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AN EVALUATION STUDY OF THE DINING AREA
IN THIRTY FAMILIES

by

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4413

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C. M. C.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

One of the most debated subjects in house planning in recent years has been the question of the importance of a separate room which is devoted only to dining purposes. While the kitchen, living room, bedrooms and bathrooms apparently are indispensable, the dining room has been omitted entirely or combined with other rooms in many homes which have been built recently. One can hardly justify a room which is used only one to two hours a day or just when company is present if economy is to be considered.

Because of the flexibility of the furniture used, the dining area, whether it be a separate room in the house or an alcove off the living room or the kitchen, can be one of the most important rooms for family living. In many families today mealtime is about the only time when family members are together. For other than dining purposes, many families have found that the table can be used by Johnnie to work on his school lessons or stamp collection, for Mother to cut out a dress, or for Father to prepare his business reports. Group activities such as playing games, parties and children's play can be successfully carried on in this area. With a sofa bed in this room, the dining area can double as a second living room or as a guest room.

Since most young families are faced with the need of economy and because they usually adapt themselves to their environment with little difficulty, many have worked out satisfactory uses for the small homes

which they occupy. Because of a special interest in adjustments which these families make, the writer has made an evaluation study of the activities carried on in the dining areas of thirty families with young children living in small houses or apartments having a combination living-dining room. For this study families were chosen in three sections of Greensboro having homes with different sizes of dining areas. In order to keep the variables at a minimum, homes having similar floor plans were selected in each of these sections. The families living in the Rosewood housing development rented homes with two bedrooms and a small dining area, the ones in the Guilford Hills development owned homes having three bedrooms and medium-sized dining areas, and the families living in the Latham Park section rented two-bedroom apartments having large dining areas (Plate 1).

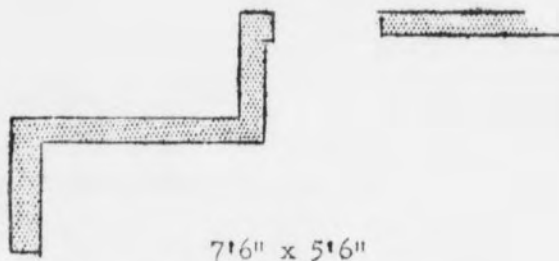
The purposes of the study were:

1. To find out what activities were carried on in the dining area.
2. To find out what furniture was used in these activities.
3. To find out how satisfactory the dining area as an alcove off the living area was for the activities which were performed there and for the storage of supplies and equipment needed for these activities.
4. To find out the satisfaction with the major physical features of the room.

