manson**, Yale's second daughter, referred to "**a cousin(sic)** 10 yrs. older than myself who became the bride of Capt. Henry **Newsham Peers**".<sup>59</sup> **This** again referred to **Eliza**; the ambiguity in **Aurelia's** terms for their relationship stems from the fact that they had two different mothers.

**The** circumstances of Yale's domestic life at Fort Langley are unclear; the **best source** is the manuscript "An Unsung Pioneer, Life and Letters of **James Murray Yale** and his 30 Years at Fort Langley", written by Aurelia **Manson's** son-in-law, J.A. Grant. Presumably much of the information in **this** work was obtained from Aurelia, so some factual basis can **be** presumed. Grant describes a

first country marriage on **the** Fraser River for Yale, which produced **Eliza**, and ended shortly thereafter, with **the** woman unable **to** adjust to life within **the** fort.<sup>60</sup> This may in part relate to the fact that, as with his New Caledonia country wife, **she** was already another's mate. Grant then described the "marriage" which produced Aurelia and her younger sister, Isabella, or "**Bella**". According to Grant, this was a permanent arrangement, with Yale's new "**wife**" residing in the native village across the river, and Yale paddling his canoe back and forth for nighttime assignations. Regardless of the accuracy of this story, Yale definitely did father Aurelia (born March 14, 1839) and Isabella, or **Bella** (born October, 18401, apparently **by** the same Indian mother.<sup>61</sup> This last point is supported by the entry in the baptismal record. On October 6, 1850 at Fort Victoria, Aurelia and Isabella, **the** children of J. Yale and an unnamed "Indian Woman", were baptised by Staines, **the** chaplain and schoolmaster of the Hudson's Bay Company in **Victoria**.<sup>62</sup>

Grant described Yale's attitudes towards his children, and something of their childhood:

They were well known to all the Indian Village families, their father was exceedingly particular about where they should go, and seldom let them out of his sight in the evenings • a habit formed early and continued long after they had grown up. He used to lock them in their rooms every night, and ordered them to bed and out of it in the manner of all disciplinarians of his **day**.<sup>63</sup>

Yale's three daughters apparently resided with him at Fort Langley until the late 1840s. By that time he was examining options for sending the two younger daughters off to school. In 1849 Yale received a letter from John Nobili, a Jesuit who had been at Fort Langley sometime prior to that:

I hope that since I left your place you and your family have enjoyed good health. I would be happy to learn what became of your children, for **whom you** requested me to write to the Superior of the Sisters of Notre Dame in the Wallamette, and in Oregon City, **where they** opened just a new establishment for the education of Americans and English exclusively. Indeed I wrote a letter **to them on account of your children**...<sup>64</sup>

In the same year, the Hudson's Bay Company employed Robert John Staines as chaplain and schoolteacher in Victoria, with his wife as assistant. The two younger Yale girls, with most of the other children of gentlemen on Vancouver Island and New Caledonia, were sent to the new school. Yale wrote as early as November 5, 1849 that he was about to send his two younger daughters to the Staines' school.<sup>85</sup> The Yale girls apparently sailed to Fort Victoria in the care of James Douglas on his return from Fort Langley, in the late spring of 1850. In a letter to Yale dated June 27, 1850, Douglas told their father: "Your little daughters have been placed in Mrs. Staines hands and look quite **smart**".<sup>66</sup> The approximate date of **Bella** and **Aurelia's** arrival in Victoria is supported by the records of the Fort Victoria school, which show that boarding fees were paid for them by their father from July 1850 on.<sup>87</sup>

The **next** summer Mr. Staines escorted the Fraser and Anderson children to Fort Langley to meet their fathers, who were leading the brigades. It is probable that Aurelia and **Bella also** made the trip, as their half sister, Eliza was married at Fort Langley by Staines on the same occasion.<sup>88</sup> It is not clear how often the girls travelled back and forth to Fort Langley, but the two younger daughters were based in Victoria from July 1850 through November 30, 1853, the date to which Yale had paid boarding fees.<sup>89</sup>

Yale's eldest daughter, Eliza, was legally married to Henry **Newsham** Peers on July 13, 1851, while Staines was on his summer visit to Fort Langley.<sup>79</sup> Peers was apparently based at Fort Vancouver until the end of Outfit 1847, in June 1848, and then spent the next year developing brigade routes between the Fraser River and Kamloops. In Outfit 1849 he was in charge of Kamloops, and in Outfit 1850 was back at Langley as clerk.<sup>71</sup> On August 7, 1851, Douglas sent instructions to Yale that Peers was to return to Victoria with his family and then proceed to Cowlitz, in Washington Territory, to take over the management of the Company's farm there.<sup>72</sup> The reference to a family supports the likelihood of a country marriage pre-dating 1851. This is confirmed by Yale's November 1849 letter to Sir George Simpson, in which he referred to his "**son-in-law** who is in charge of Fort **Kamloops**".<sup>73</sup> The J.A. Grant Manuscript gives their year of marriage as 1849, and Brenda Peers, their daughter, stated in a letter written in 1938 that the marriage began in 1847.<sup>74</sup>

The best opportunity for a relationship to start was in 1848-1849, when Peers was based at Fort Langley while exploring brigade routes. Clearly they were already in a country marriage by the time of Peers' departure to take over at Kamloops. Peers and Eliza were resident at Fort Langley from June 1850 to August 1851. As Staines was at the post in July 1851 to administer to the religious needs of the inland servants, it was a convenient time to formalize their country marriage of two or three years duration.

By 1851, all three of Yale's daughters were resident elsewhere. As mentioned, boarding fees were paid for **Bella** and Aurelia until November 1853 at the Staines' school. Whether they continued as pupils there until 1854 is unknown. Their options were limited by the death of Robert Staines in March 1854.<sup>75</sup> The end of the Fort Victoria school led to the girls' being shipped further off, this time to the Cowlitz farm, where they lived with Henry and Eliza Peers and their young family. The J.A. Grant manuscript implies that they left for Cowlitz to continue their education with their half-sister and her husband immediately on the closure of the school.<sup>76</sup>

By August 2, 1856 Yale was requesting leave on the basis of "**ill** health, an **abhorrance** of the prevailing disposition around, and other urgent **causes**".<sup>77</sup> This leave was denied, and within two months Yale had decided he wanted his daughters to return to Fort Langley. He wrote a letter to Peers at Cowlitz in October 1856 with instructions to "try to furnish Aurelia and **Bella** with such articles as they may need till they get supplies at Fort **Victoria**".<sup>78</sup>

In February 1857 Peers drafted a letter, probably to Douglas, soliciting the latter's assistance in returning the girls to Langley. In this letter a little more is revealed of the arrangements:

When these young ladies came to the **Cowlitz** it was supposed that their father would ere this have followed and taken them up on his road to Canada - but it appears now to be against his inclination to tear himself away from his old anchorage - which - seeming that it is a safe one - is perhaps his best **course**.<sup>79</sup>

Yale's letter to Peers of October 1856 demonstrated Yale's reluctance to journey to Cowlitz himself by canoe, although this was apparently the most expedient means of retrieving his daughters. Peers made other plans for their transportation which he described in two letters written March 4, 1857. The plan

involved leaving the girls at Fort Nisqually with the Tolmies until the Company steamer "**Otter**" visited that post and could take them to Victoria, where they could stay with either the Douglas or Work family until such time as a vessel proceeded to the Fraser River.<sup>89</sup>

Douglas wrote to Yale on March 14, 1857:

Your two daughters arrived here from Nisqually in charge of Mrs. Work, and are now staying with her. I **will** send them on to Langley by the Steamer or any other earlier safe conveyance. They are quite **well** at present.<sup>81</sup>

Four months later, on July 12, 1857, both daughters were married to Company clerks.<sup>82</sup> Aurelia married John D. **Manson**, from New Caledonia, who was the son of one of Yale's old colleagues. **Bella** married George Simpson, from Fort Victoria, and the son of Sir George Simpson, the governor of the Company. George Simpson had left for Langley on April 14, 1857, to pack the inland goods, and John **Manson** had "come **out**" from the interior for the summer, apparently also in the spring.<sup>89</sup>

In August, 1857, Simpson arrived at Victoria, with a Fort Langley requisition, and "Mt. **Manson**" was on the same ship, although this may have been John's father, Donald, who was taking furlough that year.<sup>84</sup> On December 26, 1857, Douglas informed Yale that "**one** of your two present assistants will complete the staff of officers" of a transport corps being assembled for 1858. Douglas closed this letter by wishing his 'best respects to Mrs. Simpson and Newton'.<sup>85</sup> This suggests that their respective husbands were the assistants referred to. According to the J.A. Grant manuscript, John and Aurelia **Manson** left for Fraser's Lake in July 1858.<sup>85</sup> Possibly 1857 was meant; in any case they were not at Fort Langley. Simpson made two trips in early 1858 with the transport corps, returning to Langley on April 7.<sup>87</sup> The question arose at that time as to whether Simpson or Newton would operate the "Fort Victoria Langley sale shop", after Simpson had returned to Victoria to report to Douglas. This was settled by Douglas' response on April 19, 1858:

Mr. Newton may be continued in charge of the Sale Shop, as Mr. Simpson **will** be required for other service.<sup>88</sup>

Up to this time, it is probable that **Bella** had stayed at Fort Langley, as her husband was based there, but the couple probably left in the spring of 1858. According to the Grant manuscript, Yale had purchased Newton's old house in Victoria, "and assigned it to the **use** of Mrs. Simpson", so it is possible they returned to Victoria.<sup>89</sup> In any case, the Simpsons were not resident at Fort Langley in the latter part of 1858.

Yale's daughters spent very little time at Fort Langley in the decade 1848 to 1858. Eliza was probably resident through summer 1849, when she would have accompanied Peers to Kamloops. At the same time, Yale began trying to place the younger girls in a residential school. He succeeded in June 1850, shortly before Eliza returned with Peers, who took over as clerk for one year, during which they would have occupied the clerk's apartment in the Big House. In August 1851, the Peers left for Cowlitz, and **from then** through March 1857, Yale was alone at Fort Langley. His two **younger** daughters were present until their marriages in July 1857, and **Bella** remained with her husband, George Simpson, at Langley through the spring of 1858. When the Peers and the Simpsons were living at Langley as married couples, it is probable, but not certain, that they lived in the Big House.

Yale's marital status is even more uncertain. He attempted at least two country marriages, the second of which produced Eliza. The particulars of the relationship which produced Aurelia and **Bella** are unknown. The commuting arrangement described by Grant seems a little unlikely, but possible in light of Yale's previous problems with native women. Other possible explanations could be another short-term liason which produced the two daughters and then ended, or even an ongoing country marriage, not acknowledged for one reason or another. In the late (post **1840s**) period involved, a man of Yale's status would not normally be involved with a full blooded native woman, but rather with the daughters of older H.B.C. officers and their native or country-born wives. The lack of a name assigned to the "Indian woman" in the baptismal records is apparently no proof of an absence of some relationship between the parents. Jennifer Brown, in Strangers in Blood noted the anonymity of country wives in the absence of Christian marriage as reflected in Red River baptismal records:

But many other parents were listed under the name of the father and the added phrase "**and** a halfbreed woman' or "**and** an Indian woman", even when they were still both living and together, the wife's identity well known, and her standing long **acknowledged**.<sup>90</sup>

**In** this case it seems likely that Yale did not have a long-term country marriage, judging by his desire to board out his two daughters when Eliza left in about 1849. By 1860, in a letter to Sir George Simpson, Yale indicated that he considered himself unmarried:

Great tenderness was evinced in consequence of the rigid appointment to Peace River, the ladies forgetting, that he was too old now to **marry**.<sup>91</sup>

Perhaps the safest speculation is that Yale, in light of his attitudes and experience concerning country marriages, was not involved in any long-term relationship with a native woman. He obviously did not have the same reluctance to indulge in sexual liaisons, nor to accept **the** responsibility of raising **the** products of such adventures in an acceptably Euro-American fashion.

With Yale's eccentricities, and somewhat odd marital arrangements, it is difficult to draw conclusions about the atmosphere in his apartments. The Grant manuscript contains some personal details, which may be valid. The reference to discipline with children has already been noted; this apparently also extended to table manners.<sup>92</sup> His main entertainment after retirement was said to be hunting, which relates well to his own words to Sir George Simpson in 1860, stating ironically that **he was** 'becoming at **last** nearly celebrated as a hunter'.<sup>99</sup> Dogs were also said to be an enthusiasm, and also the **cause** of Ovid **Allard's** dismissal from Fort Langley in 1852:

Yale had always been a great fancier of dogs, and had always a number of pet hunters and watch dogs, carefully trained. One in particular he kept chained outside his house each **night**.<sup>94</sup>

**Allard**, who as interpreter had to call by the Big House to get the keys to the buildings of the fort, apparently **fell** afoul of these dogs and shot one of them, which led Yale to dismiss him and send him to Victoria.<sup>96</sup>

According to Grant, Yale was an art lover as well as a dog fancier:

During the years Yale had taken to picking up here and there old **Souvenirs(sic)**. Some few curios had been sent years before by his friend Colin Robertson, and occasionally a friend would write telling him of a new picture, or send a fine print for his collection.<sup>96</sup>

William Henry Newton

Although Yale's presence at Fort Langley was a constant over the decade 1848-1858, there were changes in clerks, with successively Henry Peers, Gavin Hamilton, and finally William Henry Newton filling that position. Newton, accompanied by his wife, was sent from Fort Victoria to Fort Langley on board the "Otter" on April 14, 1857:

Mr. Newton is sent for the purpose of being stationed at Fort Langley as your assistant, and is accompanied by Mrs. Newton, for whom you will provide house accommodations and provisions according to the rules of the **service.**<sup>97</sup>

Newton, originally of Bromley Common, Kent, England, wrote to the Governor and Committee in June 1850, wishing to join his friend Edward **Langford** on his assignment to Vancouver Island. They arrived on the "**Tory**" in May 1851, with Newton as an "agricultural assistant" to Langford, a bailiff in the service of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, assigned the charge of Colwood farm.<sup>88</sup>

Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken had first met Newton when the latter was still on Colwood farm, but he soon afterwards joined the H.B.C. proper as a clerk stationed at Fort Victoria:

. . .added to the frequenters of Bachelors' Hall. Newton was a nice agreeable young fellow - a stripling - Langford's factotum and almost relative... Newton (and another bachelor) could sing well, and so in the evening there was always or often singing going on particularly on Saturday nights, much to the annoyance of the parson and his wife, but not so the girl boarders.<sup>88</sup>

On September 30, 1856, Newton was married to Emmeline Jane Tod, the daughter of John Tod, one of Yale's old colleagues:

A wedding took place to day Mr. Newton one of the Company's Clerks, to Miss Tod, they go down to Metchosen to spend the honey week, they were the first couple to be married in the Colonial **Church.**<sup>100</sup>

The witnesses to the wedding were Joseph Despard Pemberton and Louise Ellen Langford, both prominent names in pre gold-rush **Victoria.**<sup>101</sup>

Emmeline Tod was the only child of John Tod by a white mother. After a long term country marriage; Tod returned to Leven, Scotland in the early 1830s. Years later he described his marriage thus:

I at last went home and got married to a lady afterwards the mother of the present Mrs. Newton of this country. My wife became insane, and she was obliged to be taken **home**.<sup>102</sup>

Accompanying her mother back to Britian was the infant Emmeline, born in 1835. Interviewed in the **1920s**, Emmeline referred to having lost her mother, **Eliza** Waugh, before she was one year old, and how she was raised by the Greenshields, relatives of her father, who eventually settled in Montreal.<sup>105</sup> She was in Montreal by 1844; in that year John Tod instructed his old friend Edward Ermatinger to see that the annual interest of **Tod's** investments was to go to Mr. John Greenshields of Montreal to partially defray the expense of her education.<sup>104</sup> Miss Tod arrived on Vancouver Island as a young adult in the winter of 1855, having travelled out on the "Princess Royal":

I was well supplied with books and fancy work, so did not find the voyage monotonous. I remember how pleased the Captain was when I offered him a reading of "**Pickwick**". Dickens at that time had made his name known, and everyone was reading "**Pickwick**".<sup>105</sup>

Besides her interest in literature and needlework, Miss Tod had also been instructed in drawing while a child in **Montreal**.<sup>106</sup>

For the six months until their departure for Langley the Newtons played a prominent part in the social life of Victoria. The move to Fort Langley must have come as quite a shock:

Life at Langley was our first experience of loneliness, but fortunately it did not last long. The first break in the monotony was the arrival of the gentlemen in charge of the Interior Forts, who, once a year, came to Langley with their year's trading of furs and returned with the necessary articles of barter for the following year; blankets, guns, ammunition, shawls and all things dear to the Indian heart. Some of these gentlemen were delighted with my music and piano. Two or three had never seen a piano before, having been born and brought up in the Interior. The memory of youthful days was stirred in the heart of Chief Factor Donald McLean from Kamloops, and he never tired of hearing another song, especially if it happened to be a Scottish one.

The next **break in** the usual dullness was the arrival from home of a corps of Royal Engineers, under Colonel **Moody**.<sup>107</sup>

Along with the dullness came **the** birth of the Newton's first child, Emmeline Frances, on November 1, 1857, at Fort Langley.<sup>168</sup> The second child, Florence Mary, was not born until October 31, 1858, so in 1858 **the** Newtons had one infant child.

The Newtons represented something new at Fort Langley; they were more a part of **the** emergent colonial society of Vancouver Island than **the** traditional fur trade population. Besides bringing **the** first piano to the mainland ("a beautiful Collard & Collard") Mrs. Newton was probably the first white women resident at Fort Langley. At least two descriptions exist of visits paid to the Newtons at Langley in the early **1860s**, when William was in **charge**. The first comes from Miss Sophia Cracroft, Sir John Franklin's niece, **who** accompanied Lady Franklin on her trip to British Columbia in 1861:

We met Mr. and Mrs. Newton **who** walked back with us. They **seem** very nice people and **have** two fine little girls. They have **an excellent** roomy **house**, built in **the** old fashioned style, roomy and substantial. We saw an already pretty numerous collection of butterflies of the country, which Mr. Newton is **collecting**.<sup>109</sup>

In September 1862, **a steamer** cruise up the Fraser River was taken in honour of **the** Honourable Malcolm Campbell, visiting from Canada:

Putting **about** and taking another channel she soon made fast at Langley, where a sufficient pause was made to admit of a visit to the Hudson Bay Company's Fort. Mr. Newton, the agent in charge, was **absent, but his** good lady did the honors of the house most **handsomely**. The party were bounteously regaled with wines and fruit, after which they indulged in a waltz, Mrs. Newton playing the **piano**.<sup>110</sup>

The Newtons were clearly considered **a most amiable** couple, but those more closely involved with them had different ideas. James Bissett, an H.B.C. Chief Trader, in a memorandum concerning the placement of clerks for Outfit 1867, noted six men available for other districts or departments, one man to be dismissed, and:

W.H. Newton

respectable ~~&c~~ but **of** very little **ability**.<sup>111</sup>

Jason **Allard** seems to have shared Bisset's opinion. His view of Newton was cited by John Gibbard in the 1930s:

It is the claim of Jason **Allard** that he (Newton) so mismanaged trade that Finlayson, who had by now replaced Douglas in management of the Company's affairs, sent his father, Ovid **Allard**, to redeem business while he himself, a lad just out of school, took the place of several clerks to reduce the staff of 'gentlemen's **sons**'.<sup>112</sup>

Some three years earlier John Tod wrote a letter to Edward Ermatinger concerning terms of his will which were intended to give his Canadian farm to his brothers:

Otherwise my daughter, Mrs. Newton, after I am dead and gone, may possibly attempt to-litigate in **the** affair, and give them both some trouble, which, if possible, I would avoid • Her ardent and dominant spirit, joined to a selfish ambition, will never allow her to rest satisfied with anything less than the lions share of this worlds goods. She is in fact another example in proof of that which I have already remarked she has been in every sense of the term, most religiously brough up, yet, there is no more fellow feeling • no more Christian charity in her; than in the heart of a piece of sun-dried Oak.<sup>113</sup>

The Newton family in 1858 comprised William, or "Billy", with his butterflies, singing and art, perhaps lacking something in the execution of his duties, his wife Emmeline, who shared his artistic tendencies but was of somewhat different character, and their infant daughter, Emmeline.

### Office Function

Besides serving as the residence of Yale, Newton, and their families, the Big House was the location of the Company office. Fort Langley and its subsidiary posts, with their broad range of economic activities, required a substantial amount of paperwork and record keeping.

The Hudson's Bay Company ran its business on the basis of Outfits, running from June first of one year to the end of May the next year - thus **the** calendar year 1858 would include half of Outfit **1857** and half of Outfit 1858. The records kept for **each** Outfit were extensive, normally beginning with requisitions for all **the** imported goods needed to carry on business for the year. These requisitions would be prepared by the gentlemen in charge of each of the posts, sent to the depot (in this case Fort Victoria) where they would be consolidated, and then one large order was sent with **the** returns to England. To allow adequate time for transportation, as well as time for the Company agents in London to procure the goods needed, the requisitions would be sent to Victoria more than two years in advance of the start of the relevant outfit.

Every day **an** entry was made in a "Journal of **Occurrences**", again the responsibility of the gentlemen in charge of the post. In **this** would be noted the weather, level of activity of trade or sales, and the happenings around the post, including the **work** assignments of the men.

Most **of** the other records kept related directly to economic factors. At least once every Outfit, a full inventory of the post would **be** carried out, to determine precisely what retail stock was on hand, as well as what goods were **In use** in the operation of the post.

All economic transactions would normally **be** recorded in **more than one** place; the basic mechanism was the "**Day Book**". James Douglas gave instructions to the Chief Trader at Nanaimo in 1856 that such a book should include "...an entry of each transaction as it occurs, whether relating to personal accounts, Indian **labour**"... or goods and supplies to work centres. It was also to describe all Indian trading, and to include a transcription of cash transactions from a separate cash book. The Day Book was to be forwarded at the end of each month to Victoria, and a new one started on the first day of each month. Also required was an "Accounts Current" **Book**, to be kept with the Day Book, and to **be** a "duplicate entry of transactions on personal accounts, or any other account of which a record is required to be retained at **Nanaimo**".<sup>114</sup>

Most of **the** records were duplicated in order to allow local control of accounts and records as well as the departmental reviews which were **the** responsibility of **the** Fort Victoria headquarters. The "Standing Rules and Regulations" of the Company, established in 1843, included Rule 34, which stated the accounting responsibilities of each district:

That Gentlemen in charge of Districts be directed to furnish annually a complete set of accounts of the business thereof to the Accountant at the Depot, likewise journals of **occurrences** at the several posts, with correct copies of all correspondence, & a Report, conveying every requisite information in regard to the state & mode of conducting the trade, exhibiting a comparative statement of the closing & immediately preceeding Outfits; together with such suggestions in regard to the improvement of the Trade as may occur, such Reports also to contain an Abstract of the Indian population exhibiting the number of Men, Women, & Children of both Sexes; and that all persons in charge of Posts be directed to furnish similar accounts and statements to the Gentlemen superintending their respective District&

Besides the ongoing record-keeping, there would be a constant flow of goods in and out of Fort Langley, which required bills of lading, invoices, and packing lists to be prepared, as well as more or less constant correspondence with Fort Victoria. Apparently Yale was quite scrupulous about his record keeping. A letter to him from James Douglas dated December 26, 1857 included plaudits:

The Fort Langley Courier arrived this morning and delivered the packets entrusted to his charge. The Langley accounts are clear and neatly made out and will I have no doubt be found correct, as they are truly satisfactory showing that your good management has been crowned with **success.**<sup>116</sup>

Just over a year later, on February 4, 1859, Yale described in a letter to John Work some of the problems with the accounts at Fort Langley:

Mr. Newton will have the rest of the Accounts ready for transmittal by the next conveyance. Keeping Accounts for the several divisions of Fort Langley, Forts Hope and Yale is no trifle, and if the Board of Management do not speedily adopt a less complicated plan of action we will do the thing for them and make Fort Langley one **Establishment.**<sup>117</sup>

An emphasis on inventories and final compilation of the records of the preceeding outfit seemed to occur in the early fall, normally September. There

are references **from both** Fort Vancouver and Fort Victoria to completing **the year's accounts** for England in October and November, so logically all outlying posts would have to submit their final accounts a little in advance of those months.<sup>118</sup>

Although some of the accounts, particularly in rough form, would be kept in **the** other buildings of the fort, the bulk of the work, especially when the rush was on to get material prepared for Victoria, would take place in the Big House office. Sometimes the work was a little arduous. Thomas Lowe, a clerk at Fort Vancouver in the **1840s**, spent a full week in November 1844 preparing the accounts to go to England. This included working through a Sunday, which was most unusual for the **H.B.C.**<sup>119</sup>

The duties of Gavin Hamilton, Newton's predecessor as Yale's assistant at Fort Langley, were specified by Douglas when he sent Hamilton to Langley in 1853:

He is sent to learn the business and I hope you will give him every opportunity of doing so by making him copy letters, accounts, and above all placing him in the Indian **shop...**<sup>120</sup>

Thomas Lowe described some of the clerks' duties at Fort Vancouver in 1844:

Mr. Roberts putting up some articles for the N.W. Coast in the Store, and Mr. Peers gone up to assist Mr. Harvey on the Mill Plain, while K. Logan is helping Mr. David **McL.** in the Sale Shop, so that I am left **by** myself in the office at **present...**<sup>121</sup>

Mr. Grahame who is in charge of the Sale Shop in the absence of Mr. David **McLoughlin**, began to take the Shop Inventory yesterday and finished this **afternoon.**<sup>122</sup>

As the only clerk at Langley, Newton would have had a comparatively wide range of duties. However, on the basis of directions issued by Douglas in April 1858 that he was to continue in charge of the sale shop, and of the primacy of the retail function in 1858, it would **be** safe to assume that the retail function was his main focus of **activity.**<sup>123</sup>

Also from Thomas Lowe comes a description of some of the hardships of being an H.B.C. clerk. In 1845 he wrote of shortening **his** working days by refraining from going to the office after supper. Almost five years later perhaps he had started following this practice again:

I am suffering much from sore eyes, brought on by working too much in the office by candlelight, and have been unable to write today, although my services can ill be spared at **present.**<sup>124</sup>

The precise physical layout of the Fort Langley office remains unknown, but it is certain that it would have been first and foremost designed for function. It is also safe to assume that it was adequate to the task of accommodating the two gentlemen who were at Fort Langley in the most active decade, and would have contained the basic elements of furniture, stationery, and other equipment required for their work.

#### Mess Hall

In addition to housing and office, the Big House served as the dining area for the resident and visiting H.B.C. gentlemen at Fort Langley. In fact, at most H.B.C. posts the mess hall also seemed to serve as the focus of most of the organized social activity going on. This began with the meals themselves, although at Langley the normal complement of only two gentlemen would have been a mitigating factor. Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken described the protocol of dinner at Fort Victoria in 1850:

(Douglas) took the head of the table, Mr. Finlayson the foot...Grace having been said by Mr. Douglas... on comes the soup, then the salmon, then the meats - venison on this occasion and ducks - then the pies and so forth, and down they go into their proper receptacle, each one ready and willing to receive them. Having done justice to the dinner and taken a glass "to the Queen", many of the junior members left, either to work or to smoke their pipes in their own quarters. We remained; the steward, a Kanaka, (the cook was also a Kanaka) brought on tobacco and long clay pipes of the kind called "alderman". . . During the dinner there was conversation, Mr. Douglas taking the **lead.**<sup>125</sup>

Charles Wilkes, an American naval officer who visited Fort Vancouver in 1841, recorded a similar pattern:

Dr. McLaughlin showed us our rooms, and told us that the bell was the signal for meals... we met in a large hall, with a long table spread with abundance of good fare. Dr. McLaughlin took the head of **the** table, with myself on the right, Messrs. Douglas and **Drayton** on his left, and the others apparently according to their rank... The meal lasts no longer than is necessary to satisfy hunger. After meals, it is the custom to introduce pipes and **tobacco.**<sup>126</sup>

At Fort Vancouver the food was prepared and served by male domestic servants, probably including those of the Chief Factor and Chief Trader.<sup>137</sup> The formal seating arrangements in H.B.C. mess halls seem to have included visitors, sometimes Indians, as at Fort Vancouver. Not all gentlemen were as interested in entertaining natives. Hamilton Moffat, at Fort Simpson wrote in 1860:

Old Sebaasa paid us a visit - I sent him to the kitchen to get his dinner, I have no idea of being compelled to make the mess room or **my own** quarters a public place of entertainment to every chief that likes to **come.**<sup>128</sup>

Gavin Hamilton, the clerk at Fort Langley from 1853 to 1857, later referred to mess room conversations with Yale, confirming the existence of this social **nicety.**<sup>129</sup> According to the J.A. Grant manuscript, after his retirement to Vancouver Island, Yale had two particular Indian friends, one from Kamloops and one the "interpreter" from Langley, who always sat at the table with the family during their **visits.**<sup>130</sup> This would **seem** to open the possibility of Indians sometimes dining in the mess hall at Fort Langley. Grant **also** referred to a "**negro**" cook who had been an "integral part of Yale's household at Langley", who "still sat at table with the family, according to Yale's unbroken law, seated at the foot of the table, his master at the head" after Yale's retirement to Vancouver Island.<sup>131</sup> Several explanations may be offered for the presence of a "**negro**" cook in Yale's household, **but** regardless of 'personal law', no servant would be allowed to dine in an H.B.C. mess hall with gentlemen.

The **mess** hall would **also** have served as the location for most of **the** Company's formalized social events, such as the celebration of Christmas, New Year's, and the social activities relating to **the** arrival **of the** brigades each summer. Jason **Allard** described the events of Christmas at Fort Langley involving the 'hall'.

On Christmas morning ail the employees of the fort, dressed in their very best, marched in a body up to Mr. Yale's quarters - it was called the big hall. Mr. Yale usually received them kindly and held a sort of smoker for a couple of hours in which the decanter was passed around freely... In the afternoon of Christmas Day the men's wives were invited to the big hall where they were given two or three "shots" of wine after which their baskets (they were told to bring them) were filled with cookies, cranberries and blueberry jam and ships biscuits.<sup>133</sup>

**C.C.** Gardiner, a gold-seeker from Prince **Edward** Island, was invited to the brigade ball in 1858:

To this ball I received an invitation, which I, with much pleasure attended, and was not a little surprised at seeing the company composed of so heterogenous a kind. There were English, Scotch, French, **and** the Kanackas present, and their offspring, and all so thoroughly mixed with the native Indian blood, that it would take a well versed Zoologist to decide what class of people they were, and what relation they had to each other; though that will cause you but little surprise, when you are informed that almost all the **Co's.** wives are the native squaws, their children, which are called half breeds, as a general thing, being quite fair, docile, and intelligent. The ball was conducted with the best possible decorum. The music was sweet, from the violin, and the dancing was performed in the most graceful manner, by the Indians and the half breeds, who took a very prominent part on that occasion. I retired to my tent about twelve o'clock leaving them still enjoying their mirth to the utmost extent.<sup>133</sup>

Although **Allard** remembered Christmas Day as the major holiday occasion, it seems that at most H.B.C. posts it was New Year's Day that took precedence. There was always a "**regale**" distributed on both holidays, and Christmas was also a day off, but the distribution of liquor and **occurence** of partying and dancing was not as universal. At Fort **Nisqually** in 1852 **one** of the storehouses was emptied "to make a dancing Room for the men on Christmas day", and the men did spend the day dancing and singing.<sup>134</sup> Dancing on Christmas day was also noted at Fort Simpson in 1855, where:

The men paid us a visit this morning fired a volley of musketry. They received a few drams and retired. They also received **the** usual extra rations. We gave them a dance in the **evening**.<sup>135</sup>

“Fiddling, dancing, singing, eating and drinking” on Christmas was also noted by Robert **Melrose** at Craigflower Farm the year before.<sup>135</sup>

In general, though, **the** major celebrations were reserved for New **Year's**. William Fraser Tolmie described **the** activity at Fort **McLoughlin** on January 1, 1835:

The men after breakfast visited us in the dining hall and after the compliments of the season received a couple of drams. **In the** evening they assembled in the same apartment and danced with great vivacity till 10, to vocal music. **Manson** and I danced several reels. The Canadians possess a natural ease of manner... They sung several paddling songs. Our two Iroquois danced the war dance with great spirit of their tribe and the S. Islanders sang Rule Britannia tolerably well. They all seemed to enjoy themselves **highly**.<sup>137</sup>

Dr. John S. Helmcken commented on the holiday practices he saw observed at Fort Victoria some fifteen years later:

I did not see the usual Christmas festivities, holidays with **gay** and good things, but **on** New Year's Day, all officers and men presented themselves very respectfully before Mr. Douglas, paying him **the** usual compliments with **the** usual chat and enquiries - but the remarkable part was, that on this day, the gentlemen kissed the ladies. They would shake hands and then present as a **mere** matter of politeness, their cheek to be kissed. It mattered little what position the ladies held, this routine went on for this day only. **As the** company's servants had originally **been** nearly all French Canadians, I supposed the custom had **been brought** with **them**. As it did not **seem** a very unpleasant ordeal, I, rather bashfully, **though** perhaps not unwillingly took my part in the performance of the duty. This day was devoted to jollity - all mixed after a fashion - **man and master** together, good feeling reigned, all were polite and nothing "**outré**" took place.<sup>135</sup>

The practice of kissing all the ladies was also noted by Charles Wilson, a British officer who spent January 1, 1861 at Fort Colvile:

I believe I was the only one to follow the custom of the place and kiss all the old squaws right round...<sup>139</sup>

The Fort Langley mess hall likely served as the location for these Christmas and New Year's celebrations. Christmas would have involved primarily the distribution of special provisions to the men and their families, as well as some relaxation of the rigid proscriptions which normally separated the servants from the gentlemen. The major celebration would be expected on New Year's day, which would involve the same extra provisions and liquor as Christmas, but probably also a dance or social event. This would probably have included the practice noted above of kissing all the ladies associated with the post. The other major yearly event in the mess hall would have been the ball given for the brigades. Other holidays were celebrated at some H.B.C. posts, including Guy Fawkes<sup>140</sup>, and All Saints Day, (November 1), which was observed as a formal holiday at some posts, with a day off and special rations.<sup>141</sup> There is at present no way to determine if these November holidays were also observed at Fort Langley in the 1850s.

