



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bunce

# HOME & GARDEN

BY DICK FISH

# Worthington's Oldest

MR. AND MRS. KENNETH BUNCE are restoring what some believe to be the oldest home in Worthington. Although the house is popularly dated at about 1771, visiting experts have suggested that because of the architectural style of plank frame construction, the house is really much older.

Jonathan Worthington, for whom the town is named, built the first church and it is speculated that the Bruce home was framed by Worthington as a parsonage and not finished for some time.

In residence since April, Mrs. Bunce, an elementary art teacher in Pittsfield, studied the house for a year before removing all of the plaster and lath herself. While in the process a wall was discovered which carried the legend 'Josiah Clarke worked just this day.'

Keystone brickwork on the first floor holds the second floor hearthstone. There is evidence that the brick for the several fireplaces was made on the Bunce property. Charcoal and pieces of brick were discovered near the old barn.

Original baseboards were stripped down to a thick black, gritty paint. Discussing this oddity with a visitor, the Bunces found that black baseboards were the custom of residents of Norwalk, Conn. during an earlier period.

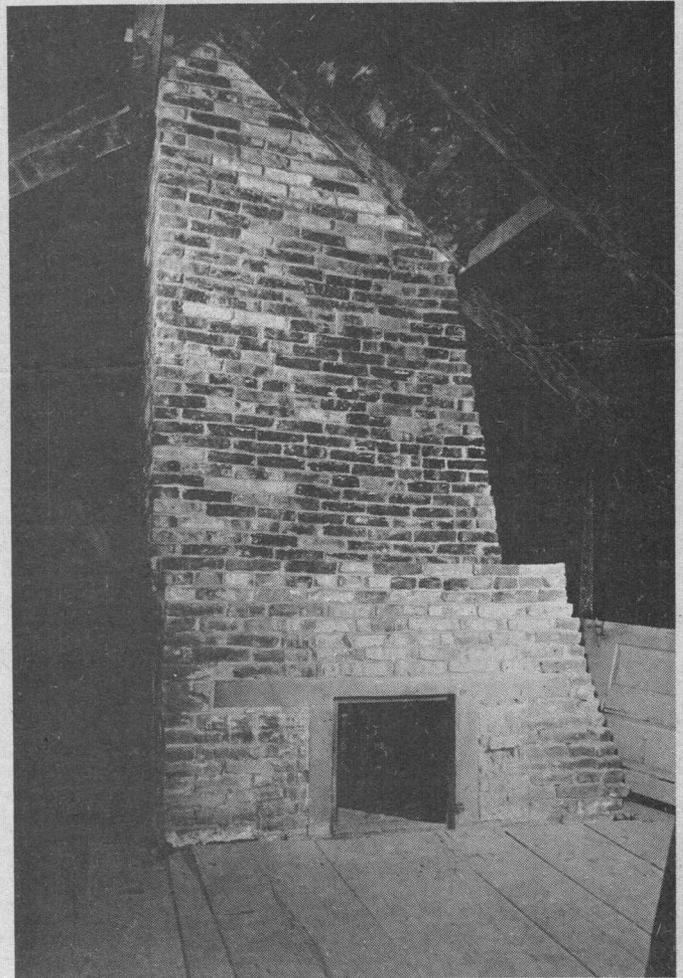
Most of the woodwork was originally painted with a buttermilk and berry combination. Blueberry was the color for the front parlor. Red onion skins and laurel leaves were used in the first kitchen.

The small front room which may have been the medical office of Jonathan Huntington a later owner, boasts very old shelves over the small fireplace. Experts feel these are another clue to the true age of the house. Mrs. Bunce is attempting to discover what the hole under the front stairs was used for - closet or cupboard - before restoration continues.

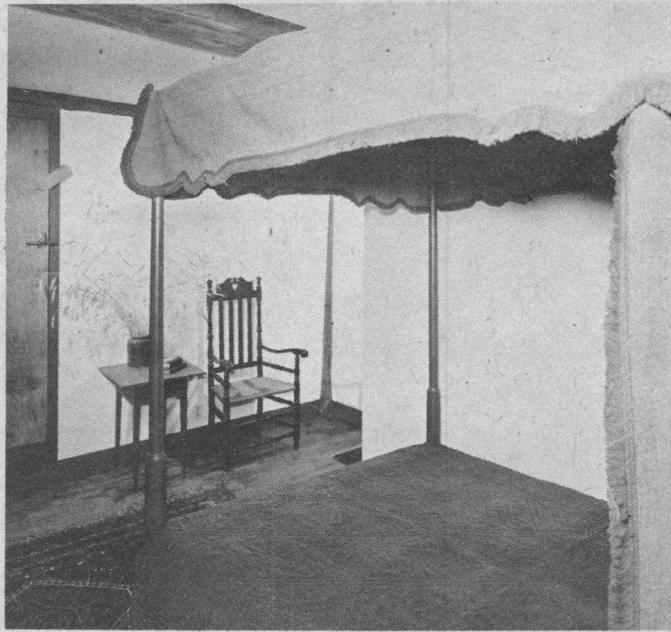
Brick dust and buttermilk was found to be used for the color in Jonathan's upstairs office. An inside window between the office and stairs indicated the size and style for the outside front windows. Mortise holes in the 'plate' directed the placement of the new window copies which are complete with the early wide muttons between the lights.