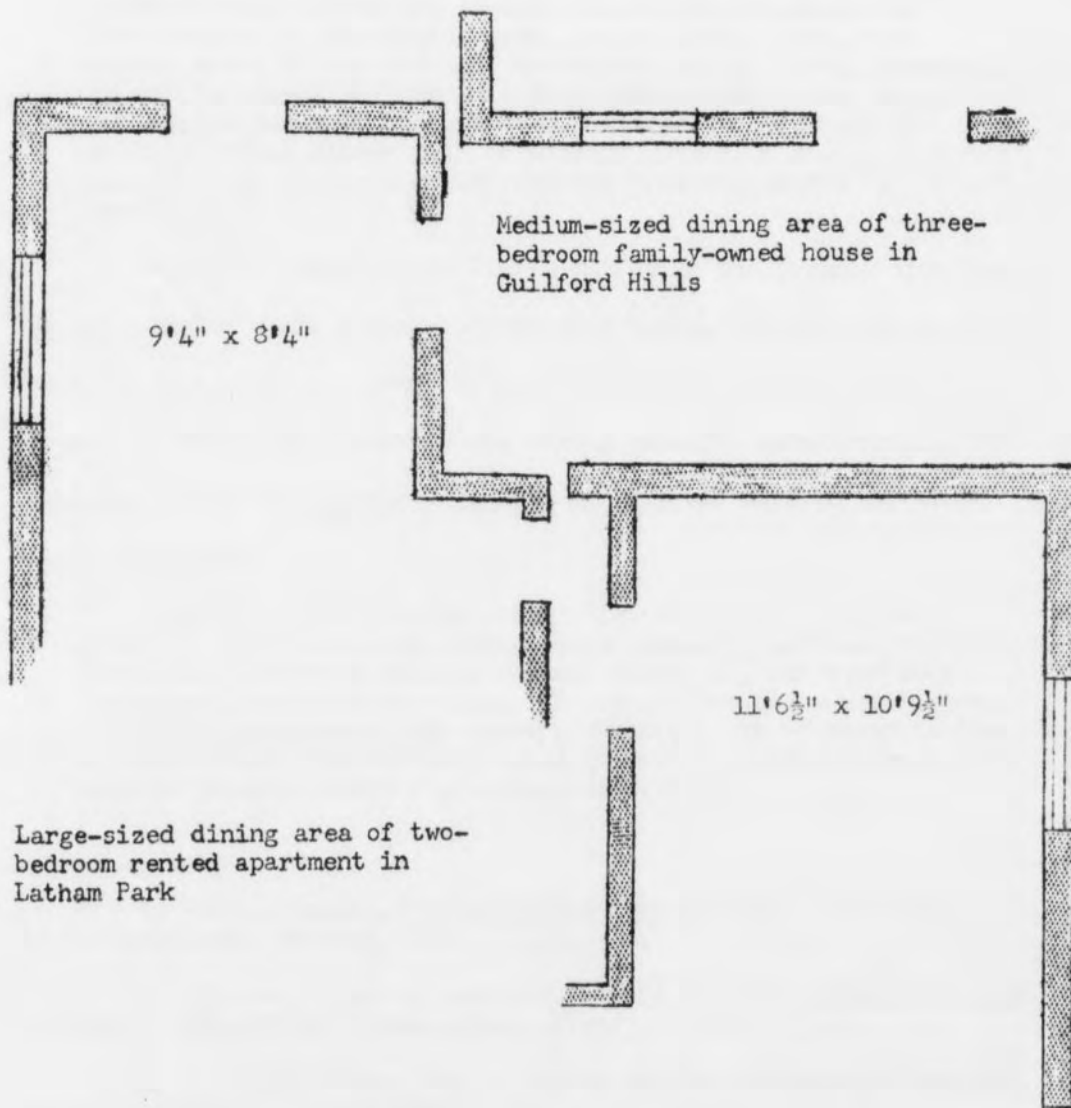
In order to secure a revealing picture of how the families actually used their dining areas, basic facts were obtained about each family by means of a personal interview using a prepared schedule which was filled out by the writer. A pretest was made of six families using sample questionnaires before the final schedule was completed.

Facts about the families, their activities in the dining area and their satisfaction with it were tabulated according to the size of dining area and the size of family.

Small dining area of
two-bedroom rented house
in Rosewood



Medium-sized dining area of three-
bedroom family-owned house in
Guilford Hills



Large-sized dining area of two-
bedroom rented apartment in
Latham Park

11'6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10'9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Plate 1. Floor Plans of the Three Dining Alcoves

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dining rooms have been said to be passing from American homes. Certainly the subject has become a controversial issue because people no longer agree on how and where eating is best done. There are several places where families do have meals: in the dining room, in the living room, in a dining nook, in the kitchen, or outside on the porch, terrace, or on the green. If there is free choice, the place chosen may depend somewhat upon whether the occasion is a family meal, a formal dinner with or without guests, a snack, or a meal for the children or ill person, probably served separately.¹

Families should be realistic in facing the housing situation by considering their social and economic needs. "The necessity for reducing the size of a house to keep within the limits of cost is a principal reason for omitting the dining room."² John Normille, building editor for Better Homes and Gardens had this to say about the dining room:

Does this sound exaggerated? Figure it out. A dining room, 12 x 14 feet large today costs between \$1,200 and \$1,500 to build. Carrying charges—taxes, insurance, interest on the investment, and depreciation, will run \$12 to \$15 a month, not including maintenance and upkeep. That's a lot of money in the average budget, particularly when it can be avoided without serious loss in comfort or social activities.³

1. Agan, Tessie, The House Its Plan and Use. New York: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1948. p. 45.

2. Carter, Deane G. and Hinchcliff, Keith H., Family Housing. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1949. p. 75.

3. Normille, John, "Is a Dining Room Worth Having," Better Homes and Garden (April 1947), 41.

Accepting the fact that the separate formal dining room is used so little during the day by many families and that it does take up useful floor space, adjustments must be made in order to provide a place for family eating which will promote desirable family relationships.