There are a number of descriptions of H.B.C. "balls" or dances in the Western Department, which illustrate some of the social conventions followed, and add to Gardiner's description of the Fort Langley brigade ball in 1858. One of the most scrupulous commentators on these social events was Lt. (later Sir) Henry James Warre, who with Vavasour came to the Columbia and Vancouver Island as a British military observer in 1845. Warre often seemed more interested in dancing, hunting, and riding than military observation, and this is reflected in his journals. On October 5, 1845, Warre's group was detained at Fort Victoria due to wind, and a party was held:

In the evening the Company's Servants were regaled with a feast and ball-Dancing was kept up with great spirit to the music of an Old Violin. The Indian Women dressed in European Costume, covered over with ornaments after their own fancy, presented some curious figures for the admirers of the noblest work of Nature, the female face divine. I joined in the amusements and enjoyed the "dance ronde" a Canadian dance, not a little.<sup>142</sup>

Warre often encountered the “dance **ronde**” in the west, along with Scottish reels and jigs, country dances, and the undescribed Rabbit and Duck dances. The “dance **ronde**” began with the host or his proxy dancing around the seated women with a handkerchief. He would then throw the handkerchief over the neck of his favorite, who:

in turn takes the kerchief and is followed by her swain, performs **the** same feat on her favorite male; and each in turn giving and receiving salute till the whole are selected; and dancing round the room in couples, you form a circle and the best singer commences, (the rest join in Chorus) an old French Canadian song, commencing "**Entrez** une danse **& C**" meaning that **the** said lady is to enter into **the** circle, and, at the proper words of the song, select **by** a kiss a gentlemen **who** takes her place, and she is allowed to return to her seat. The gentlemen performs the same **c eremony** (in his turn) till the whole are finished. As may be supposed, this dance causes not a little jealousy between not only the young ladies, but even the males, and the luckless "**wight**" **who is** taken as a final dancer at last, is received with laughter.<sup>143</sup>

Charles Wilson, another British officer **who** visited various H.B.C. posts, described a wedding party at Fort Colville fifteen years later, in 1860:

. . .after the ceremony was over the guests adjourned to the house of the bridegroom’s brother-in-law where refreshment was provided on an extensive if not very refined scale; dancing soon commenced and was kept up until morning shone in upon the merry **revellers**; it was a most amusing sight, except myself there were hardly a dozen who could speak any English, the French element showing forth strongly in the energy with which all laid themselves **out** to enjoy themselves as **much** as possible in the time; **the** dances consisted of Irish jigs, Scottish reels and a wonderful dance called a French Cotillon, no time was lost about it when one fiddler tired another seized the bow, one couple down, another up, huge **voyageurs** with their coats off and perspiration streaming down their faces, throwing their legs about in the most frantic manner and trim little women with their neat calico

dresses and grave faces dancing away in the most staid and demure manner, everything went off in the most quiet and respectable manner and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves greatly, especially the old people.<sup>144</sup>

Wilson also attended a 'grand ball' given by Angus MacDonald, the Chief Trader at Fort Colville, in early 1861:

you have no idea of the scene such a wonderful collection of people, from the light hearted trapper with his'gaudy moccasins and leggings, through all shades of **colour** to the dusky hue of an Indian; songs and dancing were the order of the evening, some of the Canadian boat songs sung by a lot of **voyageurs** were capital, but the dancing after **all** was the great thing and at 4 o'clock in the morning I found myself dancing a "**reel de deux**" with **an** Indian squaw, in a state of uncertainty as to whether I had any legs on at all, having danced them clean away and nearly dislocated them into the bargain by trying to **pick** up the proper step, a kind of spasmodic kick, in which the legs are doubled up and thrown out again in the most extraordinary manner, the ladies part is much easier as she simply stands up and dances the double shuffle in the same place till she has tired out two or three partners when she sits **down;...**<sup>145</sup>

It is likely that the balls at Fort Langley were conducted on a similar basis to those described above; clearly there was a strong degree of continuity through time and space within the Western Department during the relevant period. The ethnic mix at Fort Langley was like that described at the other posts, **the social** organization was identical, and the resources available were similar. Earlier on, the violin was the primary instrument; Yale's daughter **Aurelia** later described the first time she heard the bagpipes played in Victoria, while attending school there.<sup>146</sup> Although a piano had arrived with the Newtons in 1857, and Mrs. Newton played it for the gentlemen from the interior, it is clear from the C.C. Gardiner description of the 1858 brigade **ball** that the violin was the instrument used for dancing at that time.

The references made **by** Gardiner to the brigade ball being conducted with "**the** best possible decorum" and by Wilson to a "**most** quiet and respectable

manner” may reflect a calming-down by the late 1850s and early 1860s. There is evidence of wilder times earlier. Ovid Allard in a letter written in 1867 describes having bought a piano for his daughter, "and when I feel lonely I get her to play, but never dance on the hall table any more".<sup>147</sup>

The mess hall in the Big House also served as the site of some more solemn occasions. The first clergyman to visit Fort Langley had been Modeste Demers, O.M.I., in September 1841, and although he “received from Mr. Yale a reception which one may await from a man of merit and of elevated mind”, there is no reference to him preaching in the Big House.<sup>148</sup> The first specific reference to preaching in the mess hall came some eighteen years later, with the arrival of the first Anglican and Methodist missionaries in British Columbia.

In February 1859, Rev. William B. Crickmer, the Anglican minister stationed at Derby began preaching to from "ten to forty" miners and H.B.C. employees on Sunday evenings in the "Fort Hall", and the following month Dr. Ephraim Evans preached a Method&sermon in the Big House.<sup>149</sup>

It is likely that religious observances had begun in the Fort Langley mess hall at a substantially earlier date than this. The Hudson's Bay Company had employed a schoolmaster/chaplain, Robert Staines, from 1849, and although based in Victoria he must have made at least occasional forays to Fort Langley. He was definitely there in July 1851, when he performed a number of baptisms at Fort Langley, as well as the marriage of Eliza Yale to Henry Peers.<sup>150</sup> It would seem likely that while at Langley, Staines would have followed his own example from Victoria, of preaching in the mess hall of his employer. Roderick Finlayson remembered in the 1870s that Staines' services at Fort Victoria:

were carried on the (sic) Mess room of the Fort, which was made to serve for almost every purpose. Here also was erected a sort of temporary pulpit and prayers held every Sunday.<sup>151</sup>

Dr. J.S. Helmcken reiterated the same point:

All had to go to church every Sunday, the mess-room serving every purpose - baptisms, marriages, funerals, councils, dances, theatrical, or other amusements - and did not seem any the worse for it.<sup>152</sup>

The practice of holding church services and other religious ceremonies in the mess hall was not limited to Fort Victoria. The Fort Simpson Journal of November 1, 1857 notes that “Mr. Duncan (the missionary in that area) performed divine service in hall as usual (sic)".<sup>153</sup>

Even in the absence of ordained clergy, the Company seems to have encouraged some formal religious observances on Sundays, the only full day off. The directions for these observances were articulated in the “Standing Rules and Regulations” of the H.B.C., as the first resolution for “promoting moral **and** religious improvement”. It was resolved that:

. **..every** Sunday divine service be publicly read, with becoming solemnity, once or twice a day, to be regulated by the number of people and other circumstances, at which every man, woman and child resident, will be required to attend, together with any of the Indians who may be at hand, and whom it may be proper to **invite**.<sup>154</sup>

H.J. Warre commented on the situation at Fort Vancouver in 1845, even after the Catholic Church was present in the region:

**Every** Sunday we have prayers in the dining hall the service being performed by Mr. Douglas.<sup>155</sup>

The assumption of this responsibility by Douglas is explained by **Roderick** Finlayson:

In those days Chief Factors and Chief Traders held the offices of Justices of the Peace and solemnized marriages **etc**.<sup>156</sup>

In this Finlayson was half right. The 86th Resolve of the 1846 Council stated:

That throughout the Country in the Absence of Clergymen, Chief Factors only Solemnize **Marriages...**<sup>157</sup>

Finlayson also offers an explanation for Douglas offering religious services over those offered by the Catholic priests:

**One** of the usages of the H.B. Cos was to hold religious services on every Sunday morning, whether on land **or** on board of their vessels. If there were Catholics present as there were many - viz **French-Canadians** etc., their religion was respected, by holding two services.<sup>158</sup>

The mess hall at Fort Langley certainly would have been used for religious ceremonies by Staines from the beginning of the 1850s on his infrequent visits to Fort Langley. Whether Yale or one of the other gentlemen of the Company performed these religious functions at Fort Langley in the absence of clergymen is unknown, but it would not be unexpected.

As Helmcken noted at Fort Victoria, the mess hall was the seat of most special events, and as **such the mess** hall at Langley was the site of the ceremony proclaiming the new crown colony of British Columbia. This **took place on** November 19, 1858, and was perhaps **the** only significant political **event that** ever occurred at Fort Langley.<sup>159</sup>

### Transient Housing

In the active period, the only clear evidence for transients being lodged in the Big House comes from an 1858 letter from Douglas to Yale suggesting that another building **be** erected to accommodate the gentlemen from the interior (replacing Structure **B**), but that they “must this year occupy the **big house**”.<sup>160</sup> This would imply that for the inland gentlemen, Structure B had **been the** main domicile, but in the event of its unavailability, the Big House was **the next best choice**. Other than the **above** reference, it is not clear where transients were housed in this period. In 1858 large numbers of people were accommodated at Fort Langley, but even prior to the gold rush, there had been a certain transient population of Company employees to be **housed** and fed.

In 1858 several references were made to the hospitality of Fort Langley and its Chief Trader, James Yale. For instance, John Nevin King, with the American Boundary Commission, spent the evening of June 29, 1858 with Mr. Yale, apparently just as a visit.<sup>181</sup> Douglas wrote to Yale on July 7, 1858, referring to Ogden, McLean, and ‘other Gentlemen at Fort **Langley**’.<sup>162</sup> This was, of course, during the visit of the inland brigades. About a month later, Douglas sent a surveyor to Fort Langley who was to be provided with lodgings and **a** seat at the mess **table**’.<sup>163</sup> Donald Fraser, the correspondent of the **Times**, visited Fort Langley in September:

Passed last night at Fort Langley, a post of the Hudson’s Bay Company... The welcome was kind and hearty, and the hospitality generous, for which I am most grateful, but the bed rather **primitive**.<sup>164</sup>

Fraser was obviously impressed with the hardness of the Fort Langley beds, but gives no hint of which building he was housed in. In November 1858, August **Kautz**, an American military officer, arrived at Langley:

I had some difficulty in finding a bed. I finally went up to the fort and asked the hospitality of Mr. Yale. I met Dr. Tuzo and Mr. Newton and Mr. McNeil at **the** Fort. They received me very kindly.<sup>185</sup>

It is likely that Kautz stayed in the Big House. Not only does he refer *to* **the** two resident gentlemen, but also two visiting H.B.C. officers who were present, and the likely location for their visit was the Big House. Kautz also referred to “amusing himself” by, among other things, reading the papers. From his earlier quoted statements concerning Yale, he also spent some time socializing as well. These activities all suggest **the** Big House.

Walter Moberly also visited Fort Langley in late 1858:

On reaching Fort Langley a **most** hospitable reception awaited me from Chief Factor Yale, then - and, as he afterwards informed me, for thirty years previous - in charge of **that** large and important fort. I here met with several of the officers of the company, all of whom were most kind and gave me a great deal of information.<sup>188</sup>

Charles Wilson of the British Boundary Commission also visited Langley for the first time in **the** fall of 1858:

On arriving at Langley I went to see Mr. Yale the chief man there in the H.B.C.... We dined off some very tough beef at the Fort... (The next day) In the evening we drank the usual toast to friends at home in whiskey punch to moderate the effects of wet clothes.<sup>187</sup>

On a visit to Fort Langley in June, 1859, Wilson was served breakfast as well as evening drinks:

As I was smoking my pipe after breakfast **who** should come up the fort square but the Governor and Good who... came just in time to see the cloth disappearing, however, that was soon **remedied...**<sup>168</sup>

The description of Douglas and Good coming "**up**" **the** fort square, and Wilson's subsequent socializing with them points to his presence in the Big House, at least for meals. When Wilson returned in December 1859 he and his party were welcomed:

here we received **all** the attention that could be given us and after imbibing some hot liquor to counteract the effects of the cold, I wrapped myself in some blankets and was soon far away in the land of **dreams.**<sup>169</sup>

Although no indication is given of **where** he slept, it would seem likely, based on earlier experience of being entertained and fed in **the** Big House, that it also served as his accommodations. Certainly **by** 1888, the upstairs of the Big House was being used as lodging for a teamster staying at Fort Langley, although admittedly there were fewer buildings to choose from at that time.<sup>170</sup>

The hospitality offered at Fort Langley seems to **have** been typical of that found at other posts; the gentlemen of the Company were more **than** willing to "put themselves **out**" to entertain visitors from **the** outside world. John Tod described normal practice in the Company posts:

Everything on Hudson Bay tables as a rule was good, but homely. The table **cloth** consisted of a piece of packing canvas, the plates were of iron and so on.<sup>171</sup>

Doctor Helmcken noted some elaboration in the routine at Fort Rupert in 1850 when the captain of the "**England**" **was** invited to dine:

Wine, etc., placed on the table, an unusual occurrence, and only adopted when strangers arrived, to uphold the dignity of **the** company and to show off a bit on these state **occasions**.<sup>172</sup>

At Fort Vancouver in 1841 Wilkes noted that even **McLoughlin** and Douglas "were kind enough to give up a large portion of their time to us, and I felt occasionally that we must **be** trespassing on their business **hours**".<sup>173</sup> **Roderick** Finlayson, at Victoria, recalled going even further, by giving up his bed to a visiting sea captain, and sleeping on the floor himself.<sup>174</sup> The hospitality of the Company led some visitors to comment on its shortcomings when it was not encountered, as with Wilson's complaint about tough beef at Langley, and H.J. **Warre's** denunciation of his reception at Fort Colvile in August 1845:

We found Mr. Fraser in charge of the Fort - Whatever good qualities he may possess, he certainly does not keep a good table, judging from the appearance of our supper - We had nothing but dried salmon without vegetables or bread; although in the river there are abundance of fine fish, and potatoes and **wheat** grow abundantly about the **Fort**.<sup>175</sup>

## Food Preparation

The primary function of the mess hall involved at least one ancillary building at Fort Langley. Normal Company practice had food prepared in a kitchen structure, which could be either attached or separate, but near the gentlemen's mess hall. A servant then delivered the prepared meals to the mess hall. Meals were also taken to the private quarters of the gentlemen, where their families were served. The Company supplied the families of the gentlemen, but not of the servants, with an allowance of (prepared) provisions as part of their terms of employment. With the wives and children of the gentlemen eating separately, and not socializing a great deal in **other** circumstances, an almost cloistered environment could develop. John **McLoughlin's** daughter, later Mrs. Harvey, recalled the situation at Fort Vancouver when interviewed in 1878:

The families lived separate and private entirely. Gentlemen who 'came trading to the Fort never saw the family. We never saw anybody.<sup>178</sup>

The demand for food preparation at Fort Langley would have been comparatively light, given the small population of gentlemen. In the decade 1848-1858 the "regular" number of people served at each meal would have varied between two and seven, with an increase at brigade times to possibly twelve or fifteen in total. A further indication of the numbers accommodated for meals in the Big House may be gained from the quantities of items related to eating found in the last inventory of "Articles in **Use**" at Fort Langley, from 1848. These numbers would only relate to the mess hall proper, as the gentlemen's tables were privately stocked.

Quantities include:

1 dozen earthenware cups and saucers

1 cruetstand

1 dozen **forbuck** table knives and forks

1 dozen earthenware plates

10 tablespoons

6 teaspoons

4 wine glasses

5 glass tumblers

2 table cloths<sup>177</sup>

The unit of a dozen may have indicated what was anticipated to be the maximum number served in the mess hall.

## General Notes on Furnishing

The furnishing of any building in a Hudson's Bay Company post such as Fort Langley would have been affected by some special circumstances. First, there was the commercial nature of the organization, which meant that any expenditure over that required for operation of a post cut into profits, and so was discouraged. A British officer at Fort Colville in 1660 briefly described the manager's house there, occupied by a chief trader of the same status as Yale. His comments included some describing the interior, "the furniture of which (was) designed more for use than ornament."<sup>1</sup> The same conditions prevailed at Fort Langley in 1656. Donald Fraser, visiting in the fall, said that "everything has been designed for use and nothing for ornament."<sup>2</sup> The H.B.C. supplied everything required for successful pursuit of their trade, including the buildings and furnishings for their various activities and the accommodation of their employees. However, **they** would not elaborate beyond the minimum required for the success of their commerce.

This primary factor would determine to a large extent how public areas were furnished, but employees were 'free to supply and install their own furnishings. However, any attempt to do so had its own set of **restrictions**. First, the H.B.C. essentially had monopoly rights in the area, and so controlled the mechanisms of supply. Those goods imported for the sale shops at Fort Victoria or Fort Langley were available to all employees, based on their ability to pay for them. These articles included dinnerware, cloth, **guns**, tobacco, and so on; primarily smaller, portable items. "Private orders" were also possible for the gentlemen, who had accounts in London as well as in the district. In the relevant period, these were arranged by W.G. Smith, the secretary of the Hudson's Bay Company in London. These private orders were sent out as part of the yearly Company outfits. Two of these private orders were arranged for Yale by Smith, one in November 1650 (Yale's first), and one in the fall of 1654. Very likely others were sent, but the records do not exist. The 1650 order included dyed cottons, **tartans**, bombazette in "whole pieces", and woolen clothing superior to that normally supplied by the Company. The total cost of this order was **£ 130/4/3**. The second order, for Yale "and your family" was sent in October 1654, and cost **£ 244/15/0**, but no details were given of the contents.<sup>3</sup> These private orders sometimes included furniture, **but usually** comprised a case of goods, with fabric, clothes, and books predominant.

Another way of purchasing goods from England was through a private individual, either a colleague travelling there, an English contact, or a ship's officer, who had **the** opportunity. When W.F. Tolmie travelled to England and France in 1841-42, he purchased articles for many of **the other** Company gentlemen in the district, almost exclusively books, clothes, or jewellery.<sup>4</sup>

When Dr. Helmcken married in 1853, his English associate, H.J. Fotherby, sent out an assortment of English goods to him, which he had purchased on Helmcken's behalf:

. ..**your** dresser's case is being put to rights-fortunately the company are going to sent **out** another ship immediately **&** all your things will go **by** it, for I **am** afraid they did not forward them **by the one** which left a few weeks ago, as they had only room for Co's goods-however it is only a little more waiting for you - Perhaps I have spent rather more upon the crockery than **you'** will like, **but I have now no time to** hunt after cheap goods, but got it where I was sure **of** it's (sic) being good viz. at Hanes in the Minories - the furniture **&** hardware I hope will please both you **&** your wife ...<sup>5</sup>

This points out the problem of shipping **these** articles on the Company ships, the only regular service to the depot of Victoria. **Such** private goods clearly were a low priority compared to commercial goods. Helmcken's shipment included horsehair chairs, and possibly some of the other items still in the furnishings of Helmcken House at **present**.<sup>6</sup>

The officers of the Company ships also were discouraged from bringing goods from England for resale. When the "Norman **Morison**" sailed in 1852, a note to Douglas accompanied her:

Neither the Captain nor any of **the** officers have been authorized to take **out** goods on their own account, and should you discover that they have any on board, the packages should **be** measured, and an **account of them sent home that** freight may be **charged**.<sup>7</sup>

In spite of this interdiction, goods were brought this way, including shipments of pistols and watches brought by Captain **Wishart** for Kenneth McKenzie to sell from Craigflower in 1854.<sup>8</sup>

As well as the difficulty in getting furnishings from England, there was a reluctance on the part of the Company gentlemen to invest too heavily in goods for their remote postings. Most of them, Yale included, had substantial investments elsewhere, and had every expectation of retiring either to Britain or Canada. Yale planned to retire to Montreal, prior to his 1859 visit to that city. The possibility of being **assigned to** another post was always present for these men as well, which would predispose them to acquire primarily portable goods. John Work summed up some of these attitudes in an 1852 letter to W.F. Tolmie, after Work had taken over:

. ..**Mr.** Finlayson's house at Rock Bay, without a particle of furniture. I intend trying to get a dozen of chairs & a couple of tables from the Islands (Hawaii). I don't think you would have any chance of getting anything of the kind about your quarter. Should you see any chance I would feel most obliged could you procure and send them. I don't mean to order anything of the kind from England till I see how matters are likely to turn out. I have still misgivings as to the straightforwardness of things, and have sometimes suspicions that baits are laid to induce us to embark our money thus. But we must not despond, but try and make the most of it but not incur heavy expenses in erecting costly buildings & expensive furniture that will never yield any return. It will be time enough for these things when we see our affairs prospering to our satisfaction and be an inducement to make it our final resting **place.**<sup>9</sup>

All the factors above suggest that by far the largest part of the furniture in H.B.C. posts in this area was "country-made", at least until after the arrival of merchants other than the H.B.C. As late as the 1870s in the interior of British Columbia, most of the furnishings shown in the Bullock-Webster sketches (figures 5, 6, 21) were still country-made. In the same decade, many of the furnishings at Fort Rupert on Vancouver Island were still country-made. In the 1850s this post had been of similar importance to Fort Langley. Country-made articles on the 1879 inventory included 3 of 8 chairs, both the washstands, and all 5 tables.<sup>10</sup>

Almost every type of furniture was country-made, as revealed by documentary sources, as well as surviving pieces. At Fort Alexandria in the **1840s**, "doors, windows, sashes and household furniture were made of lumber which had to be whipsawed by manual **labour.**"<sup>11</sup>

At Fort Langley a table and desk were country-made in the 1820s, and two chairs survive in **the** collection.<sup>12</sup> At Fort Victoria “various articles of furniture” were made, including chairs, cassettes, and an office desk.<sup>13</sup> Items made at Fort Simpson in the 1840s and 1850s included a cupboard, tables and chairs, a clock stand, 4 tables and 6 chairs for Fort Rupert, a travelling case (or cassette), a bedstead, and kitchen tables.<sup>14</sup> At Fort Rupert beds or **“berths”** were made, and at Kamloops birch was used for chairs and beds.<sup>15</sup> A bedstead, tables, a cupboard, and a “washandstand” were all made at Belle Vue Farm in 1854.<sup>16</sup> Tables were made at Fort Nisqually, and a cassette, bookcase, and chest of drawers with Nisqually provenance have survived.<sup>17</sup> Other country-made pieces surviving from the former Western Department include chairs and a desk at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, a bed and armchair in Helmcken House in Victoria, armchairs at Craigflower Manor and the Nanaimo Centennial Museum, a chest of drawers and washstands **in** the B.C. Provincial Museum, and a washstand and trundle bed in **McLoughlin** House, in Oregon City.

These pieces exhibit a number of common features of design and construction. The basic patterns came from a combination of European and Canadian influences. For instance, some of the chairs have a “tablet” top, derived from Regency styles. The furniture was made of indigenous woods, with a basic tool kit, by **semi-skilled** tradesmen. The decorative elements were limited by the tool kit available, so **the** beads and applied mouldings are the same as were used as architectural embellishments. A **combination** of simple, almost house-carpentry construction, with dovetails and tongue and groove joints prominent, and painted finishes, typifies these pieces of furniture. More details may **be** seen in the illustrations, figures 7, 10, **11**, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 19. The details of these pieces **will** provide the basis for extrapolation of some other types of furniture for **the** refurnishing.

It should be evident that the **bulk** of the furniture in the Big House should be country-made, with a relatively **small** number of “special” imported pieces.

Fort Langley National  
Historic Park  
Box 129  
Fort Langley, B.C.

## Office

The office at Fort Langley was intended as a base for managing the accounts of that post, as well as its subsidiaries of Fort Hope and Fort Yale. The office was one of the public areas in the Big House, and as such would not have been elaborately furnished. In 1841 at the major depot of Fort Vancouver such building interiors were “simply finished with pine board panels, without any **paint.**”<sup>1</sup> In the 1850s Dr. Helmcken described the public areas at Fort Victoria, including one in the Bachelors’ Hall. This room was ‘lined with upright plank unpainted, unadorned, save perhaps with a few “cedar mats” to cover fissures. It **also** had a bare wood floor, “which could not boast either of carpet or **cleanliness.**”<sup>2</sup>

Consistent with the contemporary examples from these major depots, it is recommended that the interior of the office be left bare, with no paint or **floor-**covering. It is similarly unlikely that there were any curtains on the office windows, as an unnecessary expense in a public area. The absence of any curtains in the photograph of the entrance of the Big House (figure 3) supports this conclusion.

The heat source for the combined public areas, the office and mess hall, **will** be a single Canada stove. These stoves were a standard heat source in the H.B.C. buildings in the area. Fort Langley records show at least one such stove shipped in for Outfit 1852, and three “**tin funnels**”, or stove pipes showed up as “articles in **use**” in the late **1840s.**<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Helmcken described the stove in the Fort Victoria Bachelors Hall as he saw it in 1850:

The stove was square, made of sheet iron, bent in **all** directions by the heat, with a cast iron door, and it was fed with large billets of wood, of which plenty existed in the **Hall.**<sup>4</sup>

As the door of the stove should be in the office, the attendant articles should also be located in this room. These should consist of a small woodpile and axe just inside the front door, as in figure 5, and a pair of country made “**firetongs**” under the stove. A sheet iron plate should be installed under the stove, and shielding in the same material could be used in conjunction with expanding the existing opening upwards above the stove.

The office would have been lit with candles. These were both country-made tallow candles and imported "Belmont" candles. Candles should be placed in five tin wall sconces of the type shown in figure 6, as well as two portable tin candle-sticks., for use on desks.

As the office is normally the first room entered through the front door of the Big House, both for individual visitors and group tours, it is considered necessary to provide a substantial mustering area in this room. This will be the area to the west, or right, of the entrance door. The area to the left will be roped off, and provide a display area without public access. Furnishings in the open area will be exclusively reproduction, to avoid problems with damage to original historic objects.

Immediately to the right of the door, against wall A, will be a woodpile, with firewood cut and split by axe. An H.B.C. half axe on a short, hatchet-length handle will be placed with the woodpile. A tin reflector candle sconce with candle will be over the woodpile, centered between window and door. The extreme west end of the room, wall D, will have a reproduction country-made table 120 by 75 cm. (4' by 2'6") and a reproduction country made chair. Over the table will be another sconce, and to the right of that, an appropriate period reproduction map of the Pacific Slope. The west section of wall C will have a reproduction country-made clerk's desk and tall stool, with sconce over.

The east section of the room will be designated by a rope barrier extended between the east edges of the doorframes in walls A and C. Against wall A, from west to east, will be the historic hallstand, LL 64.13.1, a reproduction country-made table 120 by 75 cm. (4' by 2'6"), and the historic safe, LL 58.127.1. Associated with the table will be a reproduction bow back Windsor chair, and a green baize cover will be on the table. A sconce will be located over the safe. A reproduction country-made secretary will be located against wall B, with a reproduction country-made chair, and a wall sconce will be placed to the right. A reproduction or historic shelf clock will be placed on top of the secretary.

One reproduction tin chamber stick with candle will be placed in each end of the room, on the tables. The table against wall A will also have a set of gold scales on it, either historic or appropriate reproduction, and a pair of candle snuffers, historic or reproduction. The table against wall D will have two reproduction slates on it.

The desk against wall C will have a simple **inkstand** on its flat top, as well as a reproduction account book, and a 75 cm. (**30"**) ebony ruler.

The secretary, which will be displayed in an open position, will have on its surface an assortment of writing materials, all reproduction, including sheets of post paper, an inkstand, penknife, "patent Indian rubber", and steel quill pens. The effect desired is to represent correspondence being prepared for shipment to Victoria. Sealing wax and gummed waters should be included, and an H.B.C. seal. The top section of the secretary should be filled with account books and correspondence in, which would be in the form of folded sheets of post or foolscap paper.

#### Summary **of** Articles for Office

1 desk, reproduction country-made:

even at the depot of Fort Victoria, as late as 1850, "**a** desk for the Office" was built by servants at the post.<sup>5</sup> This would suggest that at subsidiary posts the same pattern was followed. At Fort Colvile, the former manager's house, occupied by his son, still contained a "monstrous home-made writing desk" at the turn of the **century**.<sup>6</sup> The office desk at Fort Langley would have been country-made. It is **suggested** that this desk be a generic clerk's desk, with a sloped, hinged surface, cubby holes inside, with one or two drawers, square-tapered legs, with an "**H**" spreader. It should **be** approximately 1.2 metres tall, 0.8 metres wide, and **.6** metres deep. The desk from Fort Vancouver shown in figure 7 will provide a general idea of form, although the reproduction should not have turned legs. This desk will **be** equipped with a **tall**, three-legged country-made stool, of simple pattern. Both these pieces should be made of Douglas fir, painted Spanish brown.

1 secretary, reproduction country-made.

**following** the rationale for the desk above, this piece would also have been country-made. A secretary was chosen to combine the desk and bookcase functions required in **the** office, and to represent Yale's work area as more

elaborate than the clerk's This piece should be a country-made adaptation of the secretaries in Loudon's Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture,<sup>7</sup> and that example at **McLoughlin** House, formerly at Fort Vancouver (figures 8 and 9). This piece should be approximately 2 metres tall by 1 metre wide by 0.6 metre deep. The construction details should follow those in **the** construction of the building itself. The lower doors should be panel construction, with applied mouldings, and the upper doors should be glazed with 7" by 9" panes, with exactly the same rail, stile and muntin forms as **the** window sash in the Big House (figure 12). A type example may be seen in figure 10, a large bookcase country-made for Dr. Tolmie at Fort Nisqually. This piece should also **be** constructed of Douglas fir and painted Spanish brown.

2 tables, reproduction country-made:

tables were built at almost every post in Western Department, for all purposes, and in **all** sizes. At Fort Colvile in 1860 a country-made table was noted in the manager's **house** by J.K. Lord.\* Dr. Helmcken described a "wooden home manufactured table" in the hall of the bachelor's quarters at Fort Victoria in **the 1850.9** At Fort Rupert at the end of the **1870s**, all the tables listed on inventory, 2 large and 3 small, were country-made.<sup>10</sup> Any office tables at Fort Langley would have been country-made. These tables should **be** 120 by 75 cm. by 75 cm. tall, with tops of tongue and grooved 19-25 mm. planks. They should be skirted, with square-tapered legs and "H"-spreaders. All wood should be Douglas fir, **and again**, Spanish brown paint should be applied. Optionally, a single drawer could be incorporated in the skirt.

2 chairs, reproduction country-made:

as with tables, chairs were widely produced in-country. Two such side chairs have survived **which** were produced at Fort Langley, and will serve as prototypes for these two chairs, as well as most of the others to be used in furnishing the building (figure 13). These chairs, LL 58.53.1 and LL 58.53.2, should be reproduced in alder or maple, with fir seats, and painted Spanish brown.