A meat smoking oven in the attic with twelve wrought iron hooks is below the portion of the chimney which was rebuilt with the original bricks and extra narrow strips of mortar.

The only compromises with authenticity are the kitchen and bathroom; both are ultra-modern.



Meat Smoking Oven

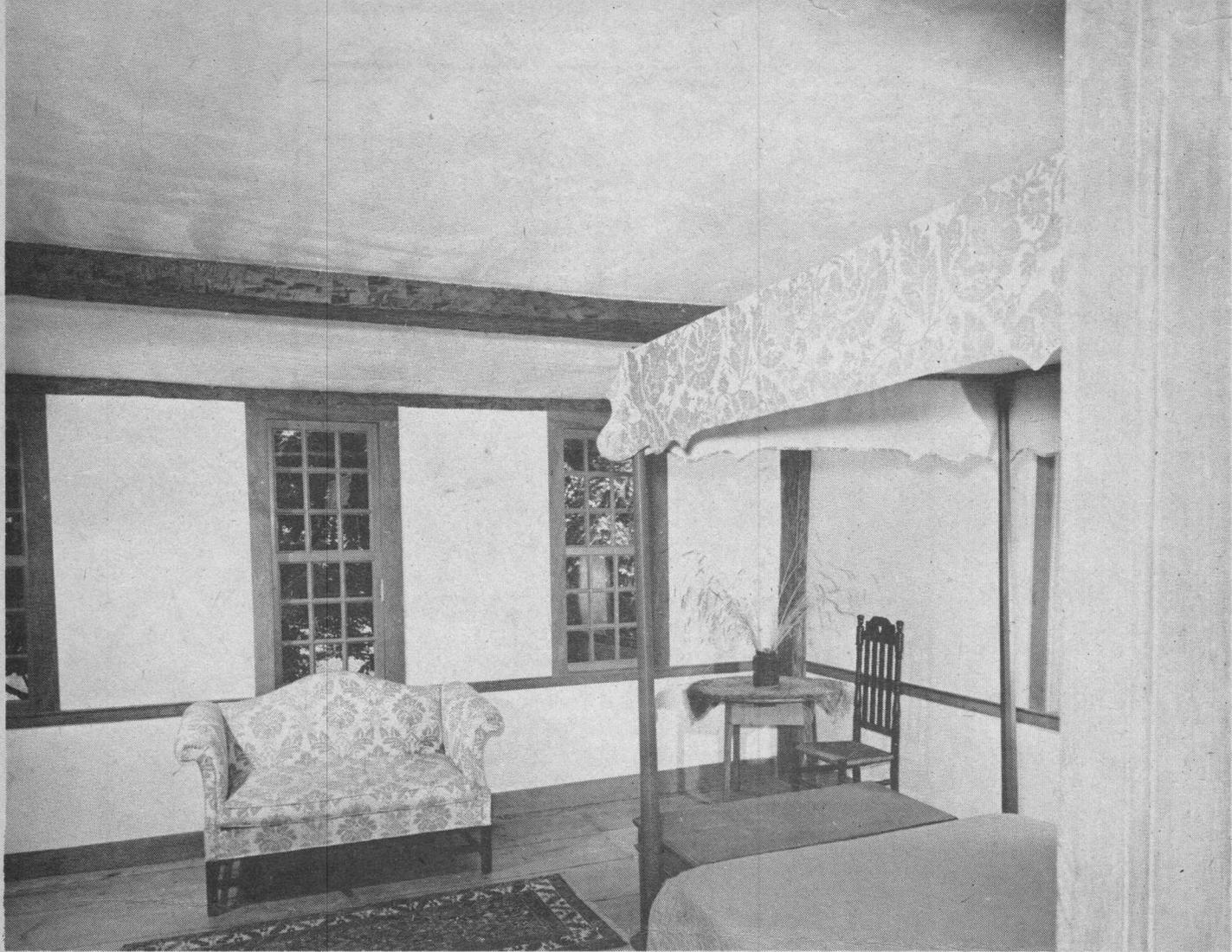


'Linesey-Wooley' Homespun

*Linesey Wooley*



Old Medical Office



Master Bedroom - Yellow And White