



❖ *Connecticut River Homes* ❖

The old ship's chandlery

Past and present reside harmoniously in the snug cottage, opposite, whose owners have artfully preserved its Colonial heritage while expressing their 20th-Century tastes. Housewright Harry Broom and his wife Lorrie bought the structure from an heir to the estate of author/historian Edith Hamilton, who had used it as a servant's quarters. They are currently restoring the estate's Georgian manor house, which was Miss Hamilton's home.

Built in Hadlyme, Conn., sometime between 1760 and 1770, the Broom house began life as a combination post office, general store, and ship's chandlery serving sailing vessels that traded along the Connecticut River. During the steam era, it was a way station for paddle wheelers plying the New York to Hartford route.

Mr. Broom, an authority on restoring antique houses, refurbished the exterior while leaving colorful traces of its past. A pole extending from a gable, for instance, once hauled barrels up to a second floor storage loft. Notches on a corner of the house indicate high-water marks of occasional floods. The uppermost notch, above the height of the doorway, bears witness to the 1938 hurricane and flood, still talked about in the area.

The original shape of the cottage was enhanced many years ago by extending the roof to shade a shallow front porch. New additions include a side deck built around the trunk of a shady ash tree and adjacent to second-story living quarters. When dining under its spreading boughs, the owners enjoy a superb river vista (Turn to page 24)

CHANDLERY

continued

Making the most of the limited space in the cottage, the owners placed the kitchen, opposite below, and the master bedroom, opposite, under the eaves, flanking the living area. A boat bed has cupboards underneath for storage. The quilt was designed by Mrs. Broom. Traditional touches in the modern kitchen include an Oriental carpet and part of the owners' brass collection displayed on the counters. A skylight affords a delightful view of the hill behind the house without disturbing the roof line. Seen from the opposite riverbank, below, the house is at the far right; the towers of Gillette Castle built by actor William Gillette early in this century and now a museum, crown the hill. Another spectacular sight is the river vista, right, enjoyed from the side porch, built around the trunk of an ash tree. A festive lunch under its spreading boughs brings the sight of a ferry boat arriving to dock just beside the house.

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Once a storage loft, the second floor living room, opposite, bespeaks a genteel new life for the refurbished building. Designed for functional, compact living, the room has a roll-out office, complete with typewriter and drawing table, concealed behind raised paneling to the left of the fireplace. A painting of the nearby ferry wharf by local artist and historian Richard Brooks hangs over the hearth. The sturdy-looking chair at left belonged to Gov. Fred Wellington of Mass.; the sausage-arm chair hails from Nantucket. Fronting the house is a fragrant herb garden enclosed by a white picket fence. It was planted by Mrs. Broom. The porch entrance opens into a workroom, formerly a country store. The side door leads upstairs to the living room and a compact bedroom and kitchen. Extending from the gable is a pole once used to winch barrels up through second-floor double doors to a former loft and storage area.



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