1 chair, reproduction Windsor bow-back:

12 "Bundles of Chairs" were shipped to Fort Victoria in October 1852.<sup>11</sup> Soon thereafter, Dr. Helmcken purchased Windsor chairs from **the** Victoria **"HB**

Co store” for his new house, and also described such chairs in the Fort Victoria mess hall.<sup>12</sup> Such a chair **was** also purchased from the Fort Nisqually sale shop in September 1854.<sup>13</sup> Two years later, at Fort Simpson, the carpenter was “repairing Windsor Chairs, which are the most paltry affairs ever **made.**”<sup>14</sup> Simple, cheap Windsor chairs were obviously imported in some numbers, and used up and down the coast both for Company and private furnishing. It is recommended this chair be painted green.

1 hallstand, historic:

this hallstand, LL 64.13.1, was donated by Mr. W. Rawlinson, a descendent of the **Mavis** family, who took over the Fort Langley property and dwelling house. He provided the information that it was part of the original furnishings of the fort. For this reason, it is desirable to include this piece in the furnishing of the Big House. Some conservation is required prior to installation.

1 safe, historic:

this safe, LL **58.127.1**, was donated by Mr. **J.J.** Morrison in 1951, with the notation "**H.B. Safe.**"<sup>15</sup> As Morrison’s father had worked for the H.B.C., and Morrison lived all his life in the area, the claim is possible. It is supported by the fact that **Jukes Coulson & Co.**, who manufactured the safe, was a known supplier to the H.B.C. Some conservation and repair is required prior to installation.

1 clock, reproduction or historic:

this should be a relatively inexpensive English shelf or mantle clock from the **1840s** or **1850s**, or equivalent reproduction. These office clocks were sometimes “eight-day” types, and that at Fort Rupert was described in the inventory as a “striking”, or sounding clock.<sup>16</sup>

5 tin wall sconces, reproduction:

these should be simple reflector candle sconces resembling those in figure 6.

2 tin candle sticks, reproduction:

simple style.

7 candles, reproduction:

should represent tallow candles, but preferably made of wax or paraffin for durability.

1 tablecover, reproduction:

green baize; baize tablecovers were used in the Fort Vancouver office, and green and scarlet **were** the **colours** used at Fort **Rupert**.<sup>17</sup>

2 inkstands, at least 1 reproduction:

any simple **1840s-1850s** period types, potentially with some demarcation between the one on the clerk's desk and the one on the secretary. These stands should include inkwells, pounce boxes, etc.

1 axe, H.B.C. half-axe style, reproduction:

this should be hafted on a hatchet length country-made handle,

1 ruler, preferably reproduction:

the most common style was made of ebony, and 2 **1/2** feet (75 cm) in length.<sup>18</sup>

2 slates, reproduction:

these should be cheap, wood-framed slates, accompanied by slate pencils based on archaeological specimens from Fort Langley; Steer et. al. Vol. 2, pp. 433-434, figs. 131 c-i.<sup>18</sup>

1 penknife, historic or reproduction:

should be inexpensive, "single bladed Penknife", English made.<sup>26</sup>

1 H.B.C. seal, reproduction:

should be based on impressions on original correspondence in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives or Provincial Archives of British Columbia.

1 map, reproduction:

should be one of the commercially available reprints of appropriate period maps. Extra copies should be acquired for occasional replacement.

15 copies H.B.C. contract, reproduction:

copied from P.A.B.C. Add. Mss 136, one page blank engagement form in English from c. 1850.

stationery and supplies, reproduction, to include:

half bound foolscap books:

- 1 4 quires
- 4 2 quires

marble covered foolscap books:

- 7 1 quire

**books** were manufactured by:

- "**Burru**p, Son & Blight,

Stationers,

12, East Front

Royal Exchange”

- 1 quire cartridge paper
- 5 quires plain foolscap paper
- 3 quires ruled foolscap paper
- 4 quires “thick post **quarto**” paper
- 1 quire blotting paper
- 2 cards **Perryian** pens
- 25 mixed string quills
- 12 lead pencils
- 6 pieces “patent India **rubber**”
- 6 ‘papers black ink powder”
- 2-4 oz. red sealing wax
- 1 box "**coloured** Wafers 1 oz."
- 2 pieces “narrow (pink) office tape”<sup>21</sup>

#### Notes

This office served **the** same function, with a high degree of staff continuity for at least ten years prior to 1858. As such, and granted the basic conservatism of the H.B.C. and Yale, the furnishings would have remained the same for that period. With **the** exception of the Windsor chair, which would have **been less** than six years old, all the permanent furnishings in the office, as well as the walls, ceiling, and floor of the room, should reflect at least ten years of use. Obvious exceptions to this would be the **replacable** items such as candles and stationery.

## Mess Hall

As **another** public area, all the same parameters apply as for the office. These areas **were** unpainted, uncarpeted, and furnished strictly for function. Ideally, the shared Canada stove would be reversed from its current orientation, so the “funnel”, or stovepipe, could be extended across the ceiling of **the** mess hall to a thimble immediately to **the east** of the window in the south wall of the room. An external stovepipe leading up just above the eaves could be installed, to represent a plausible venting arrangement for the stove consistent with H.B.C. practice.

Dr. Helmcken described the mesa hall at the depot, Fort Victoria as he saw it in the early **1850s**:

The mess room was **more** than thirty feet long, by say twenty wide, a large open fireplace at one end and large pieces of **cordwood** burning therein. A clock on the wall, a long table in the middle, covered with spotless linen, the knives and forks clean, decanters bright, containing wine and so forth. The chairs of wood (Windsor) but every-thing European. I suppose there must **have** been more than twenty people in the room,...<sup>1</sup>

Helmcken also described the furnishings belonging to the Fort Victoria Bachelors' Hall. These included **"a wooden home** manufactured table,... half a dozen very ordinary wooden chairs," and **"a couple of benches, without backs."**<sup>2</sup>

The hall of the manager's house at Fort Colville in **1860** was described by J.K. Lord:

. **..the** furniture of which, designed more for **use** than ornament, consists of a few rough chairs and a large deal table, the latter occupying the centre of the **room.**<sup>3</sup>

The “hall or mess **room**” in the 1863 manager's **house** at Fort Colville was about 20 **by** 30 feet (6.1 **by** 9.1 **metres**) and was again described as **uncarpeted.**<sup>4</sup>

As discussed, the mesa hall at Fort Langley normally served two gentlemen, with a maximum of ten or twelve occasionally served. Unlike the depots of Fort Vancouver or Fort Victoria, with their long tables, and large complement of gentlemen, or the inland post of Fort Colville, with its single table, it is suggested that the basic organization of the reconstructed Fort Langley mess hall involve two smaller tables. Two dining tables, seating six men

each, would allow the flexibility required to provide a comfortable setting when the number of diners fluctuated widely.

Due to the normal complement of men eating in the mess hall and the comparatively small number of articles required for furnishing, it is suggested that a quadrant be isolated with a single stanchion and rope for display purposes. The stanchion will be located 1.8 metres from wall E and 3.3 metres from wall F, and the rope **will** define a right angle between wall F, south of the door, and wall G, to the stair enclosure. With the exception of this quadrant, the room will be furnished with reproduction items, and public access will be free.

In the public area **will** be the following items. On the portion of the stove in the mess hall will be placed a reproduction cast iron tea kettle. Against the west part of wall E will be placed a **simple**, reproduction country-made bench, like those described by Helmcken and shown in the foreground of figure 6. Another such bench will also be **placed against** wall **H**. These benches are to represent casual seating for the non-dining activities which took place in the mess hall. Wall H will have an engraving hung on it, preferably in a reproduction country-made frame. A reproduction broom **will** be placed near the entrance door in wall G.

Two reproduction tin candle sconces will be mounted on wall E, on each side of the door, one on wall H, and one on wall G, between the door and window.

One reproduction country-made dining table **1.8** by 0.9 metres will be placed with its southeast corner 4 metres from **wall** F and 1.2 metres from the stair enclosure on wall G. This table will have a blue stroud cover, and be accompanied by three reproduction country-made chairs on each side. The long axis of this table will run north-south.

Inside the **roped-off** display area will be another identical table arranged parallel to the first, with its southeast corner 1.7 metres from **wall** F and 1.2 metres from **wall** G. This table will have a blue stroud cover, with a white linen diaper table cloth over, and normally will be set for two people. **Each** place **will** include soup plate, knife, fork, tablespoon and tumbler, to represent a first course Setting. **This** table **will** also have six reproduction country-made **chairs** associated.

Hanging from the ceiling **will** be a reproduction country-made chandelier of simple pattern, with three candles. This will be hung from a point 3.5 metres from wall F and 2.2 metres from the stair enclosure of **wall** G.

Directly south of this table, against the stair enclosure portion of wall G, will be a side table, 1.2 by 0.75 metres. This will again be a country-made reproduction, with a blue stroud cover. This table will have one country-made tin oil lamp, a cruetstand, a teapot, and two **cutglass** decanters on it, along with two dinner plates. The plates would be required for the next course of the dinner. A Windsor chair will be set with this table.

To the east of the tables, against wall F, will be located a reproduction country-made dresser, containing all the relevant ceramics, glass and tableware required for the mess hall.

#### Summary of Articles for Mess Hall

##### 2 reproduction country-made dining **tables**:

as discussed in the office section, country-made tables are appropriate. These tables should be 1.8 by 0.9 metres by 0.75 metres high, and follow the skirted, square-tapered leg, H-spreader and tongue and groove top configuration already described. The wood used should be Douglas fir, and the finish Spanish brown paint.

##### 2 blue stroud tablecovers for the dining tables:

although tablecovers were usually green or scarlet baize, Fort Langley "Articles in **Use**" in the **1840s** list two large, 3 yard blue stroud "Tablecloths", along with a single  $1 \frac{2}{3}$  yard green baize one. It is probable that these Large covers were for use in the mess hall, and Yale's esthetics probably remained consistent through the **1850s**, so blue stroud covers would be appropriate for 1858.

##### 2 diaper tablecloths for the dining tables:

the same lists of "Articles in Use" all include 2 or 3 "Diaper **Tablecloths.**"<sup>6</sup> At Fort Rupert as late as 1879 " 2  $\frac{8}{4}$  Diaper table cloths" were still on **inventory.**<sup>7</sup> The  $\frac{8}{4}$  nomenclature indicated a 72" wide fabric.

##### 1 side table, reproduction country-made:

this table should be identical to the two in the office; 1.2 by 0.75 metres by 0.75 metres high, of fir construction, and painted Spanish brown.

pp. 142-149, 407-412, with availability prior to 1850 is acceptable for the refurnishing.<sup>13</sup> The appropriate patterns which showed up archaeologically with greatest frequency were Antique Vase, Bedford, Bramble, and Field Sports.<sup>14</sup> The first and last of these were available in the 20th century, although not currently manufactured. It is recommended that **the 18 plates** incorporate 2 or 3 different patterns, to represent the effect of breakage and new shipments of goods; by 1858 several lots of earthenware would probably be represented.

The most common plate size noted archaeologically at Fort Vancouver was 25.4 cm (10") diameter.<sup>15</sup> Fort Langley lists of "Articles in Use" for 1848 and "New Stores" for 1849 refer to "Plates" and "flat plates".<sup>16</sup> In other Fort Langley inventories, plates and dessert plates were differentiated, so it will be assumed that only the 25.4 cm dinner plate size was present in the mess hall (figure 23). The 1848 and 1849 lists mentioned above had respectively 12 and 24 plates included, for a presumed total of 36. Allowing for loss and breakage, as well as **the** requirements of the mess hall, and the possibility of fish and meat courses, as described by Helmcken at Victoria, **24** dinner plates seems the most probable number required. Except when used in place settings, these plates should be displayed on the dresser.

12 soup plates, historic:

These articles will represent the one dozen "E.W. deep plates" brought to Fort Langley in 1849.<sup>17</sup> This will also relate interpretively to Helmcken's description of a soup course before the fish and meat at Fort Victoria.

All the comments on the plates above also relate to the soup plates (figure 23). However, **the** correct diameter soup plate, 30.5 cm (12"), is not available in current Spode manufacture, so these should be historic objects.

1 serving dish, historic or current manufacture:

4 "Earthenware Dishes", differentiated from other types, were among the sale shop inventory at Langley in 1856.<sup>30</sup> These were likely serving dishes, which would **also** be expected in the mess hall. The comments above **also** pertain to this dish.

1 covered serving dish, historic or current manufacture:

1 “earthenware covered dish” was among the sundries sent to Fort Langley in 1852.<sup>51</sup> At Fort Rupert in 1879, there were 2 “E.W. vegetable dishes” with 1 “block tin dish cover”, as the only serving vessels.<sup>52</sup> This item, with the dish above, would provide the equivalent at Fort Langley. The above comments apply to this item as well.

12 cups and saucers, historic or current manufacture:

These articles are listed as earthenware cups and saucers on the 1848 and 1849 Fort Langley lists cited above.<sup>18</sup> The largest number of these items received at Fort Langley in the 1850s were described as “large cups and saucers.”<sup>19</sup> The most common size of cup recovered archaeologically at Fort Vancouver was approximately 12.7 cm. (5”) in diameter, with the saucers 16.5-17.8 cm (6 1/2”-7”) in diameter, which very possibly equates to this “large” size, and so is **recommended.**<sup>20</sup>

AR comments on the earthenware plates above also apply to the cups and saucers (figure 24).

6 wine glasses, historic or reproduction:

Wine glasses in small numbers appear on **all** “Articles in Use” lists from Fort Langley through the **1840s**, for instance 4 in 1848.<sup>21</sup> The typical glass recovered archaeologically at Fort Langley and Fort **Vancouver** was of simple form with a bladed knob.<sup>22</sup> Drawings of reconstructed glasses from Fort Vancouver may be seen in figure 25. **These** glasses have been reproduced for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, and loan of the moulds could possibly be arranged through David Hansen, the curator at the site. These glasses should normally be on the dresser.

6 tumblers, historic or reproductive:

Tumblers are also noted in the “Articles in Use” lists. Archaeological evidence points to the typical form having been a simple, plain glass tumbler of 1/2 pint capacity. A reconstruction of such a tumbler may be seen in figure 25. These tumblers have also been reproduced for Fort Vancouver, and the moulds may be available. The tumblers should also be on the dresser.

12 knives and forks, historic or reproduction:

The only type of table knives and forks noted historically at Fort Langley were "**forbuck** table Knives & forks". One dozen of **these were among the** "Articles in Use" in 1848, and two **dozen were among** sundries shipped to Langley in **1856.**<sup>23</sup> These horn or **bone** handled implements show up archaeologically at Fort Langley and Fort Vancouver as bone-scaled iron varieties, the forks having three **tines.**<sup>24</sup> An illustration of a Fort Vancouver fork identical to the Fort Langley ones **may be seen** in figure 26. Although no **forbuck** knives have been found archaeologically, **the** iron construction and bone scales and handle **appearance** should match the forks. When not used on the table, **these** items should be in a simple, country-made cutlery tray in the dresser **cupboard.**

12 table spoons, historic:

10 table spoons appear as "**Articles' of Use**" in 1848, and 6 "tinned iron table **spoons**" **were among the "New Stores"** in 1849.<sup>25</sup> In spite of the last reference, most of the tablespoons on Fort Langley documents are "**B.M.**" or Britannia metal, a lead-free pewter made of a tin, antimony and copper alloy.<sup>26</sup> Some pewter utensil handles were recovered archaeologically at Fort Langley, in the "**thumbprint**" style which **seems most** appropriate for these **spoons.**<sup>27</sup> The tablespoons should be kept with **the** knives and forks.

6 tea spoons, historic:

These also appear on all "Articles in **Use**" **lists** from the **1840s**, 6 in 1848.<sup>28</sup> **AR the above comments** relate to the teaspoons as well. It may be additionally noted that Britannia was normally **not** plated, **but** simply **polished.**<sup>29</sup>

1 carving set, historic or reproduction:

Sundries sent to Fort Langley in 1856 included "**2** pr. ivory handled carving **knives.**"<sup>33</sup> 1 "**Carving** knife and fork" was on inventory at Fort Rupert in the **1870s.**<sup>34</sup> A carving set would therefore be both available and appropriate for the Fort Langley mess hall. It should be kept in the dresser.

2 decanters, historic or reproduction:

2 "Cut glass decanters" were in a shipment to Fort Langley in **May**, 1855.<sup>55</sup> Those in the stores at Fort Vancouver in 1844 were almost all "**flint glass**

Decanters 1 quart”, and 3 cut glass decanters were on inventory at Fort Rupert in 1879.<sup>36</sup> A 1 quart cut glass decanter is therefore appropriate for the mess hall. Brandy and wine would be suitable contents for the decanters, which should be located on the side table.

1 cruetstand, historic or reproduction:

A cruetstand is included in the 1848 list of “Articles in **Use**” at Fort Langley, so was present in the mess **hall**.<sup>37</sup> The type imported to Fort Vancouver was a **japanned** tin cruetstand with 6 cruets, and this is appropriate for Fort Langley as well.<sup>38</sup> The cruetstand will normally be placed on the side table.

1 tin lamp, reproduction country-made:

One tin lamp appears on Fort Langley “Articles in **Use**” lists throughout the **1840s**, including 1848.<sup>39</sup> The only reference to tin lamps at Fort Vancouver, in the same period, is in the **form** of tin hanging lamps, in large and small sizes, and probably country-made.<sup>40</sup> It is suggested that this lamp be speculatively recreated in the form of a simple tin Betty lamp, with a flat bottom, to allow it to be set on a table, as well as with an overhead attachment to **allow** it to be hung from the central bottom hook of the chandelier (figure 27). This lamp may be placed either on the side table or hanging from the chandelier.

1 teapot, reproduction country-made:

A teapot was included in the Fort Langley “Articles in **Use**” through the **1840s**, and was usually referred to as being of tin.<sup>41</sup> As late as 1879 at Fort Rupert, the teapot on inventory was of “block tin”, and such a pot, of 3 pints capacity, was sent to Fort Langley in 1855, so for the mess hall in 1858 a tin teapot to a simple pattern is most **appropriate**.<sup>42</sup> The teapot should be placed on the side table.

## Notes

The mess hall, as the office, would have exhibited a high degree of continuity through time, under Yale’s influence and the economic nature of the H.B.C.

Most of the furnishings, with the exception of normally replaceable items such as the tablecloths, should demonstrate ten or more years use. The Windsor chair would be six years or less old in 1858.

As mentioned earlier, the room should normally be displayed to represent a dining facility for two Company gentlemen. However, some variation may be used to demonstrate the yearly round. More places may be set in July to represent the presence of the brigades and consequent extra gentlemen, as well as in the fall, to represent the non-Company visitors accommodated in the mess hall.

### Newton's Quarters

The residential areas in Company buildings served something of a mix of private and public roles. This was evident from Helmcken, who described “the room of Mr. Douglas, partly an office and partly domestic” and **Mrs.** Finlayson's residence, “a room in her husband's office”.<sup>1</sup> If even the men in **charge** of the department had public and private functions combined in their quarters, the practice was followed at Fort Langley as well.

It has **been** decided to represent the Big House as containing a **parlour** or sitting room and two bedrooms in each of the gentlemen's quarters. The apartment to the east of the building has been arbitrarily designated as the clerk's quarters. In 1858 these quarters were occupied by William Henry Newton, his wife Emmeline, and their infant daughter also called Emmeline.

?

### Parlour

This room will **be** furnished to represent the Newtons' main activity area, with accommodation provided for dining, entertainment, and personal hobbies and enthusiasms.

The **room** itself will be slightly better finished **than the** public areas, based on historic evidence, and to emphasize the difference between public and residential areas for interpretive purposes. Any embellishment to the residential portions of a Company building was the responsibility of the person living there. In the case of a **clerk, such as** Newton, the combination of financial constraints (he made **£75** and **£100** respectively in Outfits 1857 and **1858<sup>2</sup>**), and the constant possibility **of** transfer to another post, made heavy investment in an H.B.C. structure unlikely. In 1858, the Newtons had been at Fort Langley for less than a year, so their environment would **have** been largely as inherited from **the** clerks before.

Although at some posts the Big House was elaborately finished, this probably was not the case at Fort Langley. A new Big House built at Fort Simpson in 1856 had the “family” end, including a sitting **room** and bed chamber, papered and painted.<sup>3</sup> However, this post was atypical, as even **the** public areas were painted, as noted earlier.

It is recommended that in Newton's **parlour**, the **floors** be left bare, except as later noted, to correspond better with the general pattern. The 1863 period manager's house at Fort Colvile was still noted as having exposed **whipsawn** plank floors as late as the turn of the century.<sup>4</sup> When Mary Moody accompanied her husband to Victoria in 1859, she commented specifically on the lack of "Carpets or luxuries" in their house there, although they were much wealthier than H.B.C. employees, and had easier access to outside markets.<sup>6</sup>

In the **1850s**, paint was freely available in the sale shop at Fort Langley, in the colours of white, green, and Spanish brown.<sup>6</sup> Although wallpaper may not have been feasible for someone like Newton or his predecessors, some combination of these paint colours certainly would have been, and white or light green walls and ceiling are recommended.

The heat source in the parlour is a reproduction Canada stove, presently located near wall J in the room. It is recommended that this stove be moved to a position midway between **walls J** and L, with a run of stovepipe going across to a thimble on wall J, immediately under the ceiling, and tying into the current heating system with a T. A dummy run of pipe should extend from the exterior wall, at the interior thimble location, up to the eaves, to present a plausible venting system for the **stove**. The stove should also be mounted on a sheet iron plate, to protect the floor. An iron tea kettle will be set on the stove.

Curtains are recommended on the two windows in this room, to reflect the presence of an Anglo-Canadian raised white woman. These curtains should be of simple, window-length configuration, resembling those seen in figures 5 and 6, with a straight, short valance in the same style as those in the illustrations.

This room will be divided into public and display areas with a simple rope divider extended from the north edge of the door frame on wall L directly east to a point on **wall J** approximately 2.5 metres north of wall K. The public area will be to the south **of** the rope, to provide viewing of the bedrooms **opening** off **wall K**.

Within the public area will be a minimum of furnishings. To the west end of **wall K** **will** be placed a reproduction country-made wardrobe, **kept in a closed** and locked condition. In the corner of walls K and L will be placed a reproduction country-made broom. A reproduction tin wall sconce **will** be placed midway between the two bedroom doors in wall K. The section of wall J in the

public area will contain a grouping of 5 reproduction amateur **watercolours** and sketches, to represent the artwork of the Newtons.

The display area behind the rope will basically define two zones, one for dining and one as a sitting **room/parlour** area. As already discussed, gentlemen's wives were normally served in their quarters, and for this, as well as private entertaining, such an area would be required. The sitting room area will be **centred** around the interests of the Newtons, music, art, and butterflies.

To the immediate north side of the door on wall L will be located a reproduction **woodbox** with associated firewood and axe. To the north of that will be located a historic piano and piano stool. In the corner of walls I and L will be placed a reproduction country-made table, 120 by 75 cm., with a green baize table cover. Placed on this table will be a historic portable desk, a reproduction tin candle stock, some sheets of paper, and one deck of cards. A reproduction country-made armchair **will** be placed at this table.

A second reproduction country-made table, 80 by 90 cm., with a green baize cover will be placed with its northeast corner located 1.5 metres from wall L and 1.6 metres from wall I. This table will be **centred** on either a rush or cedarbark mat. The table will have one reproduction country-made side chair placed with it, and on its surface **will** be a kit of art supplies, and a tin candlestick. Set near this table will be another reproduction country-made armchair, facing towards the table and piano.

Against wall I will be located a reproduction country-made sofa, **centred** between the two windows. A tin wall sconce will be located over each end of the sofa, and a grouping of 3 more amateur works of art located over it.

Against wall J will be placed a reproduction country made dish dresser, out about 50 cm from wall I, containing ceramics and tableware, but also serving as a bookcase. To the south of the dresser will be located a wooden wall shelf 20 cm by 75 cm, at about 1.2 metres height. On this will be supported a '75 cm by 60 cm by 15 cm display case, containing a butterfly collection.

A reproduction country-made dining table, 120 by 90 cm, will be located with its northeast corner 1.2 metres from wall J and 1.5 metres from wall I. Two reproduction country-made side chairs will be placed with it, and a green baize cover **will** be placed on it. The table should have a diaper cloth spread on it, be set for one person, and have two tin candlesticks on it.

## Summary of Articles for Newton's Parlour:

### 1 wardrobe, reproduction country-made:

Should be based on those shown in **Loudon's Encyclopaedia** (figure 28). The imported wardrobe in Helmcken House in Victoria is a version of, **Loudon's** figure 585 "Grecian" wardrobe, while the linen press at **McLoughlin** House is an adaptation of **Loudon's** figure 589 "Gothic" wardrobe. Both these pieces were imported by gentlemen of the H.B.C.

Although the Newtons would have been exposed to such pieces, it is unlikely that Newton could afford to import them, so a country-made adaptation would present the most likely option to hold Mrs. Newton's European clothes. This piece should follow the conventions already described, with **panelled** doors and applied mouldings. The overall size should be 1.2 by .5 metres (4' x 20") by 1.95 metres (6'6") tall. Interior arrangements could follow **Loudon's** figure 590, and a locking provision should be included. This piece should be constructed of Douglas fir, and painted green.

### 1 dish dresser, reproduction country-made:

This piece should be to the same pattern as that in the mess hall, but painted green. The different colour on this and the wardrobe is to represent some attempt on the part of the Newtons to create a 'livery' different from the ubiquitous Spanish brown used by the H.B.C., utilizing an easily available colour.

### 3 tables, reproduction country-made:

These tables, respectively 120 by 90 cm., 90 by 90 cm., and 120 by 75 cm., will all be **75** cm. tall overall. They will follow the construction of the tables already discussed, be painted Spanish brown, and will all have green baize covers.

### 3 chairs, reproduction country-made:

These chairs **will** again be based on the Fort Langley chairs, LL 58.53.1 and LL 58.53.2, and painted Spanish brown.

### 2 armchairs, reproduction country-made:

These chairs will be based on the prototypes in the collections at Craigflower Manor, Helmcken House, and the Nanaimo Centennial Museum

(figure 18). The basic construction, materials, and style of these chairs are very similar to the Fort Langley side chairs, with **the** addition of arms. These chairs were all constructed by H.B.C. employees in the 1850s and 1860s. They should **be** reproduced in maple, with fir seats, and painted Spanish brown.

1 sofa, reproduction country-made:

This is strictly a speculative piece; Fort Vancouver inventories in 1848 included in **the** dwelling **houses** 10 wooden sofas and **2** **cloth-covered** wooden sofas.<sup>7</sup> **Loudon's** Encyclopaedia illustrates a “handsome Grecian bench” (figure **29**), which could equally well be called a wooden sofa. It is suggested that the pattern of the armchairs **above** be stretched in width to accommodate a 1.8 metre (**6'**) seat, to produce **such a wooden sofa**. **This** piece should also be constructed of maple and fir, and be painted Spanish brown.

1 piano, historic:

Although Mrs. Newton's piano was a Collard and Collard, it is suggested that the historic piano, LL 58.25.1 be used to represent it. This piano was brought to B.C. in 1858 by one of the Royal Engineers, and was actually in the Big House for a period of time in the ownership of Ovid **Allard**.<sup>8</sup> **This** piano was apparently affiliated with the Broadwood factory, who were Collard and Collard's main competitors for the English middle class market. The piano is therefore of **the** right period and class, and as it has Fort Langley provenance, should **be** included in the furnishings. This piece was recently conserved, so should be acceptable for installation.

1 piano stool, historic:

To accompany the piano, it is suggested **that** the historic piano stool, LL 60.32.1 **be used**. This had Tolmie family provenance, and is of the correct period and appearance to fit with **the** piano. This piece will require conservation prior to installation.

1 wood box, reproduction country-made:

This should be a simple, rough plank **box**, approximately 90 **by** 60 cm. and about 30 cm. tall. It should contain firewood and an axe to the **same** pattern as that in the office.

1 pair of firetongs, reproduction country-made:

Blacksmith made tongs placed under the stove.

1 broom, reproduction country-made:

The same as that in the mess hall.

1 portable desk, historic:

Although this piece (**LL 58.169.1**) may be late for the target date, it has H.B.C. attribution, being the former property of George W. Weeks, a long-time employee. It is appropriate for the type of article a clerk may have owned.

writing paper, several sheets:

Any of the varieties appearing in the office list would be suitable.

1 pack playing cards, reproduction:

Paper cards with geometric **designs** on one side and unidirectional spots on the face side, without numbers. **Supplied** by Hardy & Son, Harper, Pearse & co.9

art supplies:

Placed on the square table near the piano to reflect the Newtons' interest in this field. Probably they used the commercially available drawing books with their models for copying, which were widely accepted at the time.<sup>10</sup> Several examples of these models are found in the Provincial Archives of B.C., Add. Mss 1912, Box 10, J.R. Anderson papers, which includes a sketch book, with the actual drawing book pages used by Anderson in Victoria in the 1850s. Emmeline had received drawing lessons as a child, but it is unknown whether or not William had such instruction. One of his paintings survives, as Pdp 123 in the Provincial Archives of B.C., which is a copy of a photograph taken in the early **1860s**.

Besides a sketch book such as that used by Anderson, and pencils, these art supplies should include something like the "1 Box Water Colors & Brushes" sent to Donald Ross, the chief trader at Norway House, in 1634.B

8 amateur sketches and paintings, reproduction:

Mrs. Newton started drawing lessons when she went to school. In the 1920s she stated that she still had several drawings done under the tuition of her first teacher, so she clearly had them in the **1850s**. There would have also been a substantial body of work produced by the couple at the time. It is

suggested **that these** pieces **be** made up of a combination of graphite copies of the models in the Anderson sketchbook and **watercolours** based on contemporary images of Victoria and Fort Langley. All these should **be** mounted in country-made frames as noted for the mess hall etching.

1 mat, reproduction:

A newcomer to Nanaimo in 1851 noted the “drugget rush mats and rugs made in part of dogs’ hair **by** Indians, used for floor **covering.**”<sup>12</sup> A trade tariff list copied from a Fort Langley one included large and small mats, obviously produced by **the** Indians. A large rush or cedar bark mat, 1.8 by 2.4 metres, should be reproduced for use in this room.

1 tablecloth, reproduction:

This should be of the same linen diaper as the mess hall tablecloths.

1 teakettle, reproduction:

This should **be** to the same pattern as that in the mess hall.

dinnerware, historic and current manufacture:

It is proposed to utilize a mix **of** two types of ceramics already in the Fort Langley collection for this area. The first is a “Queensware” style of china, intended to represent an appropriate type which Emmeline may have brought from England. The’ second type is “Pink **Camilla**”, a **Spode/Copeland** earthenware of the type available through the H.B.C. Using both types will allow interpretation of goods brought from England as personal belongings, and those goods available in-country, and probably acquired after marriage. The specific pieces are as follows:

Queensware:

- 6 plates, LL 59.6.17 - LL 59.6.22
- 6 cups, LL 59.6.10 - LL 59.6.15
- 6 saucers, LL 59.6.34 - LL 59.6.39
- 1 serving plate, LL 59.6.9
- 1 teapot, LL **59.6.42A-B**
- 1 sugar bowl, LL **59.6.43A-B**
- 1 cream pitcher, LL 59.6.44
- 1 butter dish, LL **59.6.41A-B**

Pink Camilla:

- 6 dinner plates, X.79.47.1 - X.79.47.6
- 6 soup plates, X.79.47.31 • X.79.47.36
- 1 platter, X.79.47.55
- 1 vegetable dish, **X.79.47.45A-B**

These items, with the exception of any pieces set on the table, should be placed in the dish dresser.

6 knives and forks, historic or reproduction:

**Forbuck** style, as in the mess hall.

6 tablespoons, historic:

Britannia metal, as in the mess hall.

6 teaspoons, historic:

These should be of the same "thumbprint" style as those in the mess hall, but silver plated, to represent items brought from England as personal property.

4 ivory handled dessert knives and forks:

These items were available from the Fort Victoria sale shop by 1855.13

1 ivory handled carving knife and fork:

Also available as above; should match the set in the mess hall.

4 tumblers, historic or reproduction:

To match those in the mess hall.

4 wine glasses, historic or reproduction:

To match those in the mess hall.

2 decanters, historic or reproduction:

To match those in the mess hall.

1 cruet stand, historic:

To show the difference between the mess hall cruet stand and personal property, it is recommended that the historic silver-plated cruet stand from the Fort Langley collection, **LL62.11.1A-F** be used here.

12 books, historic or reproduction:

At least two books were known to be owned by the Newtons while at Fort Langley, the copy of Pickwick by Charles Dickens already referred to, and a "family bible".<sup>14</sup> Besides the Dickens, Emmeline was "well supplied" with books, presumably other popular books of the period. These books should be placed in the dresser.

1 wall shelf, reproduction:

This will be a wooden shelf of country construction, with simple brackets under, based generally on the wall shelf in figure 5. It will be 75 cm. long and 20 cm. wide, and set at about 1.2 metres above the floor, of fir construction, and painted green.

