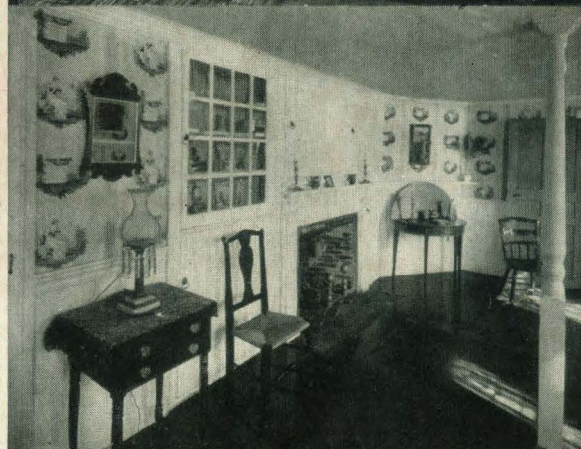
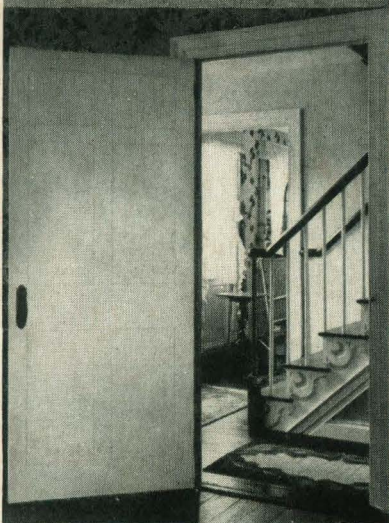


The AMERICAN HOME 10¢



51

*uninterrupted
editorial pages
celebrating our
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Provincetown carriage barn into home



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Miller

TO UTILIZE an old barn for a guest house or recreational center has now become almost a matter of everyday occurrence, but back in 1919, when the Richard E. Millers established themselves in Provincetown, Massachusetts, after some fifteen years residence in Brittany and Paris, the transition of barn-into-home was still regarded as something of an adventure, even in the Bohemian atmosphere of this Cape Cod art colony.

Suitable living accommodations being difficult to find at this time and influenced, perhaps, by the drooping branches of a fine old willow tree, the Millers decided to take over an old carriage barn on a back street where the houses were not set so closely together as in other sections of the town and convert it into a comfortable and attractive dwelling suited to their specific needs.

Beneath the overhanging branches of the old tree, which was and still is, for that matter, something to delight the eye and intrigue the imagination (even though the severe storms of the past winter have taken their toll), and directly on the highway stood the simple rectangular wooden structure with small adjoining ell, which has since been converted into this charming home for all-year residence.

A hedge now shields it from passing traffic, picket gates open into the yard at either end of the house, and in the rear there are French



Photographs by George H. Davis' Studio

windows opening onto a wee flagged terrace, a stretch of grassy turf, and a garden pool under the willow, with Mr. Miller's atelier, where he spends many busy hours, close at hand.

All this has, of course, not been accomplished in a day or a month or a year, but is a matter of growth. As much of the work of reconditioning the structure, the fashioning of the interior furnishings, and the landscaping has been done by the owner, who aside from being a distinguished artist is a very clever craftsman, the result should be



most inspirational to any home owner of modest means and high aspirations, who is of a creative turn of mind and is also generally handy with tools

After closing up the wide doorway, which originally opened on the street, and clapboarding to match the rest of the exterior, windows were cut where necessary to provide light for the interior, an outside chimney was built against the center of the end opposite the ell (to provide for a fireplace), an entrance doorway arranged at its right and another directly across in the other end. The harness room ell became the kitchen, and the upper floor of the carriage house was partitioned off to provide for bedrooms and bath.

As the years have passed, it has been found desirable to add a small room at the rear in the angle between the ell and the main house to protect the rear entrance from the winds which sweep down across the dunes. The ell has also been extended to provide for a breakfast nook with a fireplace at the end, which is so delightfully inviting as to cause one to wish that every household might have a similar one to enjoy the year around.

This season a simple pergola has been built over the wee terrace and grape vines have been planted at each upright post. As time goes by, these will grow to screen the top and drip with clusters of luscious fruit. Surely a most delightful spot in which to prepare the vegetables for dinner, to concentrate on the family darning, or merely to bask in the sun and enjoy the luxuriant blooms of the near-by flower garden so carefully planned by the Millers.

This year additional land in the rear of the willow is being cleared, turf stretches lead to cement seats and other garden furniture, and the natural shrubbery growth has been left to provide a suitable background for the house.

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The Miller house has been a step-by-step development. A commodious living room occupies the entire lower floor of the main structure, admitting abundant light and sun

A fireplace occupies one end of the living room, a stairway the other. This is also the dining end of this ample, friendly room, so furnished as to serve in its dual capacity without loss of dignity



Provincetown carriage barn into home

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The idea of this step-by-step development is most stimulating. There is, of course, a man-of-all-work, but Mr. Miller takes a hand in the landscaping and the flowers are Mrs. Miller's own, which she tends most devotedly.

A commodious living room occupies the entire lower floor of the main structure. There is an inviting fireplace at one end, and at the other a stairway leads to the upper floor. This is also the dining end of the big room, which is amply large to do duty for

both purposes without being in the least crowded, even when a number of guests are present. It is a friendly room, so furnished as to serve in its dual capacity with gracious dignity. A near-by doorway opens into the kitchen, so that the matter of table service is easily cared for either with or without a maid.

From this end of the living room, also, steps lead downward into the garden room which was built into the angle between the side walls to provide a wind-break and which, during the summer months, is utilized as a game room. Here the flooring is a clever bit of masonry—construction bricks laid in pairs at right angles to one another in a cement foundation, narrow margins of the cement showing between. Alternate pairs are painted black. This brick work makes an effective tiling and has the merit of looking far more costly than it actually is. This same style of tiling is used in the breakfast nook which steps down a little from the wood floor of the kitchen end adjoining the living room.

Muslin curtained casement windows, a fireplace, old stenciled Boston rockers, in which one may comfortably sit by the fire to enjoy morning coffee, conspire to make this a room in which even the most disgruntled person could not fail to start the day right and where the housekeeper may pause to refresh herself physically and mentally during the day's routine.

At the kitchen end of the room all the equipment for the preparation of food is grouped. Stove, refrigerator, sink, and supply cupboards are almost within arm's distance of one another. The much-to-be-desired cross ventilation has been taken care of and there is an abundance of light.

As structures go, here in New England, this was not an old one and no attempt has been made to convert it into a semblance of traditional Cape Cod architecture. Provincetown is, after all, a fishing village and although there are many charming homes, the houses in general are quite simple.

Having lived abroad for so long a time, the Millers were not handicapped with an accumulation of possessions and were able to pick up here and there the pieces of furniture which seemed best suited to the environment and their informal mode of living. There is a story connected with nearly every one which it would be betraying confidences too much to relate. Suffice it to say that Mr. Miller has had a most enjoyable time