1 display case, reproduction:

This will be a reproduction, country-made display case, 75 cm. tall by 60 cm. wide by 15 cm. deep, arranged vertically. It will consist of a simple 5 sided box, with dovetailed corners, and a hinged, latched panel of H.B.C. type window sash. As with other glazed pieces, the mouldings and muntins will follow the forms shown in figure 12. Nine panes of 7" by 9" glass, arranged three tall by three wide, would provide an appropriate size for this case, and also was a standard building sash size. This case will be lined with blue baize, and will contain a selection of approximately 12 to 15 varieties of local butterflies, simply mounted on pins. The case will be constructed of fir, and painted Spanish brown.

3 tin wall sconces, reproduction:

The same as those in the office and mess hall.

4 tin candlesticks, reproduction:

The same as those in the office.

2 sets of curtains and fittings, reproduction:

These should be simple window-length curtains with valance similar to those shown open and closed in figures 5 and 6. It is suggested that the valance be simply hung from a board mounted to the top of the window frame, with the brackets to support these boards incorporating brackets to accept a wooden curtain rod (figure 30). Although in figures 5 and 6 the curtains are plain blue and red, respectively, it is suggested that these parlour curtains are made of printed cotton, or calico. "Printed Cotton" and "Navy blue cotton" was available in large quantities at Fort Langley in the 1850s.<sup>15</sup>

On Fort Langley "Articles in Use" inventories from 1833 to 1836 appear, in the same relative positions on the lists, "1 suit Bed curtains", 14 yards "printed cotton **strouds**", 10 yards "11 wide Calico", and 10 yards "Indian Calico".<sup>16</sup> The placement makes it probable that these articles are

synonymous, and conventions of the time had bed curtains and window curtains of the same material. 55 years later, at Fort Colvile, a sleeping alcove in the manager's house was covered by a "calico curtain", demonstrating some continuity of material used for curtains.<sup>17</sup> It is recommended that these curtains and valances be made of a calico print fabric with a blue or green ground.

### Newton bedroom 1

This room will represent an "occasional" bedroom, in 1858 serving primarily as accommodation for guests of the Company, **and serving** a secondary role as storage for the Newtons. Emmeline Prances, the Newtons daughter, was 2 months old at the beginning of 1858, and for most or all of that year, would have been sleeping in her parents' room, so a second bedroom would not have been required. The furnishings in this room would have been primarily those supplied by the Company.

John Hussey, after analysis of the very complete "dwelling houses" inventories of articles in use from Fort Vancouver, surmised that the standard bedroom furnishings at that post in the 1840s were:

- 2 wooden chairs
- 1 wooden bedstead
- 1 table with baize tablecover
- 1 tin candlestick
- 1 earthenware wash basin and waterjug.

Dr. Helmcken described a clerk's bedroom at Fort Rupert that he occupied in 1850, before returning to Fort Victoria:

. . .I am living in a room ten feet square containing a bed-broken down table cracked chair ▪ Tin wash hand basin ▪ and a wood fire in the corner ▪ this constitutes all my household **furnishing....**<sup>19</sup>

The Company provided bedrooms in the Bachelor's Hall at the main depot of York Factory on Hudson's Bay were even more minimal:

**The** first I entered was very small, **just** large enough to contain a bed, a table, and a chest....

None of these bedrooms were carpeted; none of them boasted of a chair - the trunks and boxes of the persons to **whom** they belonged answering **instead....**<sup>20</sup>

It is recommended that this bedroom be furnished generally in the style of the one described at Fort Rupert, as that post had more parallels to Fort Langley. In addition to the basic Company - supplied furnishings, this room should be used as a storage area for some of Newton's personal belongings, specifically a cassette, or trunk, weapons, and horse furniture. These were the normal accoutrements of an H.B.C. clerk, and in this case will represent Newton's sporting interests, typical of these clerks, as well as the accommodation required for a white wife. Dr. Helmcken described the Fort Victoria Bachelors' Hall bedrooms as they were in the **1850s**, when Newton was a resident there:

Every room had sporting weapons in it - muskets and rifles **of** great variety - swords, a saddle and bridle, tobacco and pipes, lots of dust, and the usual utensils, **but** not all supplied with the necessary articles.<sup>81</sup>

This room will not have **public** access; **the** present barrier system will be retained. There will be no coverings on the floor and no curtains on the window.

The Company-supplied articles of furniture will **be** located along wall P. From north to south, the first piece will be a country-made side chair. Next, **centred** in the wall will **be** placed a country-made wooden bedstead. An Indian mat will be placed on this bed. To the south of the bed will **be** located a country-made table/washstand. On the table will be located a tin washbasin, a water jug, and a tin candlestick.

Newton's belongings will be grouped along wall N. To the south end of the wall will be placed a cassette. On the floor to the north **of** the cassette will be placed a saddle, and its associated bridle will **be** arranged **on** top of the cassette. A musket, powder horn, and shot pouch will be hung from a wooden peg **centred** on wall N near the ceiling, as may be seen in figure 5.

## Summary of Articles for Newton bedroom 1:

1 chair, reproduction country-made:

This should be a reproduction of LL 56.53.1 and LL **58.53.2**, of the same materials as the other reproductions and painted Spanish brown.

1 wooden **bed**, reproduction country-made:

The beds in the Western Department were normally country-made, and described in a fairly consistent manner. The missionaries arriving at Fort Vancouver in 1836 had beds or "**bunks**" built from them:

I **have** since found it a fashionable bed for this country. The bedstead is in the form of a bunk with rough board bottoms, upon which were Laid about one dozen of the Indian blankets. These with a pair of pillows covered with calico cases constitute our beds and covering.<sup>22</sup>

James Anderson recalled the beds provided for **the** students at the Fort Victoria school in the **1850s**:

And what beds. The hard boards, an Indian mat, a Hudson's Bay blanket and over ourselves another blanket.<sup>23</sup>

Donald Fraser, the correspondent of the London **Times**, visited Fort Langley in September 1858, and commented on the **bed** he was provided with. Very possibly, granted his position, this bed was in the Big House:

...I have used many a hard bed, and from experience, I can say that the Langley **beds bear away the palm in this quality... the bed** rather primitive.<sup>24</sup>

The construction **of** beds or "Bedsteads" for Big Houses or dwelling houses were noted in journals from Fort **McLoughlin** in 1835, Belle Vue farm in 1654, Fort Simpson in 1657, and at Kamloops in 1861 (birch was used at this **post**).<sup>25</sup> Illustrations of some of these country-made wooden beds may be seen in figures 5, 21 and 19. The head of the bed shown in figure 21 relates strongly to the foot of **that** seen in figure 5, to the left of the doorway. Although the **beds** for the missionaries at Fort Vancouver were built **as-**required, and were **probably** of extremely rough construction, those intended as permanent fixtures in a Big House were probably better finished. It will also be noticed that **the** headboard on the 1870s New

Caledonia bed in figure 21 is of the same form as that on the bed built in the early 1850s for Dr. Helmcken at Fort Victoria. It is suggested that the Helmcken bed serve as the prototype in this case, with the side pieces modified to accommodate transverse planks for the bottom of the bed, as seen in an original country-made trundle bed in the collection at **McLoughlin** house, in Oregon City. The dimensions of the Helmcken bed should be reduced to about 1.9 metres long by 1 metre wide, by .7 metres tall overall, with the plank bed surface about .4 metres off the floor (see figures 19 and 31).

1 Indian mat, reproduction:

Following Anderson's description, the bed should be furnished only with an Indian mat. This should be of the same type as that on the floor in the Newtons' **parlour**, but smaller. Blankets and other furnishings are not appropriate; these were normally provided to the individual, rather than left on the bed permanently.

1 table, reproduction country-made:

This table, 60 by 60 cm. by 75 cm. tall, will be to the same pattern as those already discussed, with the exception of a shelf provided between the legs at the normal spreader height. The table will be of fir construction, painted Spanish brown.

1 green baize table cover:

To fit the above table.

1 tin wash basin, reproduction:

As described by Helmcken at Fort Rupert. 3 quarts was the most common size noted for ceramic basins archaeologically at Fort Vancouver.<sup>96</sup> The tin basin should be of approximately the same size.

1 water jug, historic or current manufacture:

This should be of any appropriate Spode/Copeland pattern, as discussed in the mess hall section. The prevalent size recovered archaeologically at Fort Vancouver was 2 quarts (figure 20).

1 tin candlestick, reproduction:

To the same pattern as the others in the building.

1 cassette, reproduction:

These were the basic item of personal furniture of the H.B.C. gentlemen.

Their role was described by H.M. Robinson:

The stong, compact wooden trunks or travel-cases used in the country... often constitute the chief pieces of furniture if we except, perhaps, a **bedstand** • and do duty as chairs, tables, and **wardrobe.**<sup>28</sup>

These trunks were always made to a standard pattern, almost always country-made. Several examples exist of Western Department cassettes, including the John Work and W.F. Tolmie pieces (figure 14). The reproduction cassettes for the Big House should be based on the Work cassette, LL 61.34.1, which is typical of these existing pieces, as well as historic descriptions.<sup>28</sup> This piece should be constructed of fir, and painted Spanish brown.

1 saddle, historic or reproduction:

Riding was one of the main **entertainments** 'of the clerks at the Company posts in the west. This item is to represent Newton's pursuit of this activity. A clerk riding local Company horses would not own elaborate equipment; the estate of a clerk who died at Fort **Nisqually** in 1851 included a "pad saddle" which sold for \$2.25 U.S.<sup>30</sup> Although Newton may have used a simple Indian type pad saddle, it is probable, based on his taste that he would have owned a second-hand English cavalry saddle, which also was referred to as a pad saddle. These were inexpensive and widely available at the time.

1 bridle, historic or reproduction:

"Single Rein Bridles" were imported by the H.B.C., and available in their sale shops in the **1850s.**<sup>31</sup> These were probably snaffle bits with a single rein arrangement.

1 hunting musket, historic or reproduction:

As noted by **Helmcken** most clerks owned sporting weapons of one sort or another. For Newton, an appropriate gun would be supplied from the sale shop, but of better quality than the "**common** Indian **guns.**" A small number of "fine steel mounted guns" were imported by the Company, primarily for sale to their employees.<sup>32</sup> The main producers of guns for the Company were Thomas Barnett & Sons, Edward & William Bond, Parker, Field & Sons, and William Wilson.<sup>33</sup> This gun should be single-barrelled, use percussion caps, and have a leather strap attached, from which it will be hung as the weapon in figure 5.

1 shot pouch, historic or reproduction:

Pierre Pambrun, the clerk in charge of Fort **Walla Walla** in 1836, had **shot-pouches** "**such** as were manufactured by the Indians about the **post.**"<sup>34</sup> A leather, trade **bead-decorated** shot pouch would also be appropriate for Newton.

1 powderhorn, historic or reproduction:

This should be a basic, simple type of powderhorn. Both this and the shot pouch above should be hung with the gun.

## Newton bedroom 2

This room will represent the 1856 bedroom of W.H. and Emmeline Newton, and their infant daughter, Emmeline. This room will be exclusively a residential bedroom. It will be finished in the same fashion as the **parlour**, with the same curtains on the window, and a single Indian mat on the floor, which will otherwise be uncovered. This room will not have public access; the present barrier system will be retained.

The furnishing of this room will represent the basic equipment provided by the H.B.C. combined with the personal belongings of relatively recent arrivals from England, with aspirations to culture and society, but of limited means.

Against wall Q, towards the doorway, will be placed e crib, to represent the baby's presence. It will be simply furnished with sheets and blankets, and partially turned back, to give the appearance of the baby having just been taken out. A stuffed toy and e rattle may be placed in the crib.

To the north end of wall T will be placed e wash stand, with a jug, basin, and chamberpot associated. A tooth mug, two toothbrushes, and a toothpaste jar will be on top of the stand. A bar of soap will be placed in a simple holder with the basin, and a brush tray with two brushes nearby. In the corner adjacent to the washstand will be placed a towel horse, with two diaper towels hung on it. Over the washstand will be hung a wooden framed mirror.

A bed will be placed with its head **centred** against wall T. It will be furnished with e straw **matress**, a feather **matress**, 2 pillows, one bolster, sheets,

3 blankets, and one counterpane. At the foot of the bed will be placed a large trunk. Laid on the trunk will be a shawl and a sewing box. On the floor near the trunk **will** be placed a pair of lady's shoes.

To the south of the bed will be placed a small table, with a green baize cover. On this table will be placed a tumbler, a tin candlestick, a watch and watch bag, and a small grouping on a tray of pipes, tobacco box, tobacco and a small knife. A side chair will be placed with this table, with trousers and shirt hung over the back.

Under the window in wall **S** will be placed a cassette, with a bottle of blacking on top of it, and a pair of men's boots in front of it. In the east corner of wall **S** will be placed a chest of drawers. On top of this **will** be located a man's dressing ease, a lady's storage box, an oil miniature, and another tin candlestick.

Hanging from wall **R** opposite **the**<sup>1</sup> bed will be a rack of deer antlers, and hanging from them will be a belt and holster containing a pistol, and a metal powder flask for the same. A sampler will also be hung on this wall.

Peeking out from behind the door on **wall R** will be a clothes bag.

#### Summary of Articles for Newton bedroom 2:

##### 1 Indian mat, reproduction:

To match that in the parlour, but approximately **1.8** by **.9** metres. Set at the foot of the bed, under the trunk, extending to the chest of drawers.

##### 1 set of curtains and valance, reproduction:

To match those in the parlour.

##### 1 crib, cradle, historic:

This will be the Tolmie crib, LL 61.34.2. The slightly elaborate style of this piece, and its obvious wear, will represent an "heirloom" piece, lent or given to the Newtons by older friends or relatives. This piece may need conservation before display.

##### Sheets and blankets, reproduction:

The sheets for a crib should be of "Fine calico or linen", according to the 1640 Workwoman's Guide.<sup>36</sup> These were probably available at Fort

Langley, **as was** “sheeting”, both white and brown in 45” widths.<sup>36</sup> One full blanket would be sufficient to provide both a **mattress** and cover for the crib. It is recommended that this be a large, 3 1/2 or, 4 point H.B.C. blanket, end green to match the prevailing “livery” of the apartment.

1 stuffed toy, historic or reproduction:

Dolls were a **rare** commodity in the **1850s**; Annie Deans wrote from Victoria to England in 1856:

. . .I only wish that some of you **have** sent a doll for there is not **such a** thing here (for her **daughter**).<sup>37</sup>

It is recommended that this item be a simple, country-made stuffed animal, to represent the toy made by Mrs. Newton. It should be new in appearance.

1 rattle, historic or reproduction:

This should be a simple wooden rattle of Northwest coast Indian type, to represent the curio acquired by **the** Newtons for their daughter.

1 washstand, reproduction country-made:

These items were often country-made. A **"washandstand"** (sic) **was** built for the clerk in charge of Belle Vue farm in 1854.<sup>38</sup> At Fort Rupert in the 1870s two “country-made washstands” **still** appeared on inventory.<sup>38</sup> **Such a** washstand, from the steamer “Beaver”, has survived in the **McLoughlin** House collection, and with adaptations for land use, will provide the basis for this piece (figure **32**). This piece **will** be about 60 cm. wide by 45 cm. deep by 80 **cm. tall** overall, with two drawers and one panel door as the **McLoughlin** House example. It **will** be constructed of Douglas fir, and painted green, again to maintain the ‘livery’.

1 earthenware waterjug, historic or current manufacture:

This should follow the pattern of that in Newton bedroom L

1 earthenware washbasin, historic or current manufacture:

Of the same pattern as the above, **Spode/Copeland**. The prevalent size of such washbasins recovered archaeologically at Fort Vancouver was 3 quarts, and **this** basin should be this size.<sup>40</sup>

1 earthenware chamberpot, historic or current manufacture:

This should **also** be of any appropriate **Spode/Copeland** pattern. Those recovered at Fort Vancouver were generally of 2 1/2 to 3 quart capacity.<sup>41</sup>

The chamberpot should normally be placed in the cupboard of the washstand. It may be displayed by leaving the door slightly ajar. The washbasin and jug will be placed on top of the stand, with the jug, full of water, inside the basin.

2 toothbrushes, toothpaste, and mug, historic or reproduction:

Toothbrushes often appear on lists of goods to Fort Langley, for instance 2 dozen were shipped in May 1856.<sup>42</sup> Although silver wire toothbrushes were sent to Columbia district, the only archaeological specimen from Fort Vancouver was bone handled. This is the most likely type for Fort Langley as well. One jar of period type toothpaste should be with these; **Gosnell's** was the most common manufacturer represented archaeologically at Fort Vancouver.<sup>44</sup> Some appropriate **reproduction jars** are presently in the Fort Langley collection.

One “tooth **mug**” should also **be provided**, with the toothbrushes standing in it. This should be earthenware, either transfer printed or lustre ware.

1 bar of soap, reproduction:

“Mottled” soap was commonly used; it was imported in large bars, roughly 3 inches square by 17 inches long. The bar used here should be a slice off of one of these bars, roughly 75 mm square by 25 mm thick. The dish for the soap should be a small earthenware saucer or plate. The soap should be placed near the basin on top of the washstand.

1 tray, 2 brushes, historic or reproduction:

These will represent some of Mrs. Newton's toilet items. As personal articles, it is recommended that an appropriate small **papier maché** tray be used, with two ladies' hair brushes, wood or silver handled.

1 towel horse, reproduction country-made:

This should be a simple country-made version of that shown in **Loudon's Encyclopaedia** (figure 33). A very similar example is in the Helmcken House collection. The country-made version should use square-section wood, be of fir construction, and painted green to match the washstand.

2 towels, reproduction:

The **Workwomen's Guide** of 1640, recommended both diaper and huckabuck for towels, the former for “fine towels”.<sup>45</sup> As diaper was easily available at Fort, Langley in the sale shop, it will be assumed it was used for the Newton's towels.<sup>46</sup> This **will also** serve to reinforce the significance of a white woman resident in these quarters.

1 mirror, historic or reproduction:

“Mahogany looking glasses” were available in the Fort Langley sale shop in the **1850s**.<sup>47</sup> These probably equate to the ‘large mahogany framed mirrors 10 x 12” noted at Fort Vancouver.<sup>48</sup> This is the type of mirror, with a plain mahogany frame, which should be hung over the washstand (figure 37).

1 bed, historic or reproduction:

Although the majority of the beds in the country were locally made of wood, iron bedstands were also available.

Kenneth **McKenzie** purchased 3 of these beds from the Fort Victoria sale shop in 1855 at an average cost of just under **£5** each.<sup>48</sup> As the beds were available, at a not unreasonable price, and given the Newtons’ orientation towards middle class values, it is recommended that an “**iron bedstead**” be used to represent their bed. Such iron beds in the “French” style were popular in Upper **Canada** in the 1850s and **1860s**, commonly finished in white or green paint.<sup>50</sup> Such a “French bedstead of wrought iron” was illustrated in **Loudon's Encyclopaedia**, with a cost given comparable to those **purchased** at Fort Victoria. This style, with its head and footboard of equal heights, and with a built-in spring, is recommended, painted green (figure 34). Based on the sized available in this style, according to **Loudon** and the width of the Helmcken bed, it is suggested that this bed be approximately 1.2 metres wide.

1 straw, 1 feather mattress, reproduction:

On the bed will be placed these 2 mattresses, made locally. In the 1830s on the Columbia the American missionaries found brown linen sheeting used for ticking on feather beds. When McKenzie bought his iron bedsteads 20 years later, he also purchased “7 yds. bed **Ticking**”.<sup>52</sup> Either of these fabrics would have been available to the Newtons in the late 1850s.

2 pillows, 1 bolster, reproduction:

These items should be reproduced using the same ticking material as the mattresses.

sheets, bolster and **pillow-cases**, reproduction:

Made with white linen sheeting, as already noted available in the sale shop.

**3 blankets**, reproduction:

The Workwoman's Guide states that every bed "should have one under blanket, and two or three upper ones."<sup>53</sup> It is recommended **that those** used on this **bed** include 2 plain, or white blankets, one lower and one upper, and one green blanket on top. These should all be H.B.C. point blankets.

1 counterpane, historic or reproduction:

Although a commercial bedspread, such as a Marseilles spread, would be plausible, it is proposed that a quilted counterpane **be** made up, to demonstrate Mrs. Newton's sewing prowess, over and **above her** "fancy work". This could generally follow the pattern described in the Workwoman's Guide, with a 'succession of hexagons or six-sided pieces of **print**."<sup>54</sup> The fabric used should all be appropriate to the period, and reflect the predominantly green **colour** scheme.

1 trunk, reproduction:

This piece will represent a typical six-board softwood immigrant trunk. Two very similar trunks are currently known, one in the Fort Langley collection, and one at **Craigflower** Manor. Both these pieces have H.B.C. attribution, and are very similar in appearance (figure 15).

It is suggested that this trunk **be** reproduced based on the Fort Langley prototype, LL 59.9.4, using any softwood, and painted black.

1 shawl, reproduction:

An "**Indian Shawl**" was donated to the B.C. Provincial Archives by one of the Newtons' daughters in 1935.<sup>36</sup> **This** was probably typical of the H.B.C. stock items, which were usually 72" square, of wool, sometimes with a pattern and a fringe.<sup>66</sup> This item will just be folded and placed on the trunk.

1 sewing **box**, historic:

It is recommended that a sewing **box be** included to indicate Mrs. Newton's interest in that pursuit. A suitable box with H.B.C. provenance **is currently** in the Fort Langley collection, and is suggested for this use. **This** box, LL 61.2.1 was stated in a newspaper article when donated to have been the Helmckens', although the catalogue card information does not confirm this.<sup>67</sup> However, this piece is most suitable, and should be used. **It will** require conservation prior to installation.

1 pair lady's shoes, reproduction:

Suitable to the period and of a plain pattern, these should be set near the trunk.

1 table, reproduction country-made:

This should be to the same pattern as the other tables, 60 by 60 cm. by 75 cm. tall, made of fir and painted Spanish brown.

1 table cover, reproduction:

Green baize, like the others listed.

1 tumbler, historic or reproduction:

To the same pattern as those in the mess hall.

2 tin candlesticks, reproduction:

To the same pattern as the others in the building.

1 tray, reproduction country-made:

A simple wooden tray, to hold **Newton's** smoking equipment, unpainted.

tobacco, reproduction:

A short, rope-like length of "Canada twist" tobacco.

3 clay pipes, reproduction:

Two **9-inch** and one **11-inch** pipes, such as imported by the H.B.C. **These** should show signs of frequent use.

1 clasp knife, reproduction:

Placed open on the tray; for cutting tobacco.

2 large abalone shells:

Selected from LL.59.3.1 A-D, LL.59.3.2 A-C, E, **LL.59.4.18**; to represent ash trays. All the above items to be arranged on the tray.

1 watch bag, reproduction:

Items donated to the B.C. Provincial Archives in 1936 by one of the Newtons' daughters included a hand beaded watch bag, said to have been made at Fort Langley.<sup>58</sup> Such an article should be reproduced for display on this bedroom table.

1 watch, historic or reproduction:

The above item demonstrates that Newton had a watch; the most appropriate would be a silver cased example. The estate of Charles Forrest, a clerk at Fort **Nisqually** who died in 1857, included a silver watch which sold for the equivalent of **£8.59** Kenneth McKenzie and a ship's

captain brought to Victoria in 1854 a variety of **silver** watches, priced from £1 to £3.60. These were intended for resale. Newton's watch should be an inexpensive English silver example from the early 1850s.

1 chair, reproduction country-made:

The same as the mess hall chairs.

1 pair of trousers, reproduction:

A pair of "working" trousers is recommended; wool cloth or moleskin in a style appropriate to **the** period.

1 shirt, reproduction:

To fit with the trousers, a "**Regatta**", or striped **cotton shirt** is recommended. Both these items to be hung over the back of the chair.

1 cassette, reproduction:

To match that in Newton bedroom number L "

1 bottle blacking, reproduction:

Should be an earthenware bottle of Day & Martin's blacking. An original bottle with Fort Langley provenance is in **the** collection, LL.56.4.4, and **labels** have been reproduced in P.H.Q. This bottle should look "used". A rag should be placed with the bottle.

1 pair men's boots, reproduction:

A pair of Blucher boots, looking **well** used, ready to be blacked.

1 chest of drawers, reproduction country-made:

This piece should be produced based on the Fort Nisqually example in the Washington State Historical Society museum in Tacoma (figure 17). The approximate size of the piece should be 90 cm. wide, 50 cm. deep, and 120 cm. tall, with the number and arrangement of drawers to match that of the prototype. **All** construction should also match that of **the** prototype, including dovetails. This piece should be constructed of cedar, like the prototype, and painted green.

1 dressing case, historic or reproduction:

These articles seem to **have** been a standard piece of furniture imported from England. When W.F. Tolmie visited England in 1641-1642, he purchased a number of orders for colleagues in the West, including a "**Dressg Case & c**" for William Eittson.<sup>61</sup>

In 1651 the Charles Forrest estate noted above, included a “dressing Case”, which sold for \$6.00 U.S., about  $\frac{1}{3}$  the cost of the Kittson example.<sup>62</sup> Two years later, a friend of Dr. Helmcken’s in England wrote to him that his “dresser’s case is being put to rights” in preparation for forwarding to Victoria.<sup>63</sup>

It is probable that Newton was also supplied with one of these cases. They were basically toiletry kits, which contained razors, strops, hair, tooth, nail, and shaving brushes, soap and powder boxes, combs, scissors, and a mirror. They came in a variety of sizes, and types of cases, including leather, **rosewood** and walnut.<sup>64</sup> A surviving example at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is of rosewood, and attributed to John **McLoughlin**. Typically, one of these cases would be in the size range of 30 by 23 by 15 cm., and a wood case would seem appropriate for Newton. If an historic example is available, it may be displayed open, showing its furnishings, but if not, a simple reproduction hardwood box could represent the item. The shaving box shown in figure 22 could serve as a prototype.

1 hardwood box, historic or reproduction:

This should be a small simple jewel box or storage box, to represent a place for the storage of Mrs. Newton’s valuables. As with the dressing case, this should be an imported, personal piece.

1 oil miniature, historic:

This will be the oil miniature of Emmeline **Tod’s** mother in the Fort Langley collection, LL56.158.2. This piece may require conservation before installation.

1 tin candlestick, reproduction:

To the same pattern as the others used in the building.

1 rack of antlers:

These should be from any local species of deer, and simply hung from the **wall** by the skull, without any other mount. Those to the left of figure 6 provide a suitable prototype.

1 pistol, with holster, belt, and powder flask, historic or reproduction:

“Six-shooter” pistols seem to have become fashionable among the younger gentlemen by the **1850s**. “**¶ Six Shooter Pistol**” was among the estate of Charles Forrest in 1651, and was sold with its accessories for \$5.00 U.S.<sup>65</sup>

Kenneth McKenzie also imported revolvers for resale as well as watches. In **May** 1854 -he received 15 assorted "**6** shot revolving pistols", some mounted in German silver, some in steel. They each came with a mould, flask, and percussion caps to suit, along with belts and holsters.<sup>66</sup> Newton would have had the opportunity and probably the interest in owning such a weapon. This should be a simple, English-made weapon, of the **mid-1850s**, using percussion caps, and with appropriate factory made holster, belt, and powder flask.

1 sampler, historic or reproduction:

The 1936 donation of Newton items to the B.C. Provincial Archives by their daughter, Mrs. F.D. Seymour, included a sampler done by Mrs. Newton as a child. A representative late 1840s sampler should be hung on the wall, in an imported frame.

1 clothes bag, reproduction:

The Forrest estate included 1 "Painted Clothes **Bag**", which sold for 50 cents **U.S.**<sup>67</sup> This was probably made of oilcloth, to seal it to some extent, and would provide a sort of laundry hamper for the Newtons.

## Notes

Some range of possibilities is available for transient change within this area. For instance, during July a guest in bedroom 1 could be interpreted, through introduction of a pile of blankets on the bed, a second cassette, and some clothes, pipes, and tobacco on the chair and table. Any such representation should be accompanied by an extra place being set at the mess hall table.

Some seasonal decoration for Christmas is a possibility. A reference in a letter written from Jane Dallas to Amelia Douglas (her mother) in 1862 was: "I suppose you had the Christmas tree as **usual**".<sup>68</sup> As Jane had left Victoria in 1859, the custom apparently predated that year, and if the Douglas household had a tree, it is possible that some of the other gentlemen's families followed suit.

The furnishings in the Newtons' quarters should generally be new in appearance. Personal items should look between a few months and five years in age.

Those articles supplied by the Company, including the furniture in bedroom 1 and the country-made items in the parlour and bedroom 2 should range between **5** and 15 years in age, with the exception of **the** dresser and butterfly case, both of which should look new.

### Yale's Quarters

In comparison with the Newtons, Yale was perceived as a recluse and a fossil, hardly surprising in light of the fact that most of his life was spent in the fur trade. He had left Montreal in the second decade **of** the 19th Century, and did not return until 1859, immediately prior to his retirement. **In** contrast to the Newtons, who were only a few years away from England, Yale was a man who lived from adolescence under primitive conditions. **This**, combined with the absence of a wife, particularly a white one, should determine to a large extent how his rooms are furnished. Additionally, by 1858 Yale was biding his time, prior to his intended retirement back to Montreal.

The apartment of three rooms to the west **of** the building, designated Yale's quarters, will be furnished to represent the bachelor residence of this 60 year old man, noted for his frugality and good management, misanthropic nature, and love of hunting and dogs.

### Parlour

As discussed with the Newtons' **parlour**, it was the responsibility of the resident to furnish their private areas. Yale, unlike Newton, had resided in the Big House since its construction, and would have had the financial ability to effect some changes. However, granted his personality, and the lack of the moderating influence of a wife, it seems probable that his quarters were austere. It is likely that they acted more as an extension of the public areas of the building than as a private residence, particularly in light of how intertwined the existences of Yale and Fort Langley were.

Some descriptions are available of longtime H.B.C. employees rooms, for instance those of Dr. Benson at Nanaimo in 1859:

. . .the doctor is a great character, never seen without a pipe in his mouth & his rooms are crowded with Indian curiosities, bird skins, geological specimens, books & tobacco in the most inextricable confusion.\*

Elizabeth Custer described the home of Chief Trader Angus McDonald at Fort Colville in 1890, when it was occupied by his son, Donald:

We found a large living room with poor and very shaky furniture, a long alcove on one side, half covered with a calico curtain, where, as it was twice as long as an ordinary bed, I concluded the whole family slept. Three of the Presidents **were** on the walls, and there were a few books. Two cumbrous **wooden chairs**, held together with wooden pegs; one, with arms and a slotted back, dated back to the carpenters of the Hudson Bay people. . . . There were guns and deer horns on the walls.<sup>9</sup>

The general level of finish in this room should be the same as in the Newtons' parlour, with the walls and ceiling painted, and the floors bare planks. *In the same* way as recommended for the Newtons' parlour, it is suggested that **Yale's** Canada stove be moved from its present location near **wall X** to one more central in the room. The treatment of the stove, with an iron plate under, and a plausible venting system, should also follow the pattern of the Newtons' stove.

Unlike the Newtons' parlour, there will be no curtains put on the windows in this **room**. This will reflect the austerity of the man, as well as reinforcing the difference between the residents.

This room will be divided into public and display areas in the same way as the other parlour. A rope divider will be extended from the north edge of the door frame on wall V directly west to a point on wall X approximately 2.5 metres north of wall W. The public area will be to the south of the rope.

The furnishings of the public area will consist of a trunk, against the east portion of wall W, a broom in the corner **of** walls V and W, and a rack of deer antlers on the section of wall W between the bedroom doors. There **will** be a candle sconce on the wall above the trunk. Grouped below the antlers will be hung two etchings or prints.

Just within the rope of the display area, the stove will have placed on it an iron tea kettle. Under the stove will be a pair of fire tongs. To the immediate north of the doorway in wall V will be a **wood** box, with firewood and an axe. **Centred** against wall V will be a desk, and in the corner of walls U and V will be placed a tall case clock. An office chair will be associated with the desk, and a candel sconce located on the wall **over** it. On the desk will be placed an **inkstand** and equipment, as well as some post paper, and some blank engagement forms. The effect presented should be a location where private correspondence, including discussions of servants' re-engagement, is being written. To the left of the desk will be hung a gun, with powder flask and shot pouch, to demonstrate Yale's interest in hunting.

Yale's dining area will be defined by a table, approximately 120 by 99 **cm.**, with a blue baize cover, and 4 Windsor chairs. This table will be set with two brass candlesticks, one decanter, and **two** tumblers. This should represent an area used more for entertaining other H.B.C. gentlemen or guests; as a bachelor Yale would not have taken his meals in his quarters. The table will be located approximately 1.5 metres from wall U and the same distance from wall V.

Against wall U, between the windows, will be placed a reproduction of the Tolmie bookcase. This will be stocked with books, but will also act as a dresser for a basic selection of dinnerware and glasses, and nominally as the fort's medicine cabinet.

In the west end of the room, a conversation area will be arranged, with two sofas, two chairs, and one table. One sofa will be placed along wall U, **centred** under the west window, and the other against the adjacent portion of wall X. Within the angle defined by these pieces, a black bear skin will be placed on the floor. On the skin will be a 75 cm. square table with a blue baize cover and a small **footstool**. The grouping will be completed with two armchairs. Over each of the sofas will be mounted a tin candel sconce. On the table will be set two tumblers, two empty one-quart ale bottles, a selection of newspapers and journals, and a tray of smoking equipment, including four pipes and tobacco.

The desired appearance of this room should make it evident that it served as much as an office, and "smoking room" for Company gentlemen, as a private sitting-room.

Summary of articles for Yale's **parlour**:

1 trunk, reproduction country-made:

This piece should be a reproduction of the historic Yale **trunk**, LL.59.9.4, made of Douglas fir and painted Spanish brown.

1 broom, reproduction country-made:

To the **same** pattern as the other examples in **the** Big House.

1 rack of deer antlers:

From any local species, simply hung by the **skull, as** in figure 6.

3 tin candelconces, reproduction:

To the same pattern as those throughout the Big House.

6 engravings or prints, historic or reproduction:

The reference cited earlier of **a** friend occasionally writing to tell him "**of** a new picture, or send a fine **print, for** his collection" supports the presence of these items in the parlour. It **is** suggested that the two articles on wall W **be of a** "dog" theme, to reflect that interest of Yale's, and the four over the sofa on wall X be the four sporting engravings currently in the Langley collection, **LL.59.16.4-7**. Smaller frames may **be** imported, **but larger ones** should **be** country-made, as discussed for the mess hall.

1 cast-iron tea kettle, historic or reproduction:

To match **those** in the mess hall and Newton's parlour.

1 pair firetongs, reproduction country-made:

To match those in the office and Newton's parlour.

1 **woodbox**, reproduction **country-made**:

This should match **that** in Newton's parlour, including firewood and axe.

1 desk, historic or reproduction imported:

The Fort Colville manager's house, already discussed, had in 1904 "in one of the rooms" a 'large hardwood desk, of ancient design, undoubtedly brought from England nearly a century ago."<sup>3</sup> If **such a** desk showed up at Colville, it is **also** possible at Langley, and is intended to represent a mild indulgence for Yale. This desk could be any English variety **c.1830-1850**, of a fairly Plain style. In **McLoughlin** House is a **kneehole** desk with leathercloth top, two drawers on each side, set on turned legs, of mahogany construction.

**This** piece is attributed to John **McLoughlin**, supposedly prior to 1845.

writing supplies and stationery:

The desk should be furnished with an inkstand, similar to that **on the** secretary in **the** office. The stationery on top of **the** desk should include several **sheets** of post paper, some with writing to represent partially completed correspondence, and two or three blank engagement forms, the same as those in the office.

1 chair, historic or reproduction imported:

This should be an office chair appropriate to the **above** desk. It is suggested that unless proven unsuitable, the chair in the Langley collection, LL 61.11.12, which has reputed Big House provenance, be used. This chair will require conservation prior to installation.

3 tin candle sconces, reproduction:

These will be the **same as those** in the office.

1 double-barrelled sporting gun, historic or **reproduction**:

This article is to represent **Yale's** enthusiasm for hunting, and as such should be of a good quality. His old **colleague** and friend, John Tod, in his reminiscences, referred to a "splendid **double-barrelled gun**" he had owned in the 1840s, or 1850s.<sup>4</sup> If Tod had such a gun, it is likely that Yale did as well. This should be a 1840s or 1850s English sporting weapon, percussion cap, and from a good maker. The manufacturer's restrictions would not apply as with Newton's gun, as this one would have been ordered directly from England. This **gun will be hung** from a strap in the same manner as Newton's, and will **be** accompanied by a metal powder flask appropriate to the gun, and a shot pouch similar to the one in Newton bedroom L

1 high case **clock**, historic:

It is recommended that the clock in the Langley collection, **LL.60.13.10** be used in this place. This is a Twiss clock, made by an American family who moved to Montreal in 1821, and normally used cherry **wood movements**.<sup>5</sup> Some four months after its donation to Fort Langley, a newspaper article noted that:

...being repaired **at the moment is an** old wall clock made with wooden parts. It will go into the sitting room of the big house **because** it originally **was** owned by **Murray Yale**.<sup>6</sup>

As this clock is the only **one** with a wooden mechanism, and the only one acquired at about the appropriate time, it is probably the one referred to,

although recent information from the donor refutes this, and referred to it as an Ontario family heirloom. However, the combination of age, place of manufacture, and reputed ownership makes it a worthwhile addition to the parlour furnishings. This piece requires conservation prior to installation.

1 dining table, reproduction country-made:

This should be identical to the Newton dining table, 120 by **90** cm. by **75 cm.** tall. It **will** be of fir construction, painted Spanish brown, and have a blue baize tablecover.

4 Windsor chairs, reproduction:

These should be to the same pattern as that in the office, also painted green.

2 brass candlesticks, historic or reproduction:

These may be any plain **mid-nineteenth** century pattern.

1 decanter, historic or reproduction:

This should resemble those in the mess hall, and be half **filled** with brandy.

2 tumblers, historic or reproduction:

To match those in the mess hall.

1 bookcase, reproduction country-made:

This should be a reproduction of the Tolmie bookcase, figure 10, with solid panel doors substituted for the glass doors on the bottom cupboard portion. This piece will be the full size of the Tolmie bookcase, with the base 150 cm. wide by 40 cm. deep, by 75 cm. tall, and the overall height 210 cm., with the top portion 24 cm. deep. This piece will be constructed of Douglas fir, and painted white, as the original is. The bookcase will function both in that role and as a dresser for Yale's dishes. Nominally the locked bottom would also hold the fort's medicines.

24 books, historic or reproduction:

As noted earlier, Yale went from "Deficient in Education" in 1832 to "well-educated" in 1858. Presumably much of this amelioration was due to reading.. A substantial stock of books was normally maintained at the depots, sent out from England. In 1852 a "considerable number" of books were put on board a ship to Fort Victoria for the use of the passengers, after which "they are to be added to those sent by the Tory for general use at the **Fort.**"<sup>7</sup> A large percentage of the books sent out were self-help,

inspirational, or histories of one sort or another. W.F. Tolmie purchased a copy of "**Hume & Smolletts Histry**" for James Douglas and one of "Robinson Crusoe" for Angus McDonald on his trip to England in 1841-1842.8 Three volumes of "**Hume & Smollett**" are in **the** Fort Langley collection, with H.B.C. and Fort Langley provenance (LL 58.1061, LL 66.X36.31, and LL 66.X36.321). It is recommended that a full six volume set of this **work be** among **the books in the case, although a 'dummy'** set would be acceptable.

Another two volumes in **the** Langley collection, LL 66.X36.33 and LL 66.X36.34, have H.B.C. and Langley provenance. These are two volumes of a four volume set, which would also, in historic or reproduction form, be appropriate for display in the bookcase. The rest of the **books** could be any English-produced contemporary works.

Dinnerware, historic or current manufacture:

This will be a more basic assortment than in the Newtons' quarters. As Yale **sent** his daughters off at an early age, and had no wife, his meals would have been taken in **the** mess hall, and normally his dining area would have been unused, except, presumably, when his daughters were visiting. It is therefore proposed to supply his quarters with a basic setting for 4. The ceramics will all be blue on white transfer printed **Spode/Copeland** earthenware, of one of the patterns discussed for **the** mess hall furnishings. The individual pieces will **be as** follows:

- 4 dinner plates
- 4 dessert plates
- 4 soup plates
- 4 cups and **saucers**
- 1 serving platter
- 1 covered vegetable dish
- 4 **forbuck** knives and forks
- 4 Britannia metal tablespoons
- 4 Britannia metal teaspoons
- 1 cut glass decanter, as in the mess hall
- 4 wine glasses, as in the mess hall.

These items will simply be stacked on the bottom shelf .in the top of the bookcase, with the cutlery in a simple country-made tray. The decanter and wine glasses will be grouped to one end of **the** shelf.

2 sofas, reproduction country-made

These **will** be built to the same pattern as that in the Newtons' parlour, but **will** be "**cloth-covered**" as some of the Fort Vancouver examples, using the "navy blue cotton" available in the sale shop.<sup>8</sup> The seat and a panel on the back should be padded and upholstered with this material, leaving the arms and legs exposed, and painted Spanish brown.

1 black bear skin:

To emphasize Yale's interest in hunting, a large skin used as a rug on the floor. This should be "country-tanned", without any fancy mounts or embellishments.

1 table, reproduction country-made:

Placed on the bear skin, this will represent an occasional table. It **will** follow the construction of the **other** examples, be 75 by 75 cm and **75** cm tall, and have a blue baize cover. . .

2 tumblers, historic or reproduction:

These should match those in the mess hall. They should be displayed "dirty", as though used and not yet washed.

2 ale bottles, reproduction:

Although Yale was described by Tod as temperate, he received "1 Keg" on private account in 1842.<sup>18</sup> Fourteen years later, he purchased "**1 Case Ale**" from the Ft. Victoria sale **shop**.<sup>11</sup> This would suggest that an occasional glass of ale was consumed by himself or his guests. The two bottles are to represent this, and should be displayed opened and empty, in conjunction with the tumblers. These should be 1 quart bottles. Normally Bass and **Alsopp** supplied the H.B.C. with ale, but in 1858 this item was among those purchased in San Francisco. However, it was likely English ale supplied by the wholesalers in that city.

Newspapers and Journals, reproduction:

In the 1858 period, the depot of Victoria was receiving journals both directly from England and, more commonly from their main San Francisco supplier. The items most commonly, sent from San Francisco to Victoria were Blackwood's Magazine and the "European Times", or London Times.<sup>12</sup> These papers were often forwarded onto Fort Langley after being read at Victoria. Douglas wrote to Yale in 1857: "I send you herewith a few late

English papers."<sup>13</sup> As noted earlier, August **Kautz** amused himself at Fort Langley reading the papers, as well as socializing with Yale. This 'lounge' area will be an appropriate one to include these items in. These journals should be primarily London Times, Blackwood's Magazines, and possibly Victoria Gazettes. They should have a "well-read" look.

Smoking equipment, historic and reproduction:

Such an area would be incomplete without smoking paraphernalia, "to share a pipe". It is suggested that the container for these articles be one of the model Indian canoes in the Langley collection, LL 61.14.1. This will contain reproduction plugs of tobacco, some cut up, a clasp knife for cutting tobacco, and 4 reproduction 9 inch clay pipes, which should all look used.

1 footstool, historic:

It is recommended that the country-made **footstool** attributed to James Douglas in the Fort Langley **collection**, LL61.42.1 be used in this location.

2 arm chairs, reproduction country-made:

These should be constructed to match those in the Newton parlour, but upholstered with navy blue cotton to match the sofas. When the Whitman party arrived at Fort **Walla Walla** in 1836 they "were comfortably seated in cushioned arm chairs" by Pierre **Pambrum**, the clerk in charge, who was a former **colleague** of **Yale's** in New **Caledonia**.<sup>14</sup>

Yale bedroom 1

This room will be furnished to represent Yale's own bedroom. It will again reflect the austere nature of the man. This room will be kept as a display area, with the current barrier mounted in the doorway. A curtain **will** be fitted to the window of the room, but the walls and floor will remain as they are.

In the corner of walls Y and **Z** will be placed a trade musket, and south of this on wall **Z** a small table, with a blue baize cover, and an associated chair. On this table will be placed a tin candlestick, a book, a teapot, and smoking equipment. **Centred** with its head against wall Z will be a bed, furnished with mattresses, sheets, and blankets. At the foot of the bed will be placed a trunk. On the floor between the bed and wall Y will be placed a small black bear skin.

A lynx skin will be placed on the floor between the trunk and wall BB. Against wall Z between the bed and wall AA will be placed a washstand, with a jug and basin, soap and holder, and open shaving box on top of it. Between this and wall AA will be placed a towel horse, with two towels hung on it. Hung from wall Z over the table will be two Northwest Coast Indian masks, and over the bed will be a large engraving of a hunting scene.

Under the window will be placed a cassette, and to the west end of wall AA a chest of drawers. On top of this will be placed a brass chamberstick. Hanging from wall BB will be a rack of antlers. Set on the floor against wall Y will be a large, covered Salllh basket.

Summary of articles for Yale bedroom 1:

1 set of curtains, reproduction:

These will be made of the navy blue cotton already noted as available in the Langley sale shop, to a very simple pattern. A pair of country-made iron brackets will carry a wooden rod. The curtains **will be** hung from this with iron rings, as in **figure 35**. The curtains will only be window length. The simplified form **and** lack of a valance will differentiate these from the Newtons' curtains.

1 H.B.C. trade musket, historic or reproduction:

This should represent Yale's old hunting weapon, outmoded by the new gun in the **parlour but** still kept. It should be an early style weapon, a **flintlock** with a "**swans** neck" hammer, as opposed to the later pierced hammer style. This weapon should look extensively used but well cared for. It should be accompanied by a powder horn and beaded shot pouch. All three items should look about thirty years old.

1 table, reproduction country-made:

This will be a table to the standard pattern, 60 by 60 cm., and 75 cm. tall, with a blue baize cover.

1 side chair, historic:

This will be one of the country-made side chairs in the Langley collection with Fort Langley provenance, LL 58.53.1. The original pieces will be used in Yale's quarters to make their older appearance fit in more naturally.

1 tin candlestick, reproduction:

To the same pattern as the others throughout the building.

1 book, historic or reproduction:

A history book similar to those in the parlour bookcase placed to represent bedtime reading material.

1 teapot, cup and saucer, historic or reproduction:

A block tin teapot to match that in the mess hall, and cup and **saucer** to match those in Yale's parlour.

Smoking equipment, historic and reproduction:

A small **Haida** argilite tray will be furnished with Yale's personal tobacco and pipes, to the same pattern as the material in Newton bedroom 2.

1 bed, reproduction country-made:

This will be a reproduction of the Helmcken bed adapted for a plank bottom, to full scale (figures 19 and 31). Helmcken slept in this bed for almost 70 years, until his death **in 1920**, so it was definitely acceptable for a man of Yale's status. The bed should be constructed of Douglas fir and painted Spanish brown.

1 straw, 1 feather mattress, 2 pillows, reproduction:

These should match the mattresses and pillows in Newton bedroom 2.

Sheets and pillow-cases, reproduction:

To match those in Newton bedroom 2.

4 blankets, reproduction:

To represent **Yale's** more basic bachelor taste, one of the blankets will be used in place **of** the counterpane used on the Newton's bed. All of these **blankets** should be H.B.C. point blankets, with the lower 3 plain, or white, and the top one blue, to match Yale's livery. Blue was chosen for this on the assumption that Yale was responsible for choosing the blue stroud table-covers noted in the mess hall, indicating a **colour** preference.

1 trunk, historic:

This will be the trunk attributed to Yale, LL 59.9.4. As with the chair, its current level of wear is appropriate to Yale's length of service in the fur trade. This piece will require conservation prior to installation.

1 black bear skin:

This should be a smaller version of that in the Yale parlour, again emphasizing the hunting interest.

1 lynx skin:

As above, a hunter's floor covering.

1 wash stand, reproduction country-made:

To the same pattern as that in Newton bedroom 2, but painted Spanish **brown**.

1 earthenware water jug, historic or current manufacture:

To **the** same pattern as **those** in **the** Newton bedrooms.

1 earthenware wash basin, historic or current manufacture:

To the same pattern as that in Newton bedroom 2.

1 shaving box, historic or reproduction:

These items were available from the Fort Langley sale shop in the **1850s**.<sup>15</sup> In the Columbia requisitions, these items were ordered from England in both "**large**" and "**smaller** size", "complete with glass and **Brush**."<sup>16</sup> In essence, these were a simplified **version** of the dressing cases, which were normally private orders. An example of a shaving **box** "with glass" is in the Fort Vancouver collection (figure 221, and may serve as a prototype for this piece. It should be equipped with a cup, brush, and razor, and the case should be **rosewood** or mahogany. This box should **be** displayed in the open position, displaying the mirror and contents.

1 soapholder with soap, reproduction:

A small **Haida argilite** dish would provide a suitable holder. The soap should match that in Newton bedroom 2.

1 towel horse, reproduction country-made:

This should match that in Newton bedroom 2, but painted Spanish brown.

2 towels, reproduction:

Huckabuck was available in the Langley sale shop, and will be used here to reinforce **the** cultural distinction between Yale and the Newtons (see towels, Newton bedroom 2).

2 Northwest Coast Indian masks, historic:

**These** will be two masks from the Langley collection, LL 64.55.23 and LL 64.55.24. These will illustrate Yale's interest in curios, as already noted.

1 large engraving, historic Or reproduction:

This should be a large piece illustrating a hunting scene, preferably with dogs, to suggest a number of Yale's interests. It should be mounted in a country-made frame, as discussed in the mess hall section.

1 cassette, historic:

This will be the John Work cassette in the Langley collection, LL 61.34.1. The obvious age of this piece will relate well to Yale's more than 40 years in the fur trade, as a cassette would have been one of his first articles of furniture. This piece should have some conservation prior to installation.

1 chest of drawers, reproduction country-made:

To match that in Newton bedroom 2, painted Spanish brown.

1 brass chamberstick, historic or reproduction:

To a simple pattern.

1 rack of elk antlers:

Again to illustrate hunting prowess. They should be mounted with the plain skull bone, as in figure 6.

1 large covered **Salish** basket, historic or current manufacture:

This item will serve as a clothes bag, as well as illustrating Yale's associations with the Indians. Potentially a legacy of one of his Indian women.

Yale bedroom 2:

This room will be furnished largely in the style of a Company-supplied bedroom, as Newton bedroom 1. Some elaboration will be shown due to the fact that Yale's daughter **Bella** was resident at Fort Langley until the early spring of 1858, while her husband, George Simpson, was working further up the Fraser River. However, for most of the year this room would have been a spare bedroom, available for traveling H.B.C. gentlemen or other guests of the Company.

This room will not have public access, so the present barrier system **will** be retained. The floor will be bare, but curtains to match those in Yale bedroom 1 will be on the window, to suggest the former occupancy of Yale's daughter.

The major furnishings of the room will be arranged along wall DD. From the north there will first be a small table with an associated side chair. On the table will be a tin candlestick. A bed will be **centred** with its head against wall DD, with an Indian mat placed on its bottom planks. Between the bed and wall EE will be placed a washstand, with an earthenware jug and basin. Arranged in the corner of walls EE and FF **will** be a cassette, and a leather bound trunk.

#### Summary of articles for Yale bedroom 2:

1 set of curtains, reproduction:

These will match those in Yale bedroom 1.

1 table, reproduction country-made:

This will be a standard small table, 60 by 60 cm. and 75 cm. tall, made of fir and painted Spanish brown, without a cover.

1 side chair, historic:

This will be the other original, Fort Langley country-made chair, LL **58.53.2**, for the reason outlined in Yale bedroom L

1 tin candlestick, reproduction:

To match the others in the building.

1 wooden bed, reproduction country-made:

To match the one in Yale bedroom L This bedroom presumably would have served all 3 of Yale's daughters at one time, and a large bed such as this would have been considered adequate at that time for them.

1 Indian mat, reproduction:

Following the discussion of Newton bedroom 1, blankets for the bed were provided when the guest arrived. The mat should match that in Newton bedroom L

1 washstand, reproduction country-made:

To match that in Yale bedroom 1; another elaboration to show the legacy of family residence, compared to Newton bedroom 1.

1 earthenware water jug, historic **or reproduction:**

To match that in Yale bedroom 1.

1 earthenware wash basin, historic or reproduction:

To match that in Yale bedroom 1; again a left-over nicety.

1 cassette, reproduction:

This will again be reproduced from LL 61.34.1, and painted Spanish **brown**.

1 leather covered trunk, historic:

Although not noted historically, leather covered trunks remain in several collections with H.B.C. provenance, including the ex-William Charles example in the Langley collection (LL.61.26.1). This could represent either one of Yale's storage trunks, or one left at Langley for safekeeping. This piece will require conservation prior to installation.

## Notes

As suggested, **the** overall effect of this apartment should reflect the environment of a man, who while relatively well-off, had been “in **the** haunts of **the** savage” since his adolescence **more** than forty years previously.

The apartment may **be** left as furnished for most of the year. When it is wished to interpret the presence of guests, as in July with **the** brigades, the discussion in **the** “notes” for the Newtons' quarters applies equally well.

## The Second Storey

The second storey of the Big House probably served as transient housing in 1858. It is proposed that this area be set up to represent this role, which would involve minimal furnishing. Two descriptions exist of the conditions greeting guests of Yale and Newton, not actually connected with the H.B.C. The first of these was written by Walter **Moberly**, stationed at Queensborough in March 1859:

I go up to Fort Langley occasionally and spend my time at the H.B.C. Fort where there is all a set of nice fellows. It is comparatively speaking very comfortable, but we have to sleep in our own blankets on the **floor**. In this country everybody carries his blankets with him, or else has to go without, which is not pleasant.<sup>1</sup>

When A.T. **Bushby** set out from Victoria for Fort Langley in the same month:

Begbie & I assisted by Main shouldered our blankets & a little carpet back (sic: for bag?) and stowed ourselves away on **board...**<sup>2</sup>

On March 12, 1859, **Bushby** stayed at Fort Langley:

. ..had a good supper at the Fort and turned in on the boards & **blankets...**<sup>3</sup>

Both of these men, as colonial officials, were entertained in the Big House, and presumably slept there as well, as guests of the H.B.C., so it may be assumed that their accommodations were typical.

The second storey is constructed with one large central hall extending across **the** structure, and six nominal 'sleeping **rooms**', three of which are available for display purposes. The furnishing of all these rooms should be minimal. It is recommended that the large central room be left as an open hall, to represent its availability for storage, sleeping, or any other function demanding a large room.

These **rooms** should not have any paint, floor coverings, or curtains, but remain as they presently are. It is recommended that only few pieces of country-made furniture be installed in the central room, to represent old pieces moved upstairs to meet **the** simple needs of transients. One grouping is suggested; one table without cover, two chairs, and two benches. The table will have two tin candlesticks, a **tin washbasin and earthenware** jug placed on it.

It is recommended that just one sleeping room have furnishings placed in it. These furnishings should represent those noted historically for Fort Langley visitors. It is suggested that the furnishings consist of one roll of blankets and one carpet bag set on the floor, and next to them a country-made chair with a coat and hat laid over it. The effect desired will be that of the kit a newly arrived visitor prior to arranging his bedroll and possessions for the night. It is suggested that the centre room at the eastern 'end of the building be furnished, and that a barrier such as those in the bedroom doorways downstairs be installed, to prevent public access. In both this room and the large room, the groupings may be placed in any location.

Summary of articles for the second storey:

1 table, reproduction country-made:

This should be identical to the mess hall tables downstairs, painted Spanish brown and without a table cover. This table should show many years of **use**, and be somewhat "rickety".

3 chairs, reproduction country-made:

As the mess hall chairs, reproduced from the historic chairs LL 58.53.1 and LL **58.53.2**, and painted Spanish brown. These should demonstrate the same sort of use as the table above.

2 benches, reproduction country-made:

To match those in the mess hall.

2 tin candlesticks, reproduction:

The same as those downstairs, but more worn.

1 tin washbasin, reproduction:

The same as that in Newton bedroom **1**, but more worn.

1 earthenware water jug, reproduction:

To the same pattern as those in the downstairs bedrooms.

1 roll of blankets, reproduction:

Even in 1858, the H.B.C. was still by far the main supplier of blankets in the area. It is recommended that this roll be comprised of 4 H.B.C. point

blankets, in any **colour**. They should be soiled and used looking. The roll may be fastened with twine.

1 carpet bag, historic or reproduction:

This will represent a travelling bag used by a middle class British immigrant, and should also show signs of use.

1 coat and hat, reproduction:

These items should be of the types sold in the H.B.C. sale shops. Those most common in the Fort Langley sale shop in 188 were “fine Light **Paletot** Coats” and “fine Cloth Caps”.<sup>4</sup> However, any appropriate functional coat and hat would be suitable.

## Endnotes

### Historical Analysis

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2. Dorothy Blakey Smith, editor, The Journal of Arthur Thomas Bushby 1858-1859, reprinted from British Columbia Historical Quarterly, January-October, 1957-1958, p. 143.
3. *ibid.*, p. 145.
4. Mary Cullen, Appendices, op. cit., p. 151.

Figure 1 - Detail of "Interior of Fort Langley Yard looking south shewing  
"The Hall", December 15, 1858, by Edward Mallandaine. P.A.B.C.  
pdp 3395. :

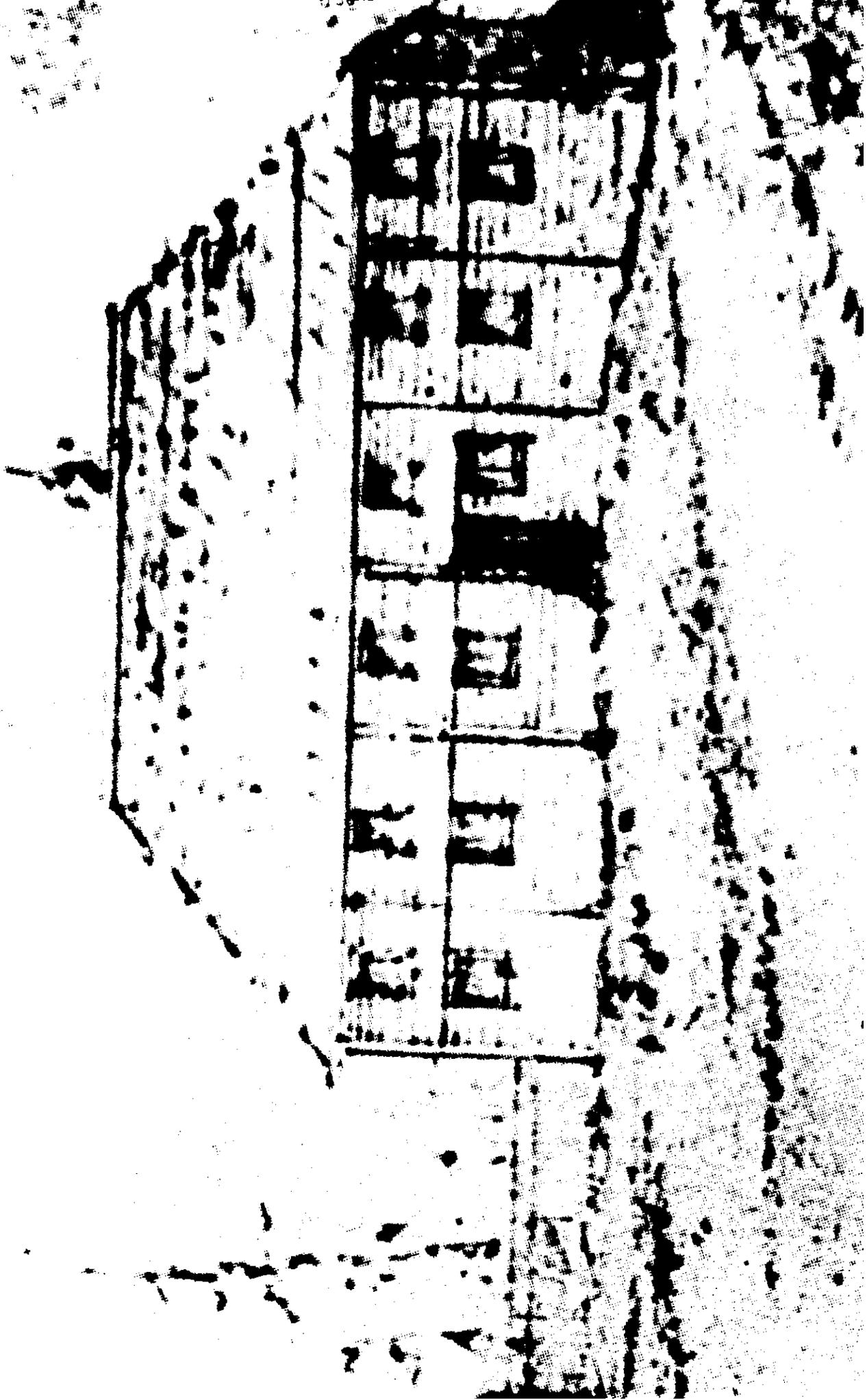


Figure 2 - Detail of "**New** Fort Lsngiey South View", showing the Big House, December **15, 1858**, by Edward **Mallandaine**. P.A.B.C. pdp 3396.



Figure 3 - Entrance of Structure A, c. 1860-1864, with clerk in charge  
W.H. Newton and Mrs. Newton. Fort **Langley** N.H.P. collection.

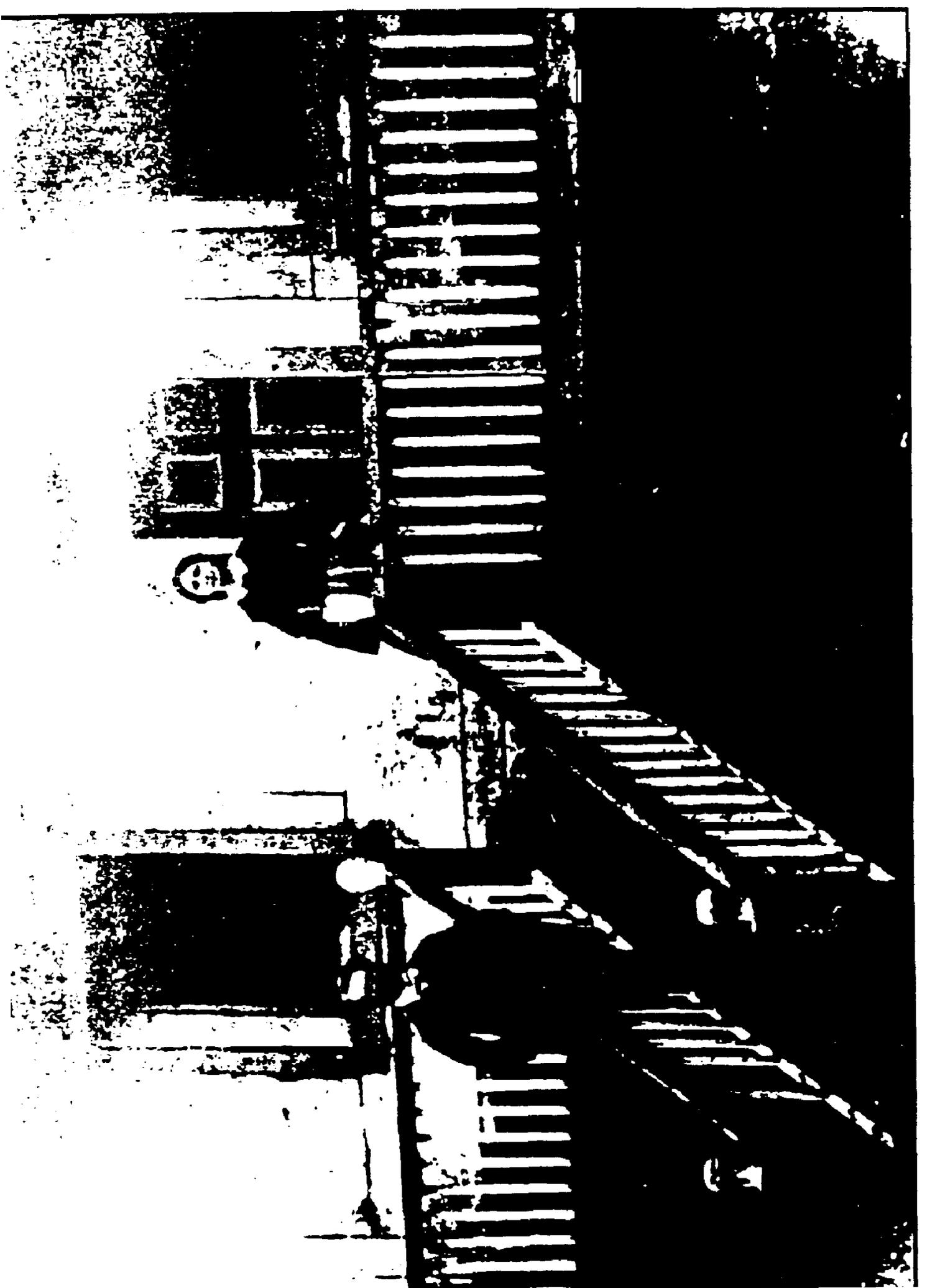


Figure 4 - Fort Langley from the west, 1867 or 1868, by Frederick Dally.  
P.A.B.C. photograph no. **11003.**



Figure 5 - **"Our Haircutter"**, 1878, by H. **Bullock** Webster, showing a residential **interior** in a New Caledonia H.B.C. post. From "Sketches of 'Hudson Bay Life'", U.B.C. Library, Special Collections.



Figure 6 • “A Hudsons Bay **Ball**”, **1870s**, by H. Bullock Webster, showing a public room in a residential structure, probably at Fort St. James. U.B.C. Library, Special Collection.



A Hudsons Bay Ball

Figure 7 - Country-made desk ~~from~~ **Fort** Vancouver, reputedly the property of the baker, Joseph **Petrain**. Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

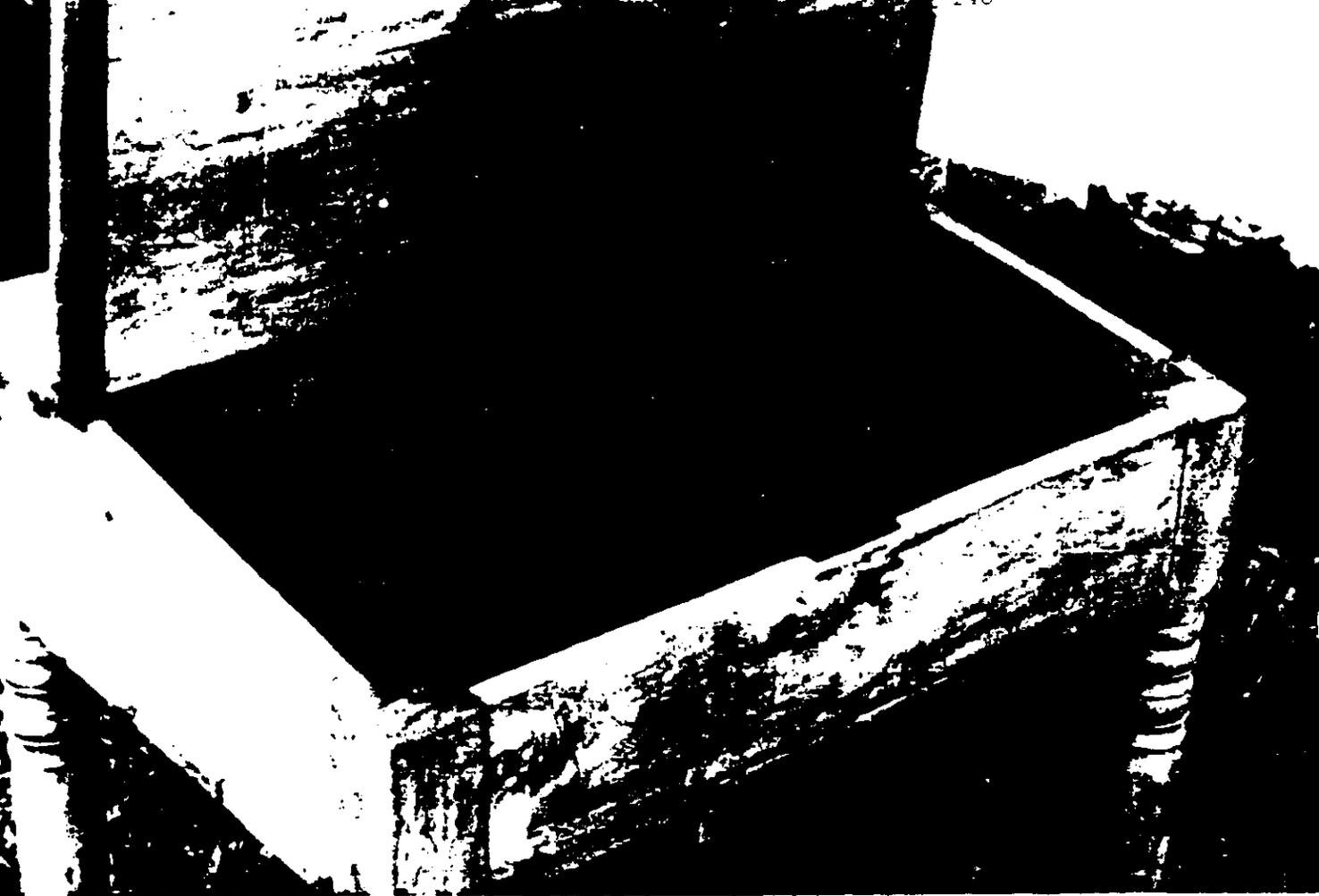
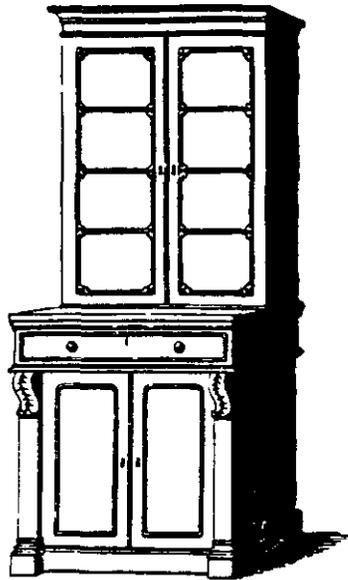
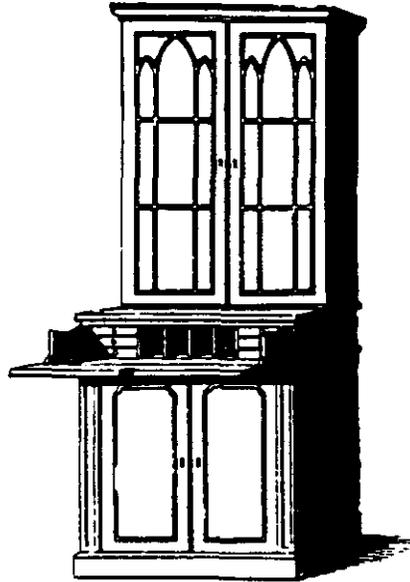


Figure 8 - Secretary designs from **Loudon's Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farmhouse and Villa Architecture and Furniture**, 1939, reprinted in **Loudon Furniture Designs**, Menston, S.R. Publishers Ltd., and **The Connoisseur**, 1970, p.11.

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578



580



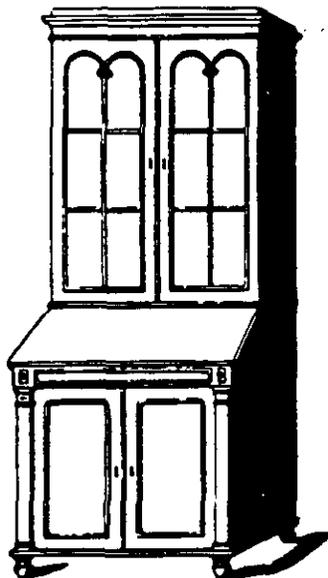
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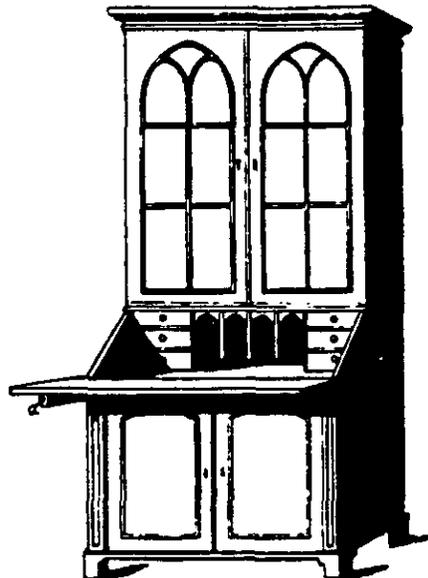


Figure 9 - Imported secretary, formerly at Fort Vancouver, in McLoughlin House, Oregon City.



Figure 10 - Country-made bookcase, 'formerly the property of Dr. William F. Tolmie. Port **Nisqually** Historic Site, Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma.



Figure 11 - Detail showing construction of bookcase doors in Helmcken House, Victoria; Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.

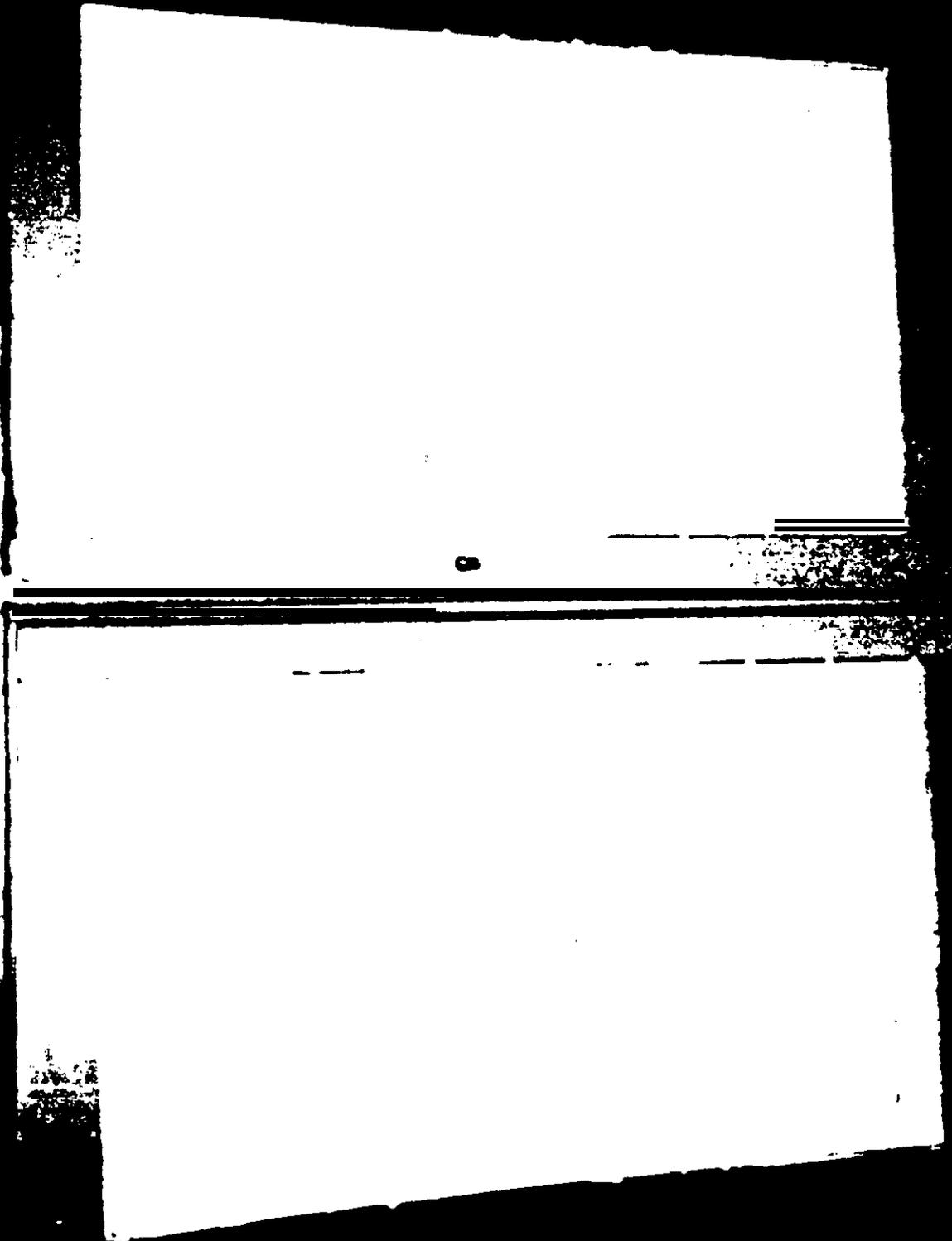
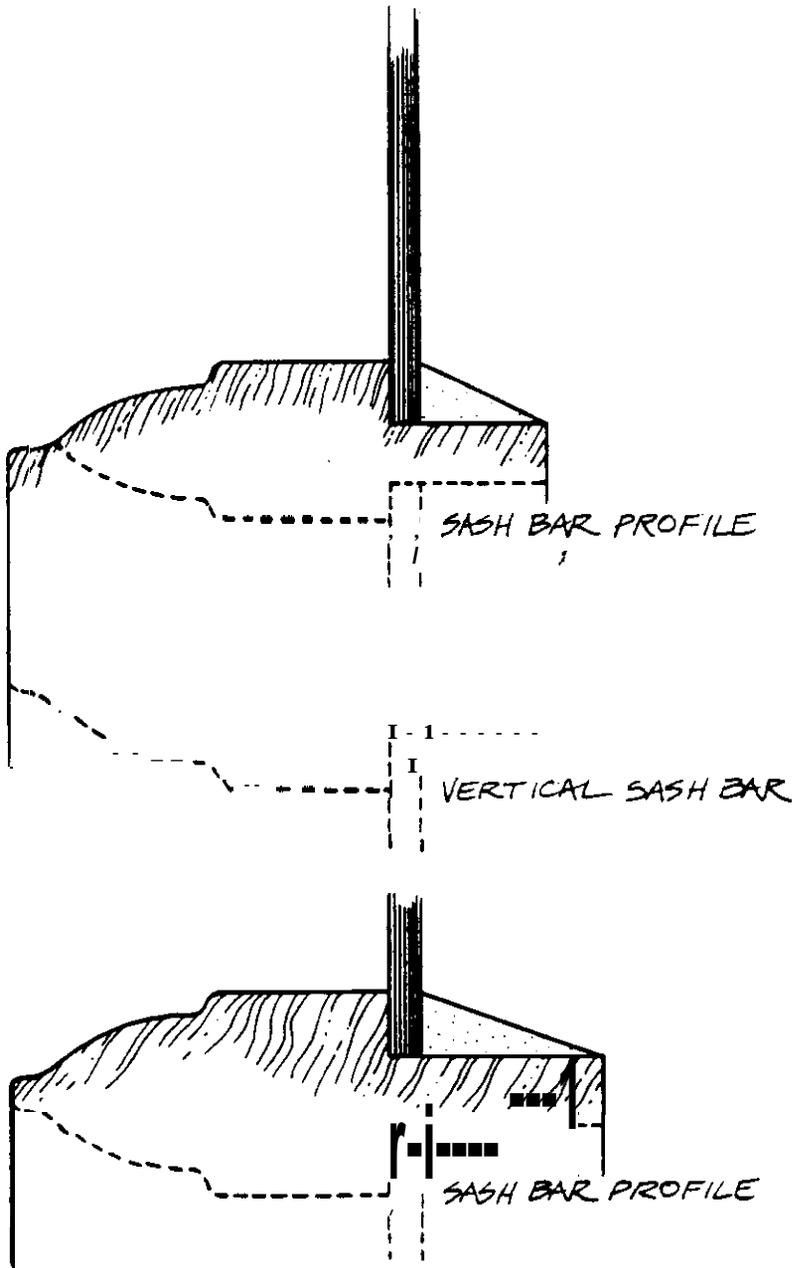
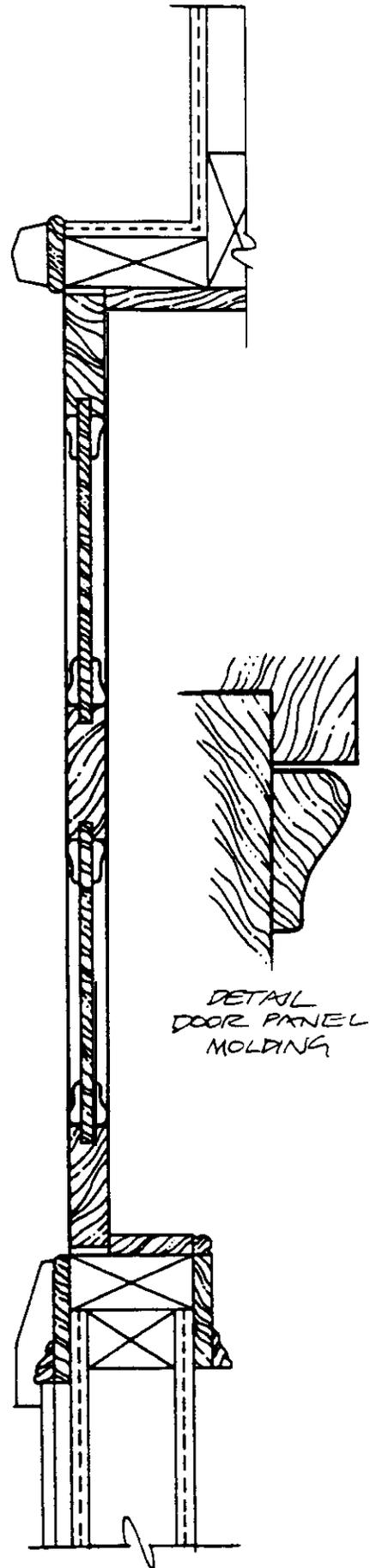


Figure 12 ■ Details of moulding and muntin profiles and door construction,  
from **Craigflower** Manor. P.A.B.C.



MUNTIN PROFILES, FULL SCALE



DOOR CONSTRUCTION

Figure 13 • Chair, country-made at Fort Langley. Fort Langley N.H.P.



Figure 14 - H.B.C. cassettes, from Fort Nisqually (top), and that formerly the property of John Work (bottom). Fort Nisqually Historic Site; Fort Langley N.H.P.

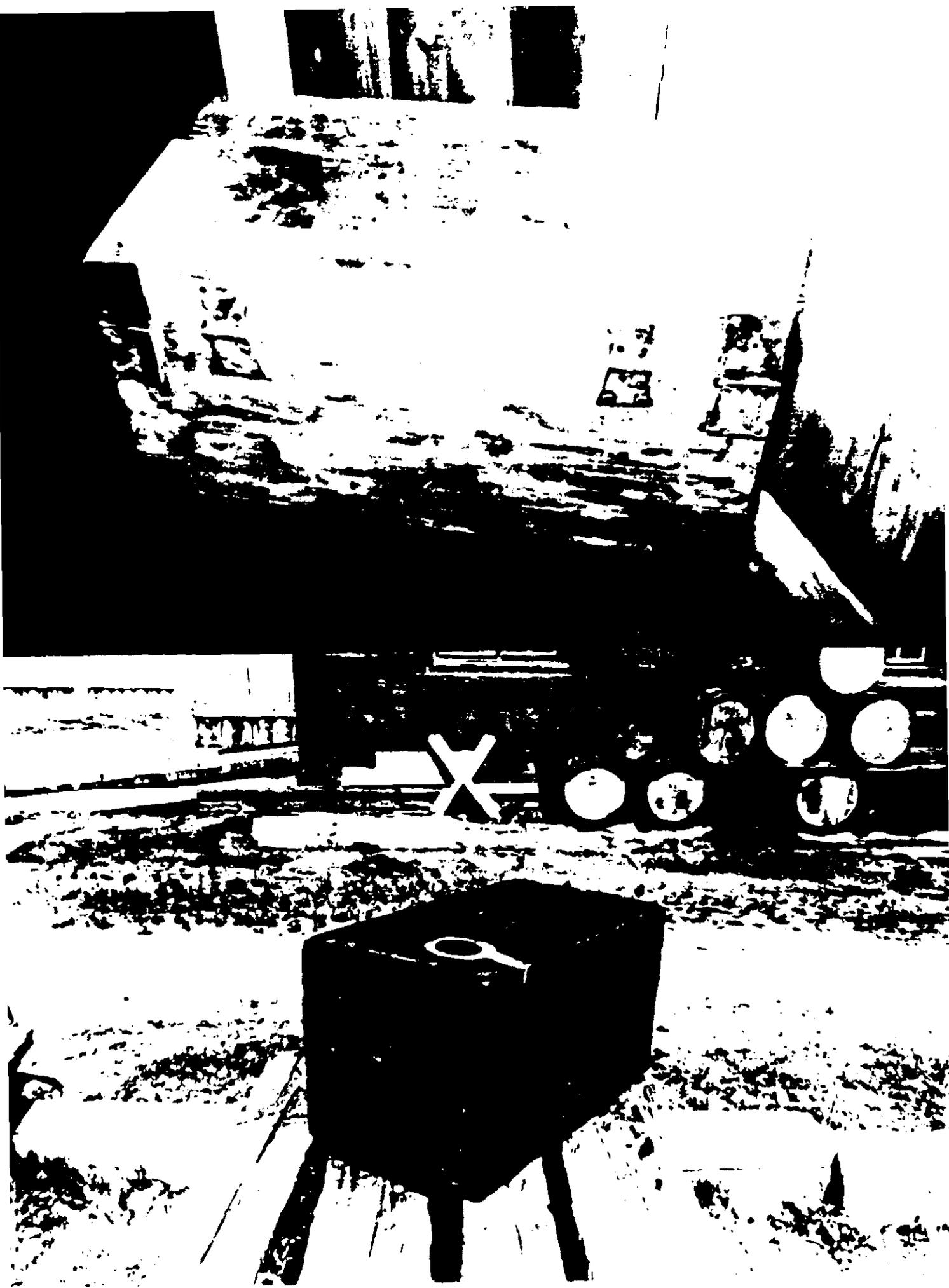


Figure 15 ■ Trunks with H.B.C. provenance, from Craigflower Manor (top), and that reputedly the former property of J.M. Yale, Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region; Fort Langley N.H.P.

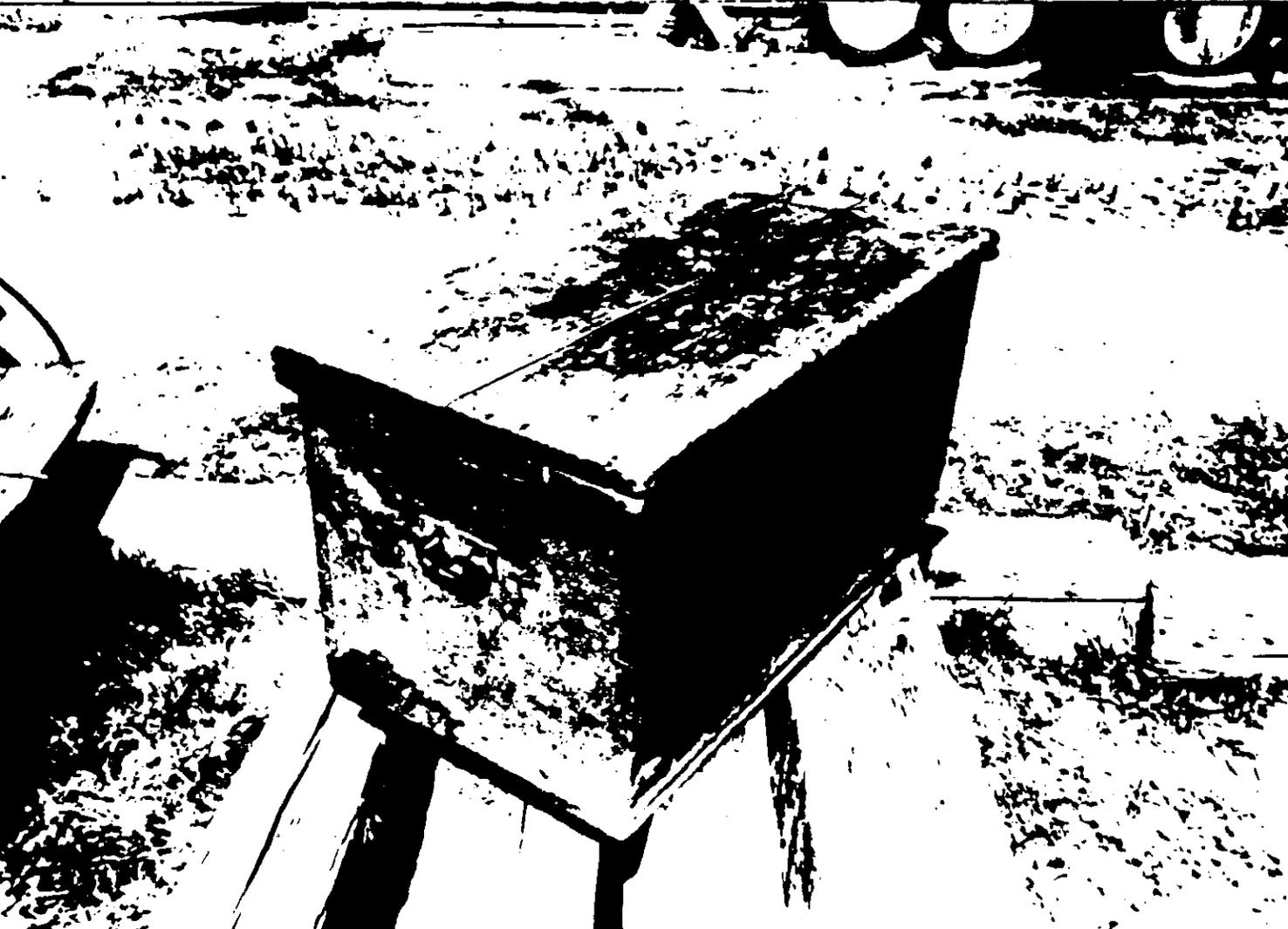
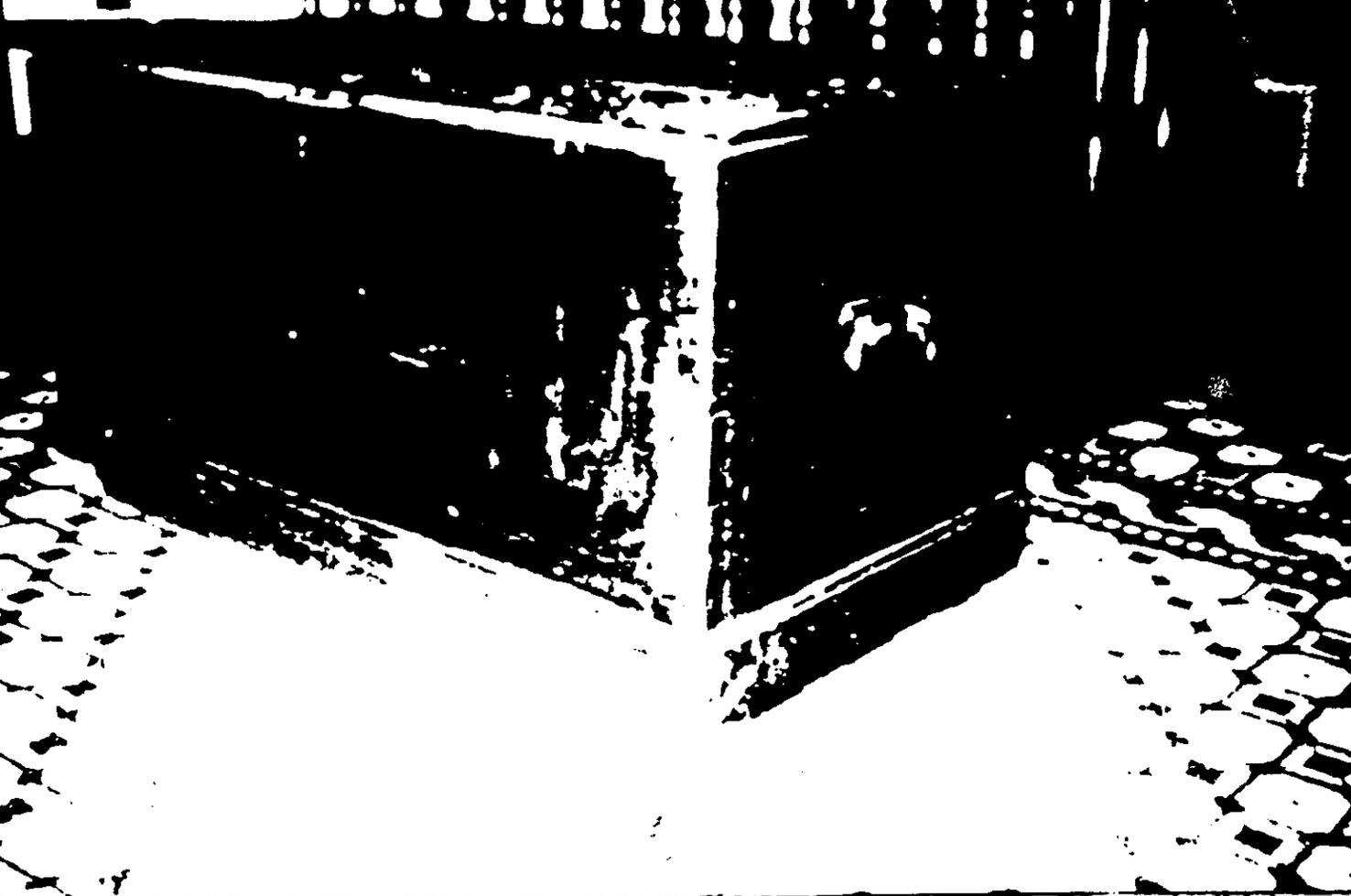
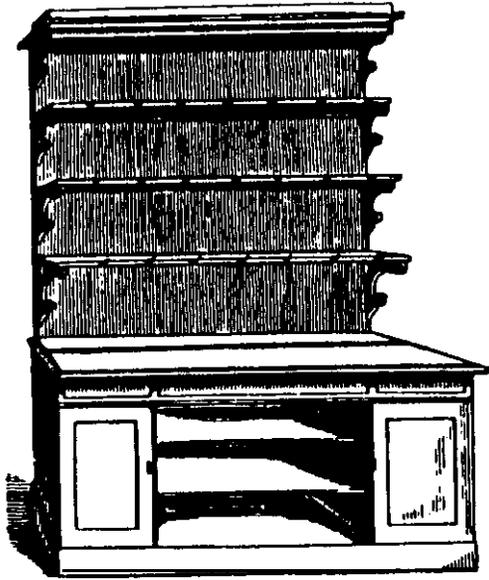


Figure 16 • Dish dresser designs from Loudon Furniture Designs, pp. 3-4.

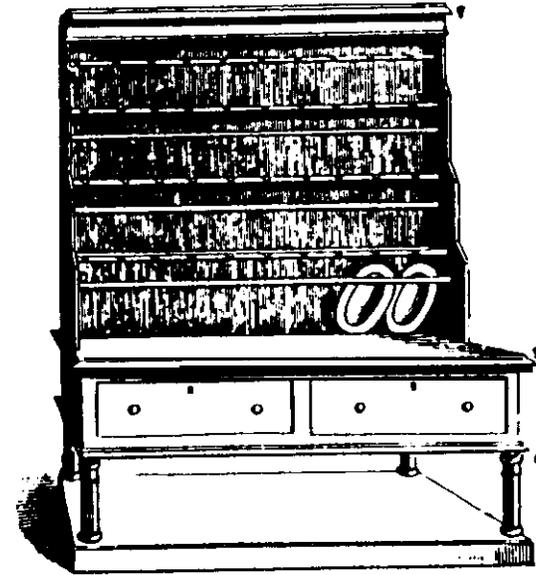
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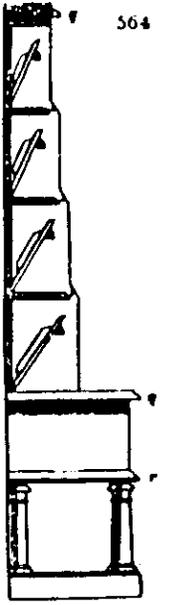
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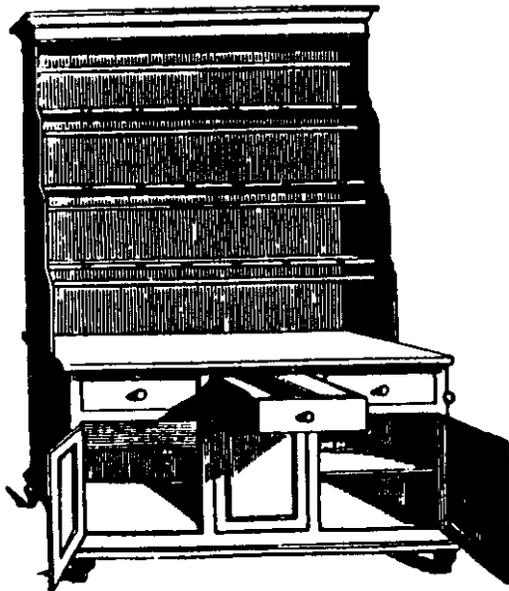
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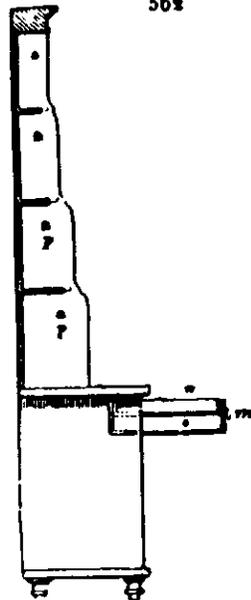
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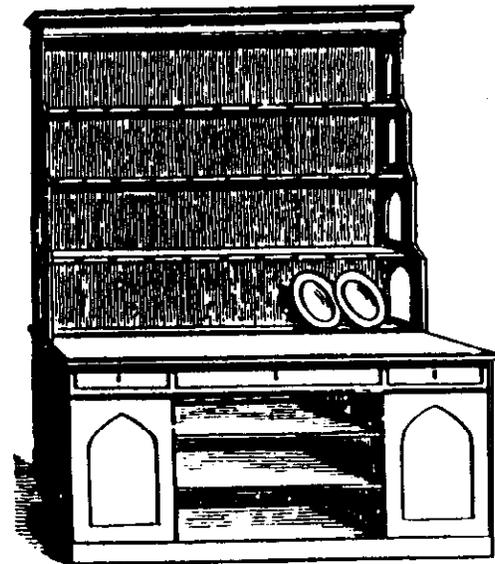
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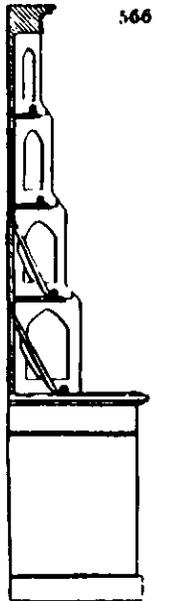


Figure 17 • Chest of drawers country-made at Fort Nisqually. Note construction, including blind dovetails on chest top and drawer fronts. Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma.



Figure 18b • Armchair country-made at Victoria, in the Helmcken House collection. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.

Figure 18c • Armchair country-made at the H.B.C. mill at Albert Head, in the Craigflower collection. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.

Figure 18a • Armchair country-made at Nanaimo, in the Nanaimo Centennial **Museum** collection. Note tablet top on back. Maple and fir construction. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.

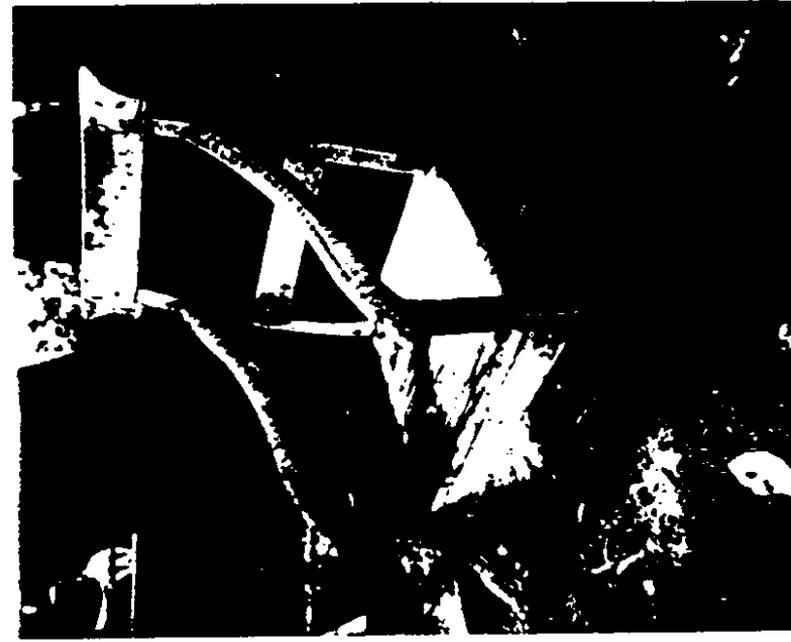


Figure 18a



Figure 18c

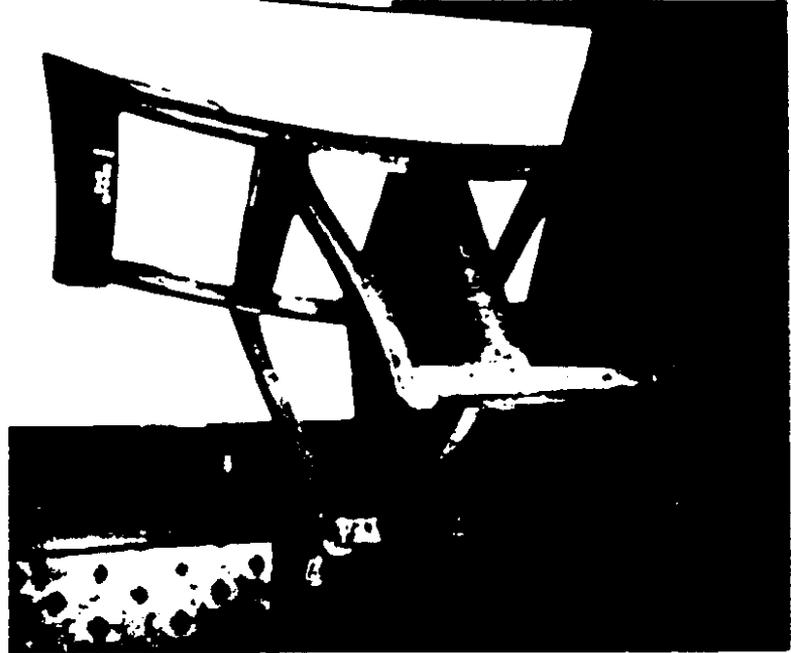


Figure 18b

Figure 19 \* **Bed**, country-made for Dr. Helmcken at Fort Victoria.  
Environment Canada, Parks, **Western** Region.

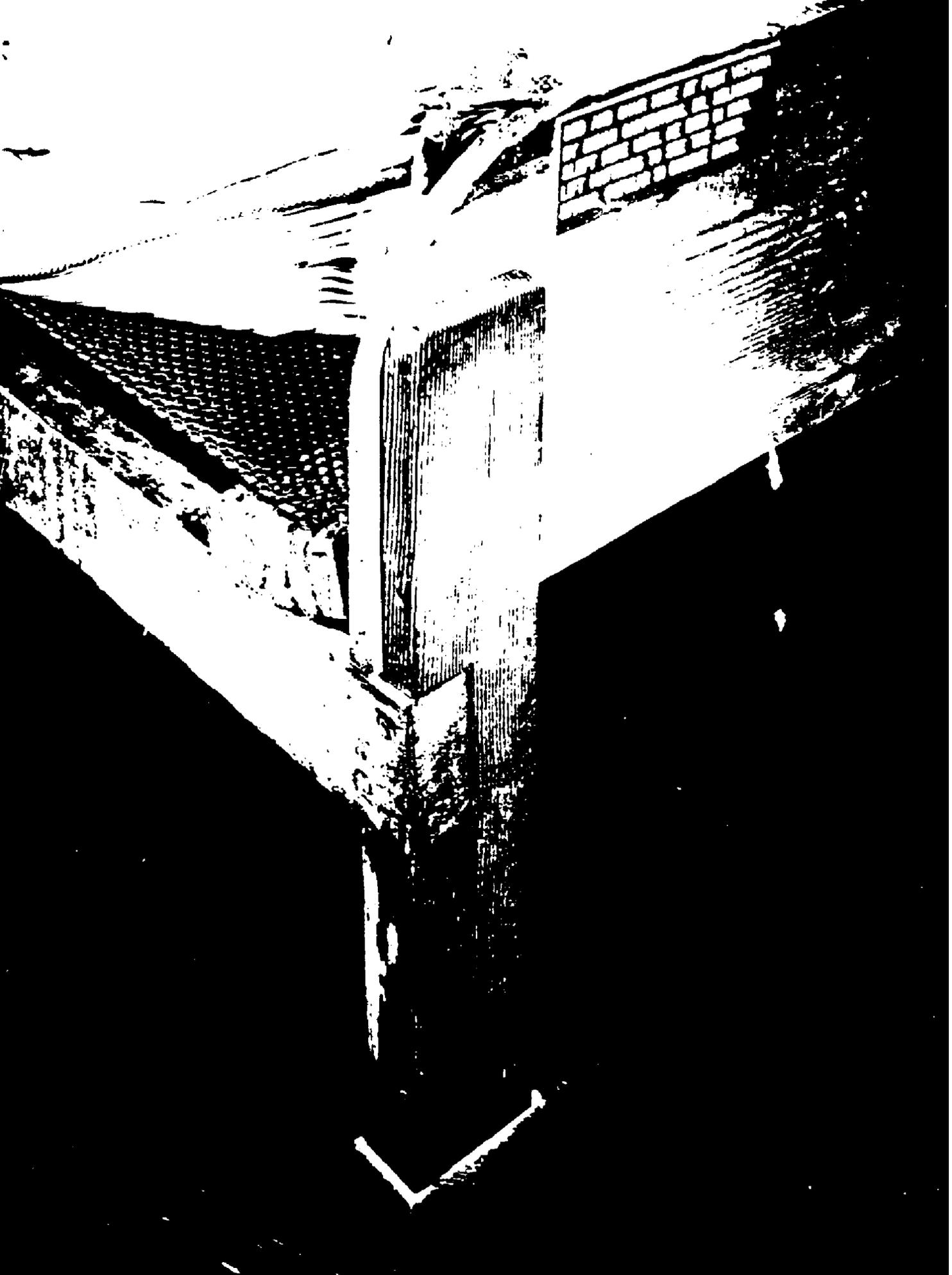


Figure 20 - Spodeware jug styles recovered from Fort Vancouver. From Lester **Ross**, Fort Vancouver, 1829-1860: A Historical **Archaeological** Investigation of the Goods Imported and Manufactured by the Hudson's Bay Company, Washington, D.C., U.S. National Park Service, 1976, pp. 520421.

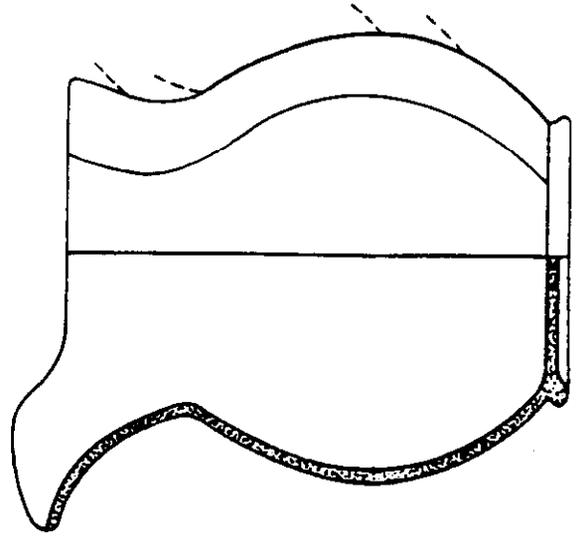
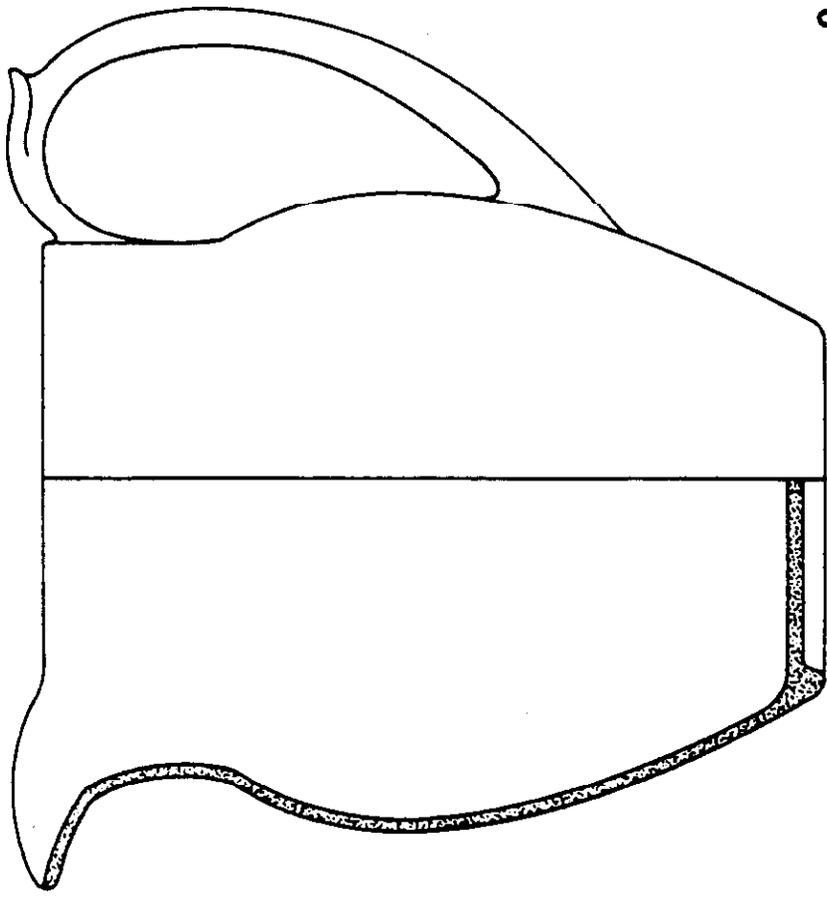
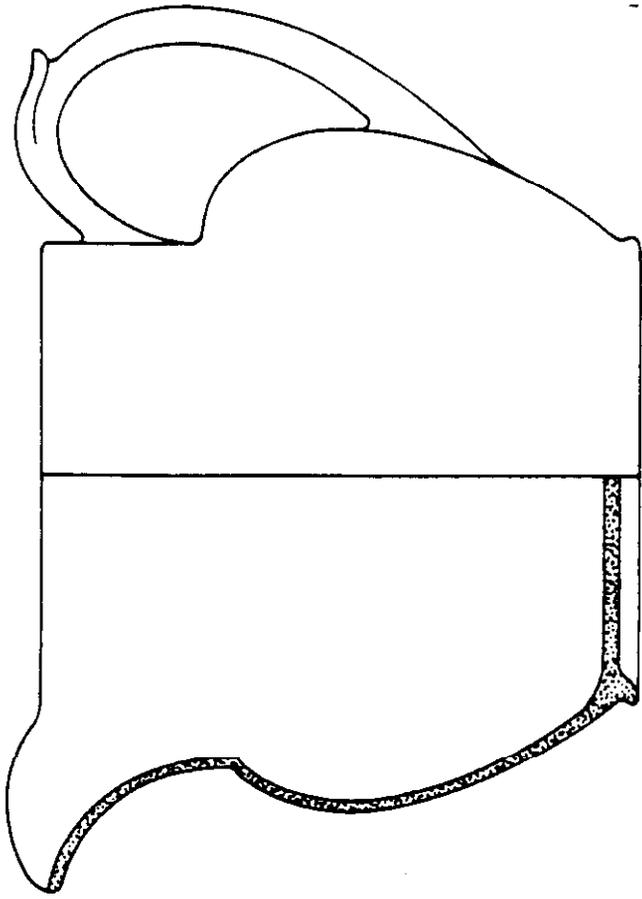


Figure 265.

Figure 264. Spodeware Style 1, "Dutch" jug (#659)

Spodeware jug styles from Fort Vancouver.

Figure 21 • “Eating the Xmas pudding” and “The effect next morning”, by H. Bullock **Webster**, showing the interior of H.B.C. servants’ quarters in New Caledonia in the **1870s**. U.B.C. Library, Special Collections.



Eating the Xmas partying



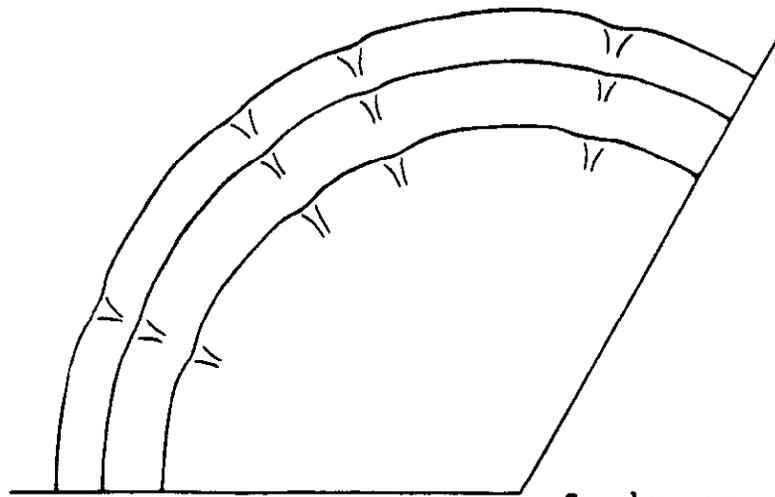
It all look next morning

Figure 22 • Historic mahogany **shaving** box in the Fort Vancouver National Historic **Site collection**, showing configuration appropriate to a shaving box **or dressing** case. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.

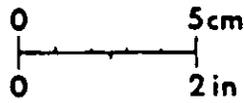
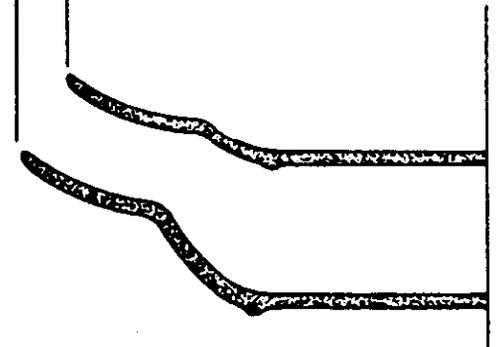
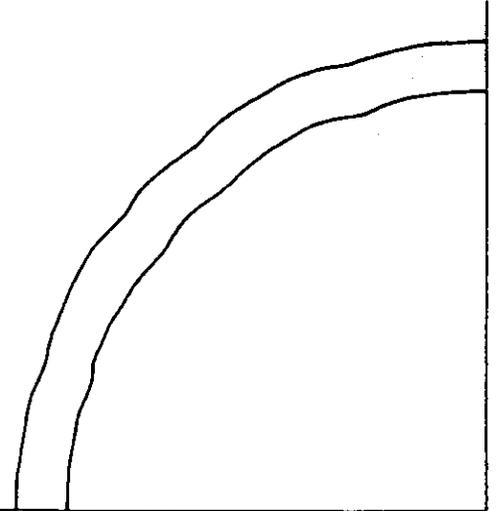
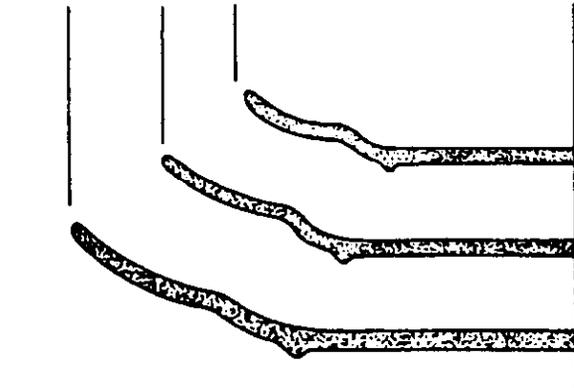
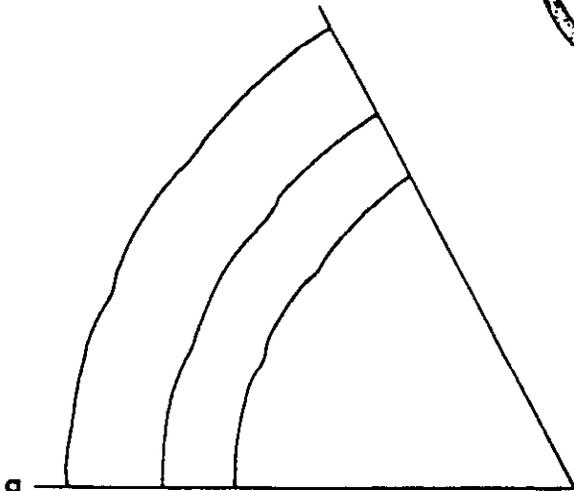
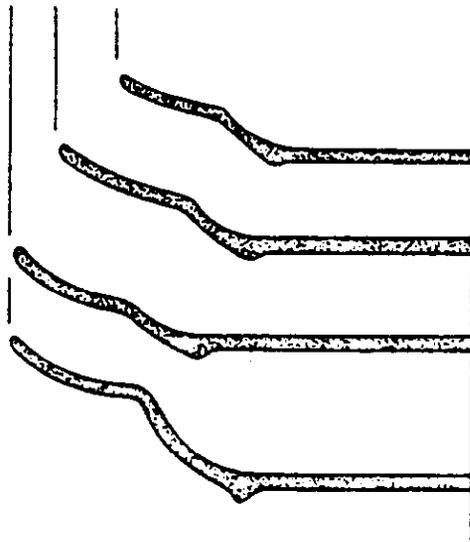


Figure 23 • Spodeware plate styles based on those recovered archaeologically at Fort Vancouver. From Lester Ross, Fort Vancouver, pp. 526-527.

Figure 268.



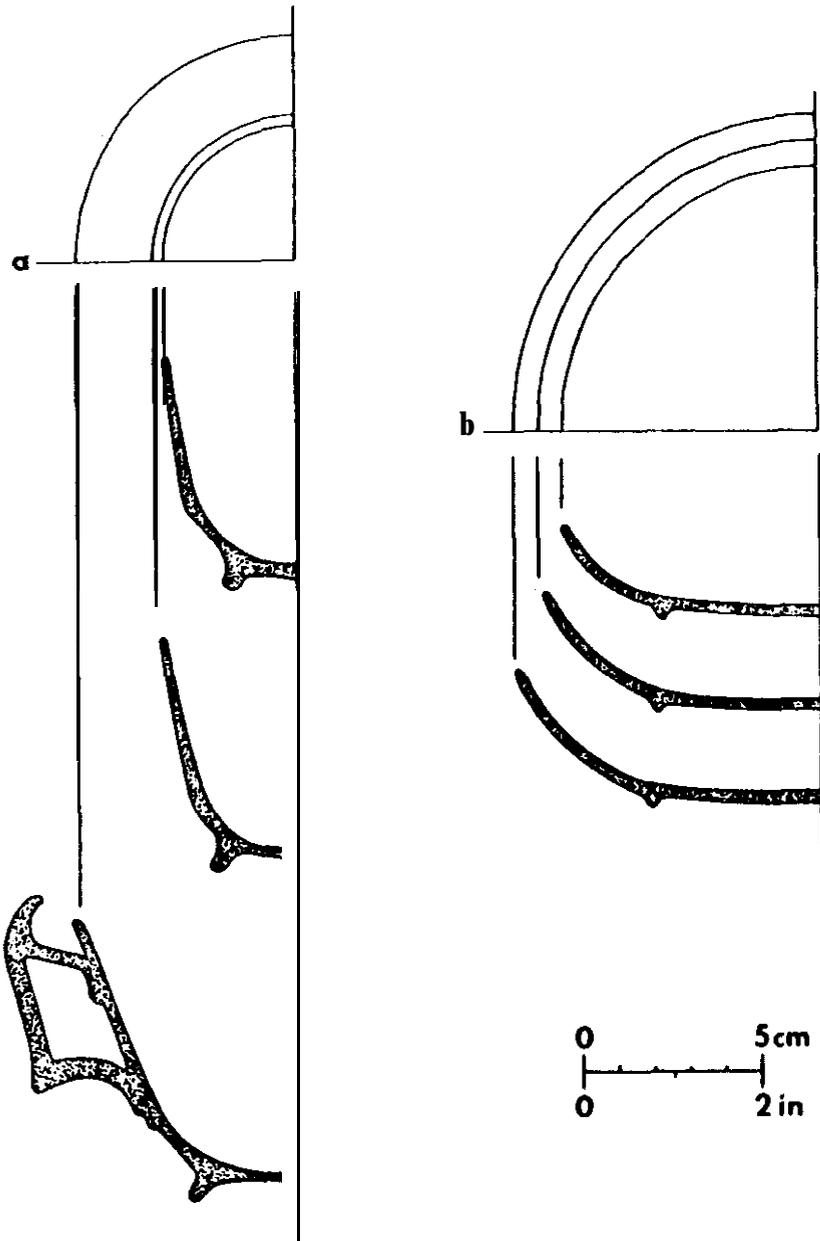
Spodeware Style 1 plate  
from Fort Vancouver  
(#10409, #329, #1797, #206)



Figure, 269. -- Spodeware plate styles from Fort Vancouver.

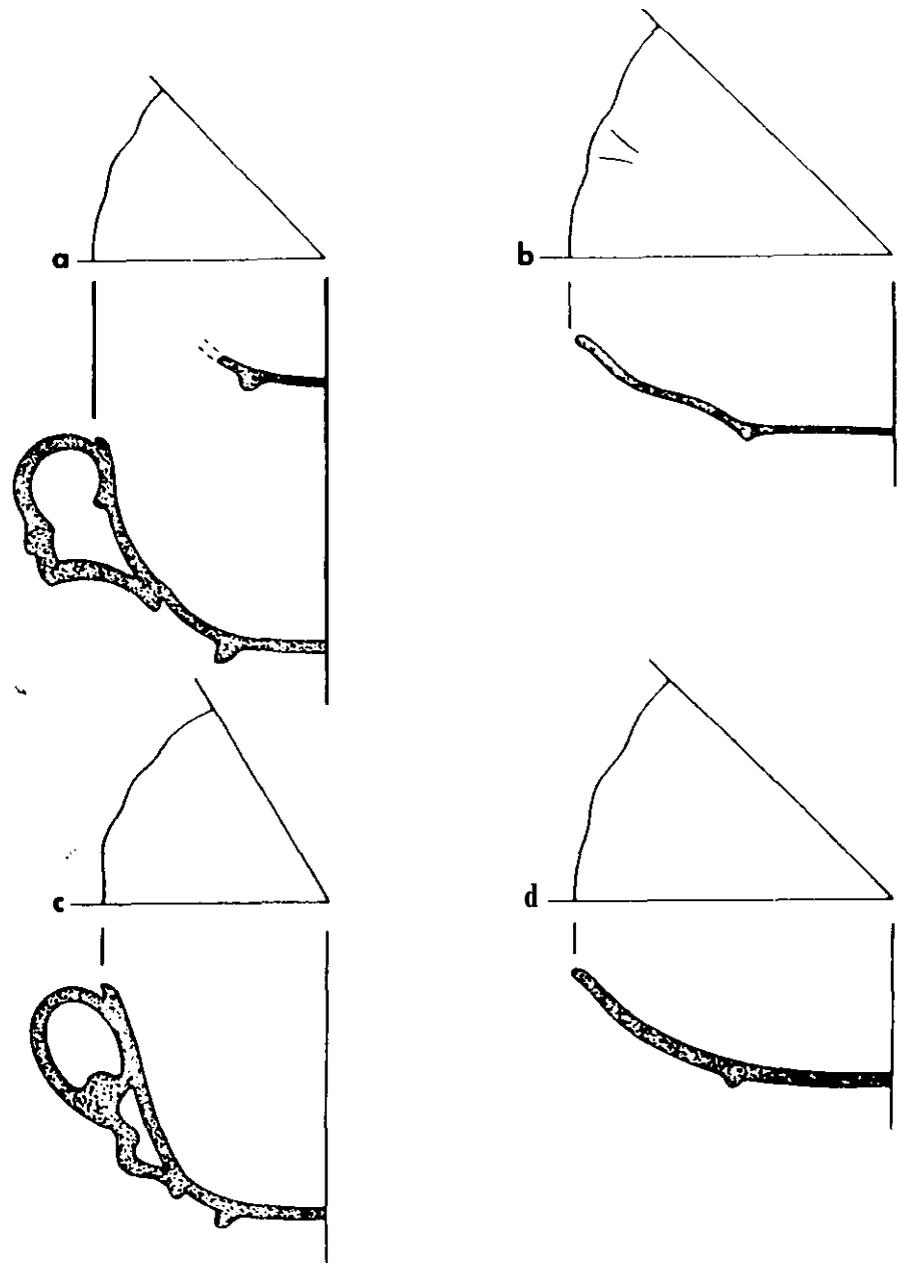
- a. Style 2 plates (X665, 1325, 12109).
- b. Style 3 plates (#642, #424).

Figure 24 • Spodeware cup and saucer styles recovered archaeologically from Fort Vancouver. From Lester Ross, Fort Vancouver, pp. 512-514.



**Figure 259. Spodewace Style 1 cup and saucers from Fort Vancouver.**

**a. Small teacup (#9719), teacup (X632), and cup (#2090)**



**Figure 260.**

**Spodeware cup and saucer styles from Fort Vancouver.**

**Spodeware Style 2 cups and saucers (#338 and #2141)**

Figure 25 • Wine **glass** and tumbler styles recovered archaeologically from Fort Vancouver. From Lester Ross, Fort Vancouver, pp. 548-535.

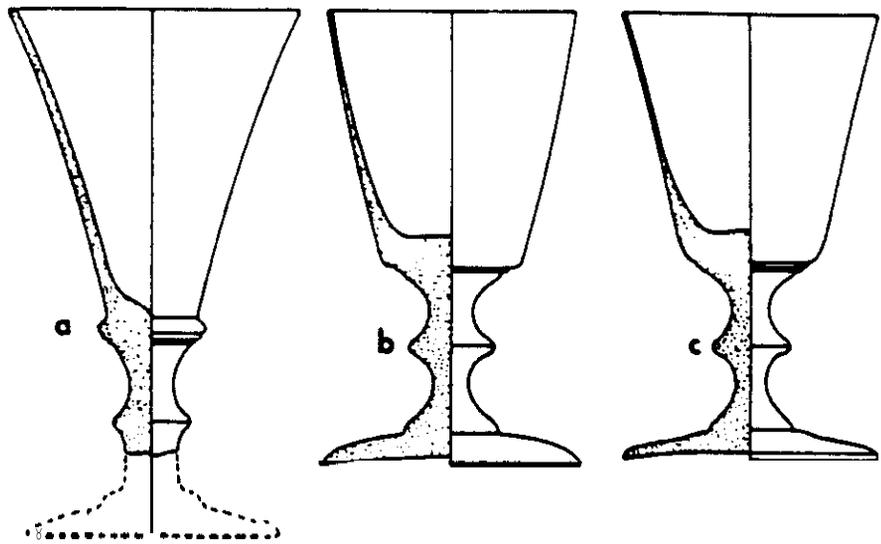


Figure 283. -- Plain wine glass and **rummers** from Fort Vancouver: a. wine glass (#51), b. rummer (#1625), and c. rummer (#772).

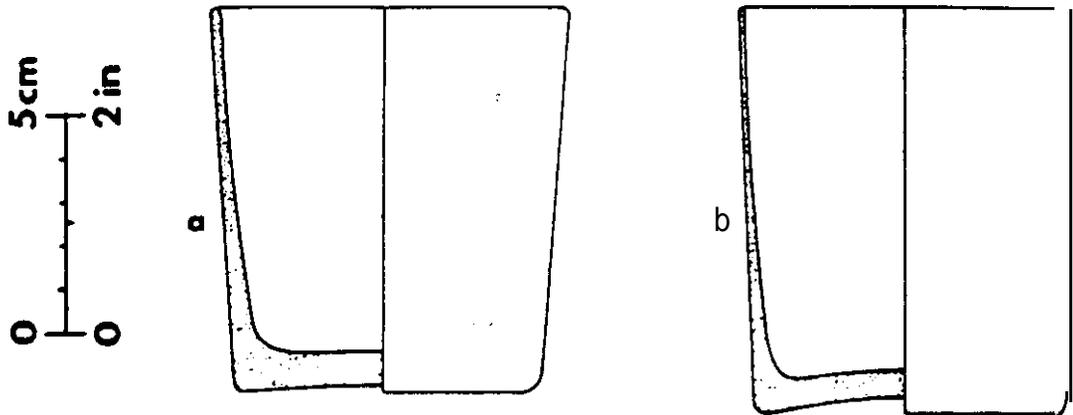


Figure 289. -- Plain glass tumblers from Fort Vancouver: a. 1261 and b. 17064.

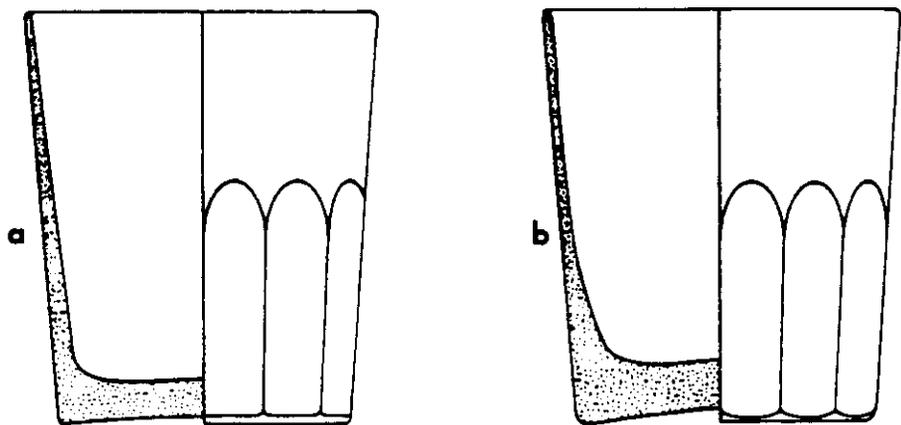
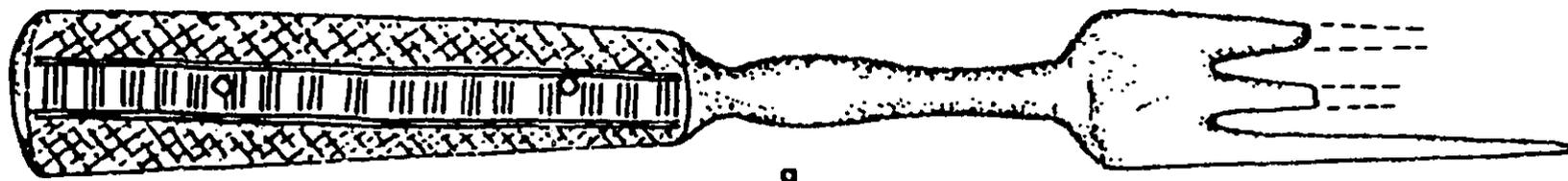
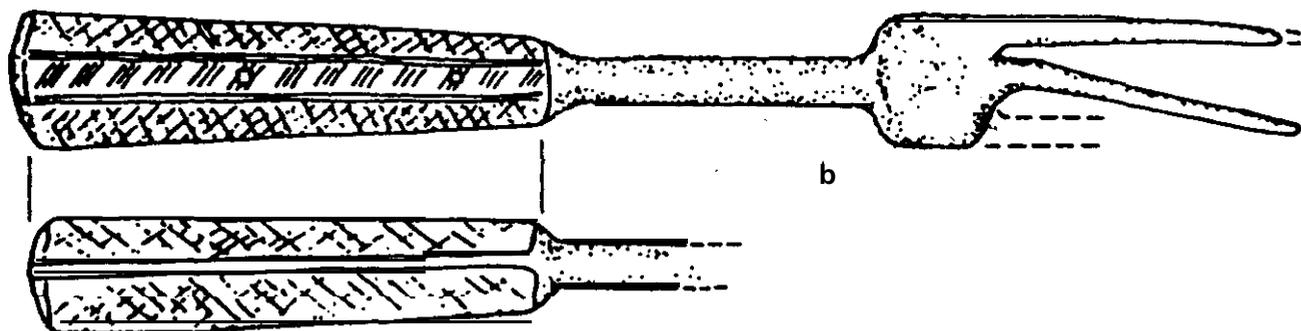


Figure 290. -- Faceted glass tumblers from Fort Vancouver: a. #9806 and b. 11741.

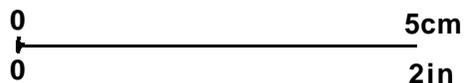
Figure 26 • Fork styles recovered archaeologically from Fort Vancouver.  
From Lester Ross, Fort Vancouver, p. 564.



a



b



**Figure 296. -- Bone handle 3-prong forks recovered from Fort Vancouver.**

**a. Table fork (#8323).**

**b. Dessert fork (18323).**

Figure 27 ▪ Hypothetical design for a country-made tin hanging oil lamp.  
Environment Canada, Perks, Western Region.

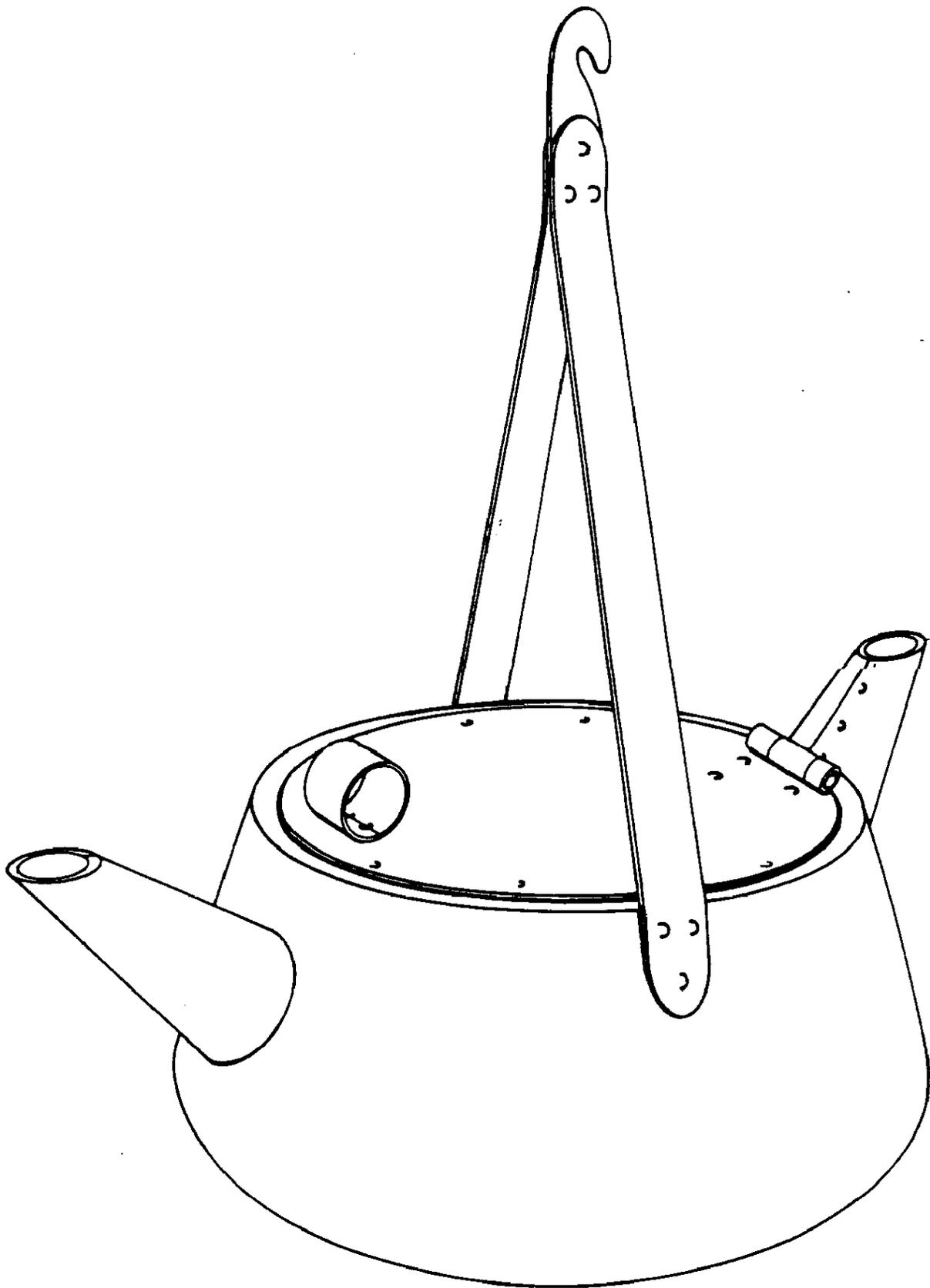
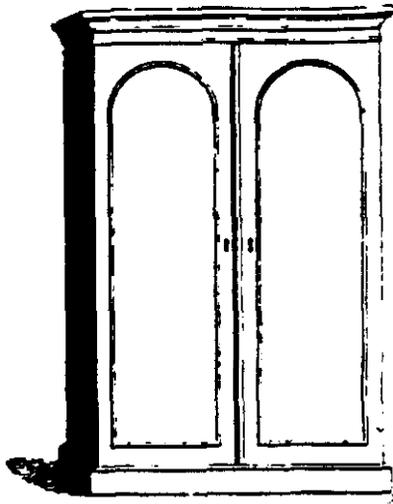


Figure 28 - Wardrobe designs from Loudon Furniture Designs, p. 12.

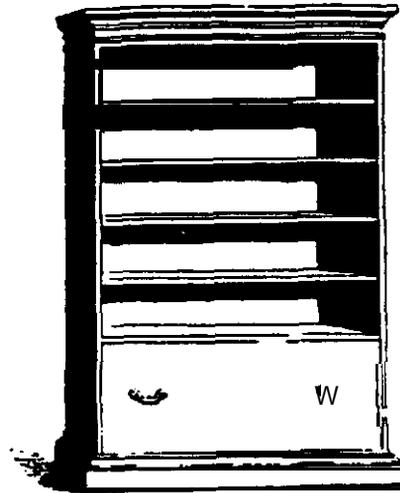
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COTTAGE, FARM, AND VILLA ARCHITECTURE.

585



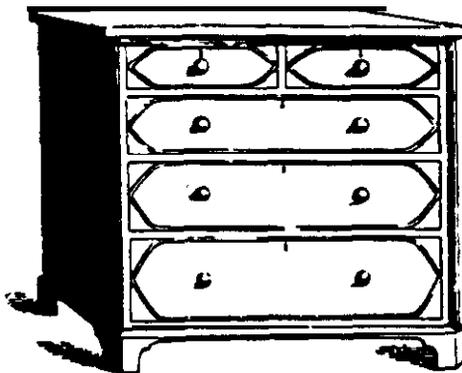
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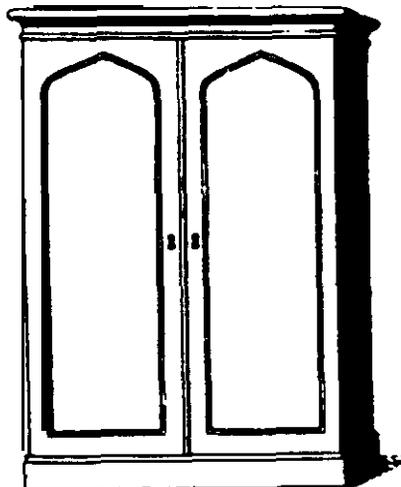
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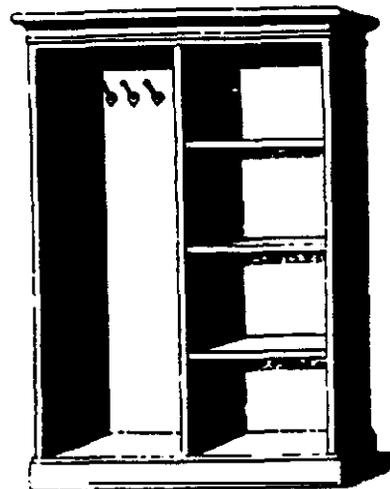
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589



590



[12]

Figure 29 ■ Bench design from Loudon Furniture Designs, p. 25.

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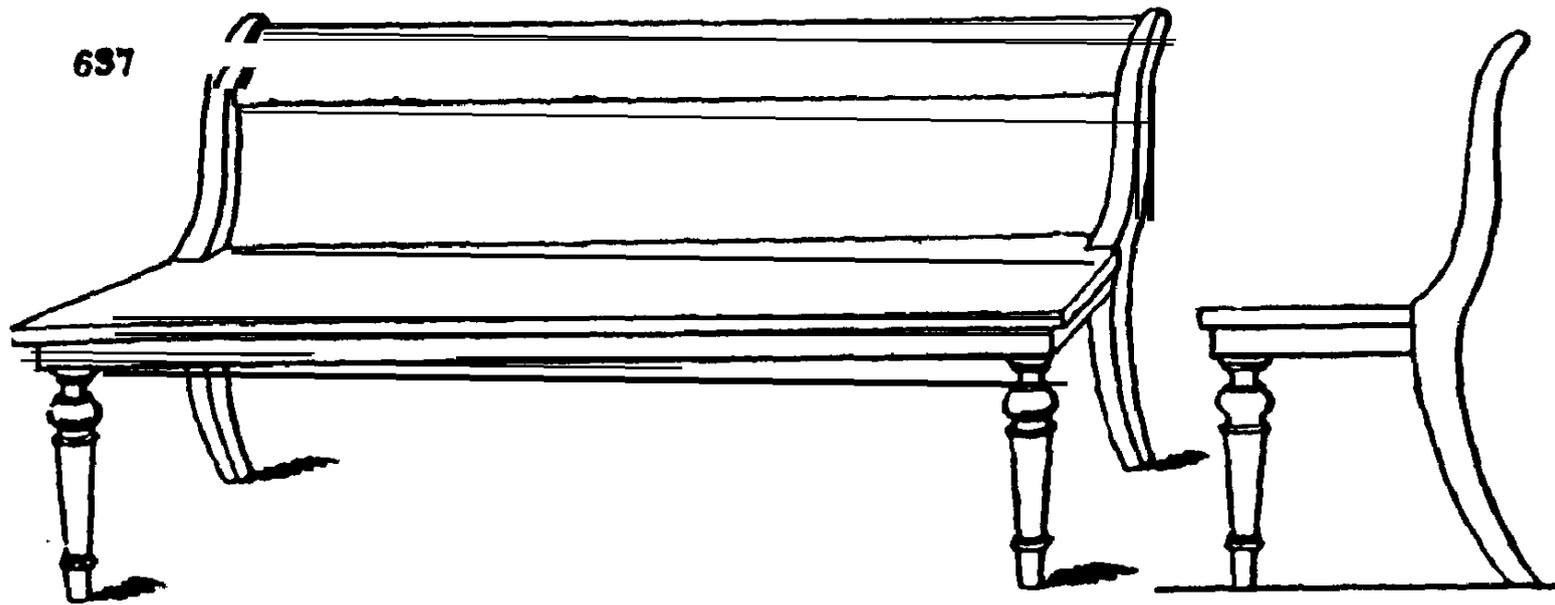


Figure 30 • Hypothetical design for wooden curtain rod brackets and valance board for the curtains in the Newtons' quarters. Environment Canada, Parks, Western Region.

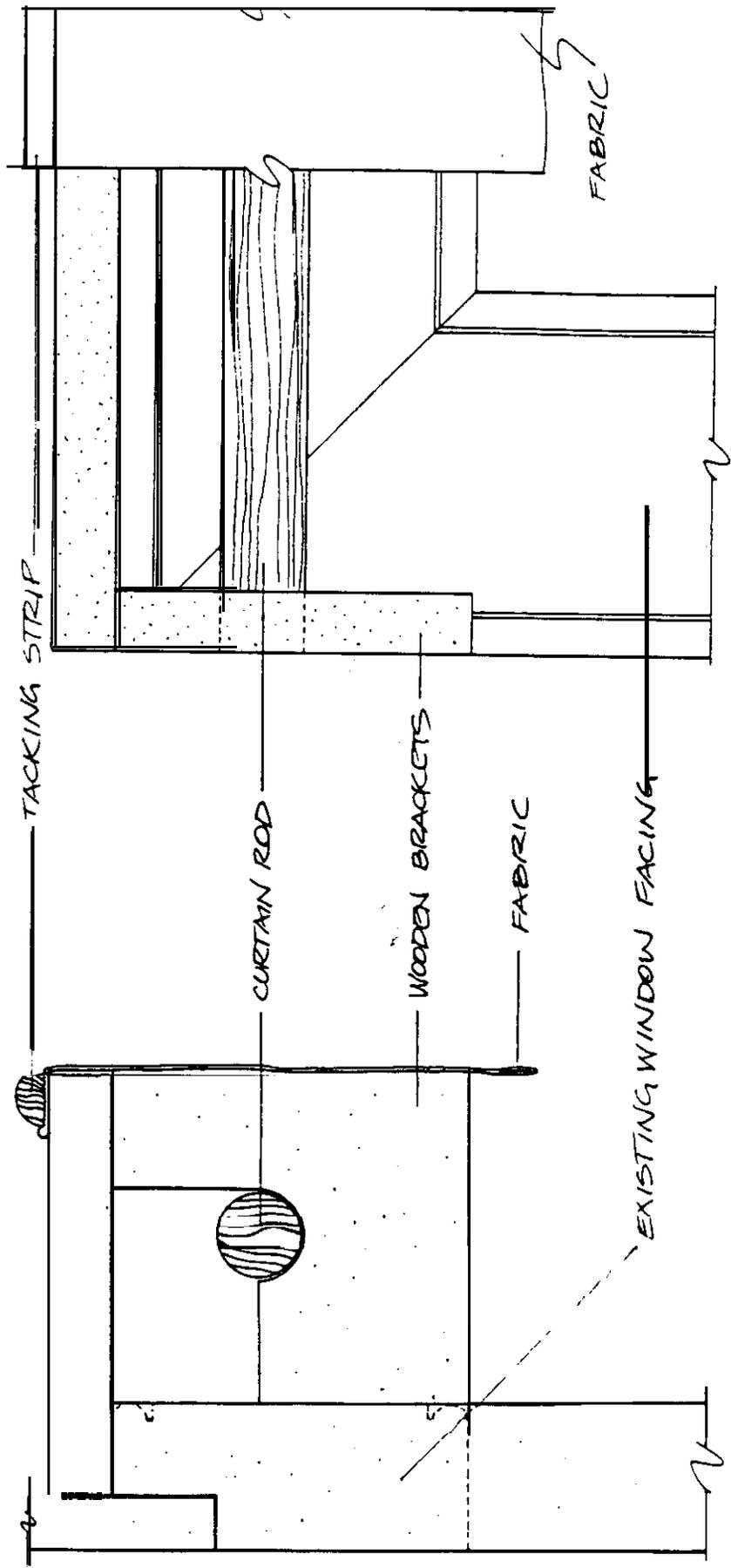


Figure 31 • Hypothetical bed design based on the Helmcken bed (figure 19).  
Environment **Cánada**, Parks, Western Region.

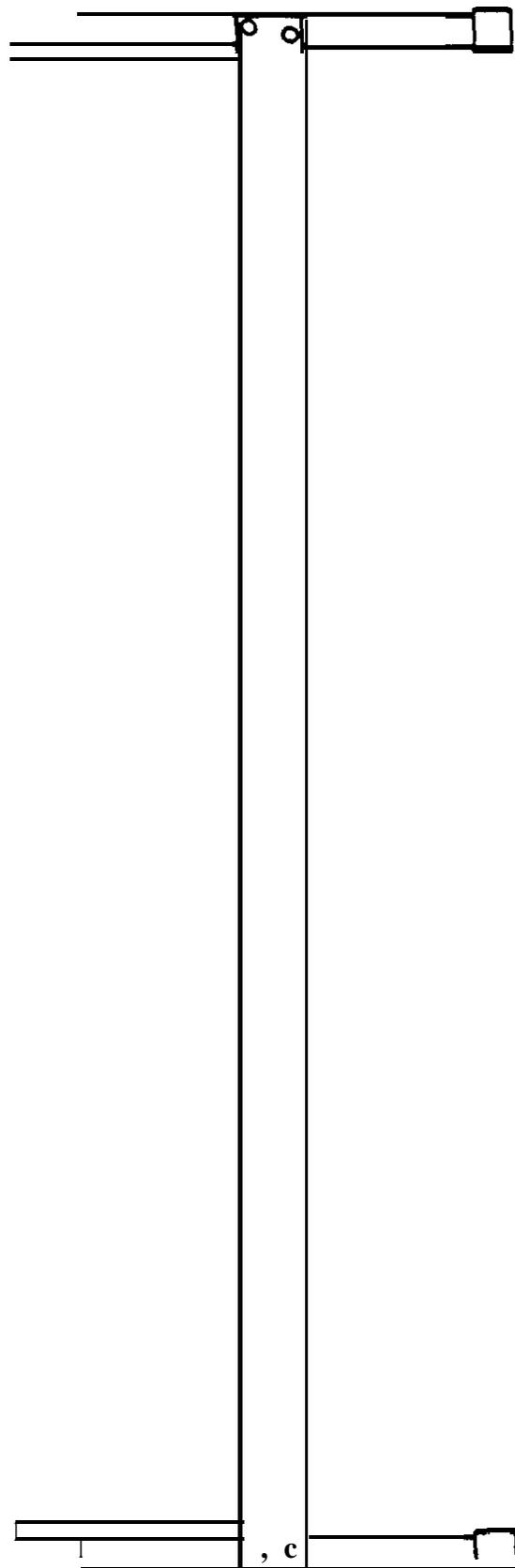
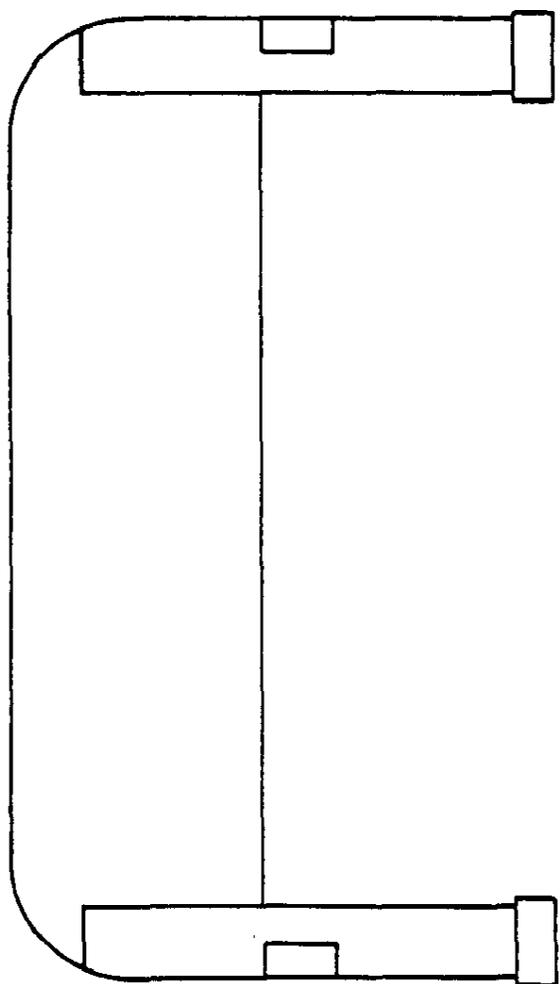
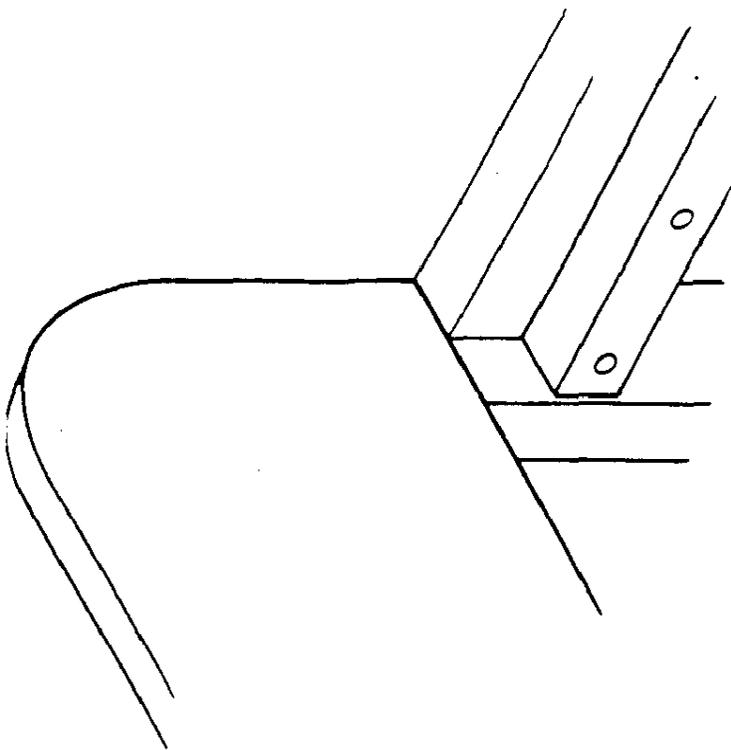
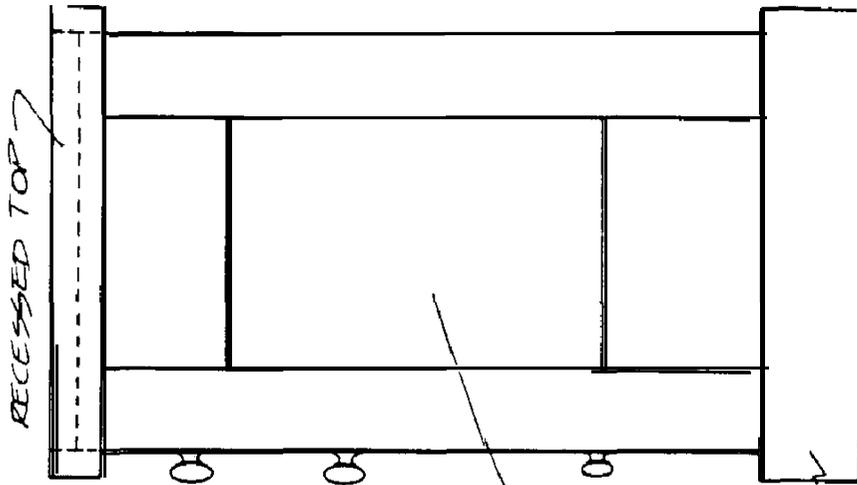


Figure 32 - Hypothetical washstand design based on the original piece from the "Beaver", in the **McLoughlin** House collection. **Environment** Canada, Parks, Western Region.



MITRED CORNERS

BLIND DOVETAILS  
AT DRAWER FRONTS

INSET PANELS

WOODEN KNOBS

MITRED CORNERS

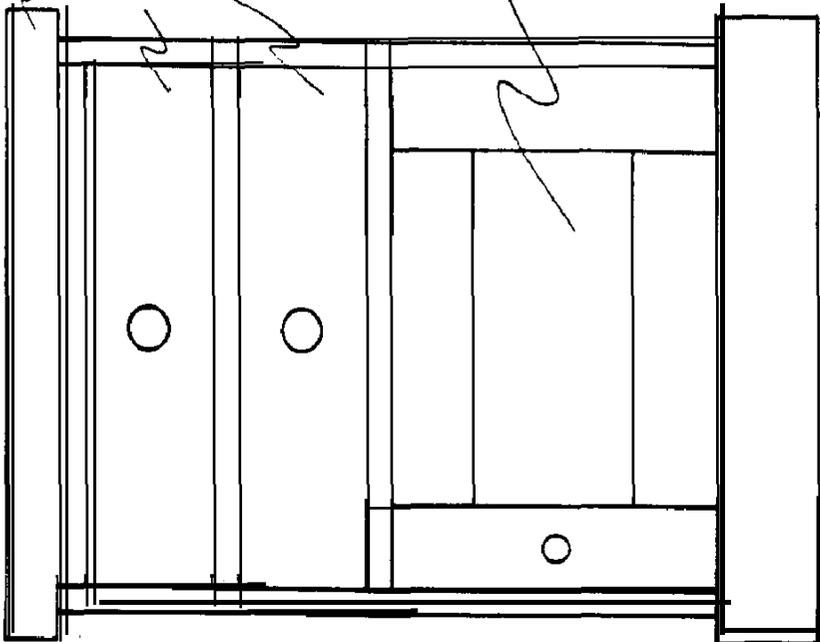


Figure 35 ▪ Simple curtain rod, and bracket design from Loudon Furniture Designs, p. 47.

Figure 34 ▪ Iron “French” bedstead design from Loudon Furniture Designs, p. 41.

Figure 33 ▪ Towel rack design from Loudon Furniture Designs, p. 57.

105

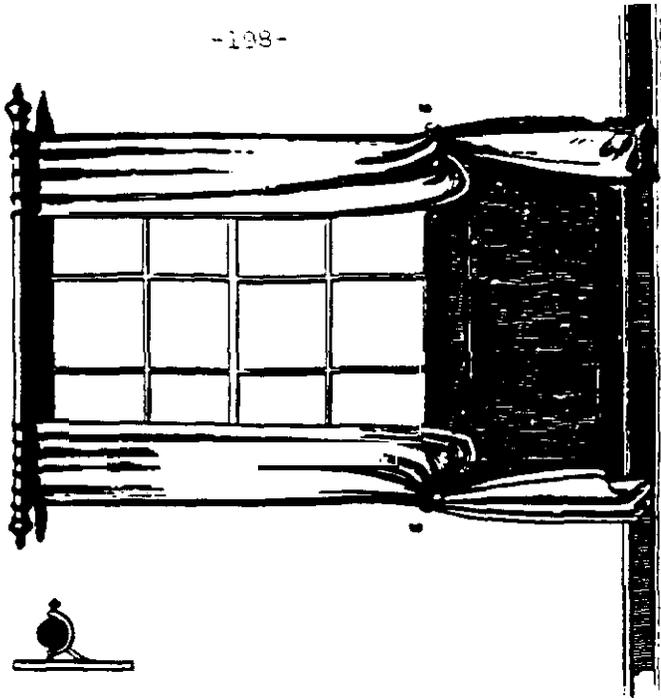


Figure 35

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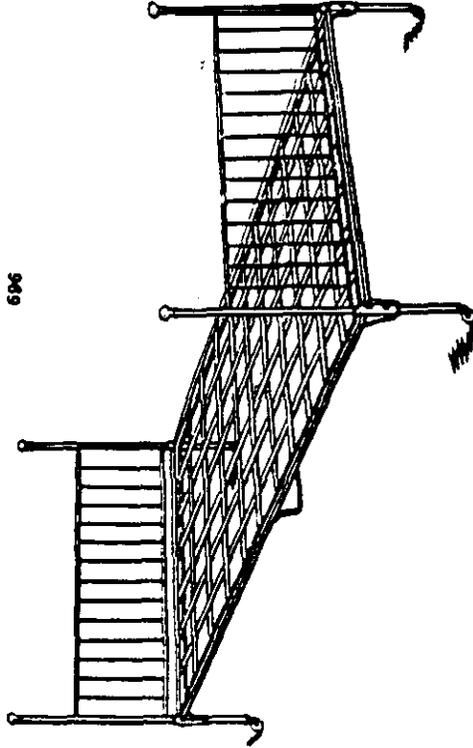


Figure 34

730

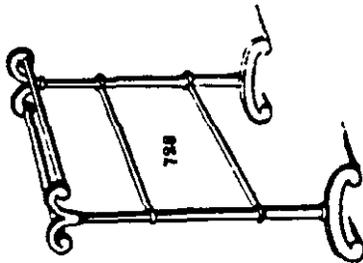
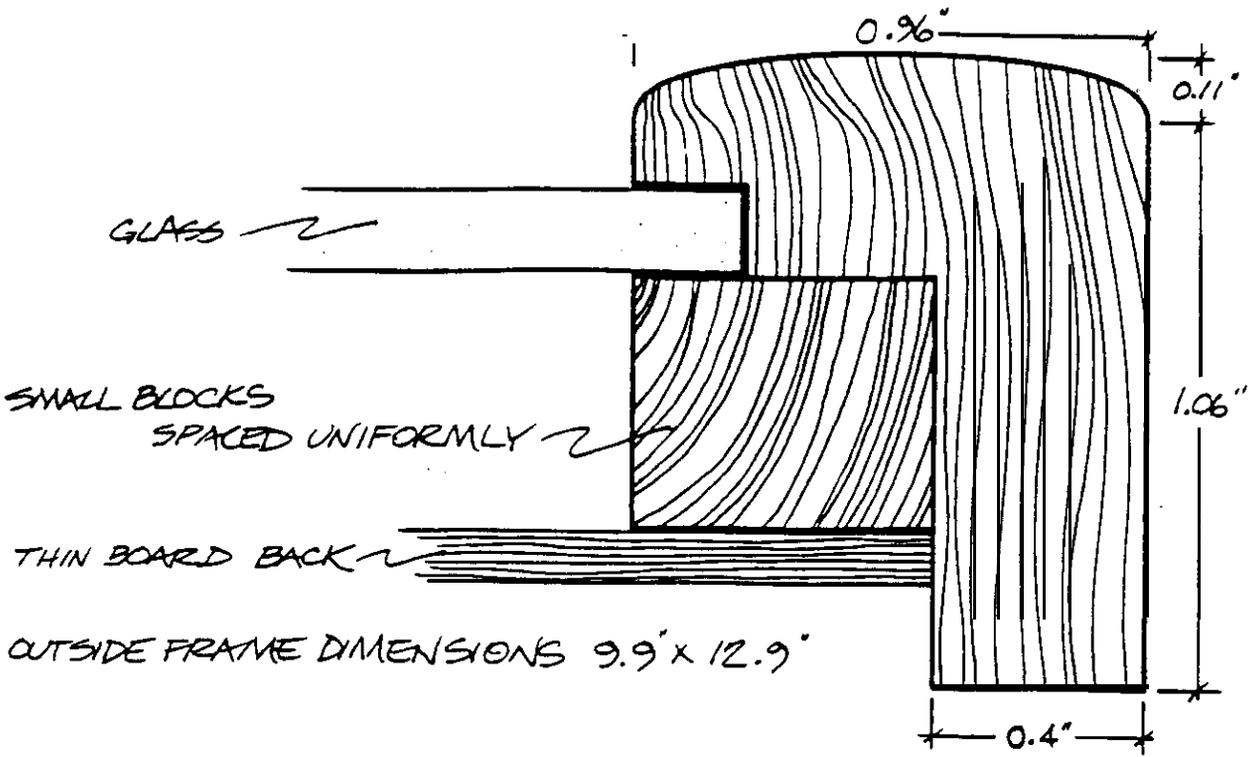


Figure 33

Figure 36 ■ Construction details of mahogany-framed mirror in the Museum of the Fur Trade collection. Environment Canada, Parks, **Western** Region.



PLAN VIEW