Many studies have been made to determine family preferences as to the location of the dining area. Studies made of various groups portrayed that because of the informality of family meals many families preferred some accommodations for eating in the kitchen. A study of farm housing in the northeastern part of the United States showed that "over 80 per cent of the families prefer to serve some meals--usually the regular family--in the kitchen. A like percentage of families prefer to serve some meals in the dining room, but the meals they prefer to serve there are generally limited to company meals."⁴

Normille says that "every survey made in recent years shows that families eat most of their meals in the kitchen or an adjoining alcove."⁵ In a study made by Maud Wilson of 450 homemakers, 60 per cent of whom lived on farms, it was found that "the use of a part of the living room as a place to serve meals is not a popular idea with rural homemakers, only one woman in eight having voted for it."⁶

In a research study of three hundred homemakers, largely of business and professional families in a college town, Lucille Campbell

4. Beyer, Glenn H., Farm Housing in the Northeast. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1949. p. 210.

5. Normille, op. cit., p. 41.

6. Wilson, Maud and Wells, Laura, House Planning Ideas of Oregon Rural Women, Oregon State Department of Higher Education, Bulletin 369, February, 1940, Corvallis, Oregon. p. 8, 9.

found that dining rooms were desired by 83.33 per cent of the women: 34 per cent of all the women wanted both dining rooms and dining alcoves, and 49 per cent wanted only dining rooms. . . . Only 28 women wanted to serve all meals in dining alcoves.⁷ She went on to say that "dining tables in dining rooms were used five times as often for serving guests as were dining alcoves and more than sixteen times as often as were tables in living rooms."⁸

The writer believes that older and well-established families have probably become so accustomed to a separate formal dining room that most of them would likely be dissatisfied without one, but younger families who are economically minded could adjust their family living to less privacy in the dining area to obtain a more spacious living area which can be used for various activities. To date sufficient attention has not been given to the preferences of young homemakers in towns and cities regarding the dining area, its location and its use. Johnstone, among other solutions, suggests:

Combination living-dining rooms are a means of saving space and increasing the size and convenience of the living room, and many interesting arrangements and combinations of this type are possible. The living room could be L-shaped with the dining in the small leg of the L. The dining area could be placed in a pleasant, well-lighted alcove or bay window, or even in one end of the living room. In any event, the space provided when not in use for dining should add to the spaciousness of the living room.⁹

7. Campbell, Lucille, The Preferences Concerning Dining Areas as Expressed by Three Hundred Homemakers in Lafayette and W. Lafayette, Indiana. Master's thesis, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, 1940. p. 54.

8. Ibid., p. 70.

9. Johnstone, Kenneth B., Building or Buying a House. New York: McGraw Hill Book Co., 1945. p. 45.

The disadvantage which many point out, too little privacy for dining resulting from eating in the living room, can be eliminated to a certain degree. Adjustable walls or movable storage cabinets add to the flexibility of the room. The space may be thrown into a large area when more space is desired or divided for privacy. Sleeper and Sleeper in their book suggest using an accordion-type door which is pleasing in appearance, as it may be finished in fabric or leatherette; or the door might slide into a hidden pocket or fold to one side.¹⁰ Folding screens are also an asset for obtaining more privacy. The L-shape living-dining room lends itself more easily to obtaining an illusion of two rooms than other shapes.

Regardless of the location of the dining area in the home the satisfaction which the family derives from it is the most important thing. George Nelson, editor of Architectural Forum, and Henry Wright, managing editor for the same magazine, brought out in their book that "among architects, who are still comparatively few in number, there is this feeling about dining: that no arrangement is acceptable unless a definite space can be established where meals may be set up and cleared away without causing disturbance to any other part of the house."¹¹

In planning convenient, comfortable dining areas for any location, there are several factors that should be considered:

Eleven feet is the least width for a dining room that is to accommodate a full-size table with the usual chairs and

10. Sleeper, Catharine and Sleeper, Harold, The House to Build, Buy or Rent. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1948. p. 204.

11. Nelson, George and Wright, Henry, Tomorrow's House. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1946. p. 41.

other furniture. At least seven and one-half feet is needed for a narrow table with chairs on either side.

Each person needs 24 inches of table space. Thus tables should be 48 inches long to seat two people on each side, 72 inches to seat three, and 96 inches to seat four.

Dining tables should be at least 30 inches wide. Full dining room tables are 38 to 48 inches wide.

Allow 30 inches for clearance between the table and other furniture or wall so that the chairs may be pushed back.

Place doorways leading from the dining room in such a way as to permit direct passage to both kitchen and living room.¹²

The current thought is that rooms should be planned for a flexible arrangement of furniture so that several uses may be made of the room. Johnstone commented that "in times past, family activities were limited to specific rooms, relaxation so-called was stiff and formal, and the 'parlor' was the scene of entertainment when guests arrived."¹³ This is not true in our present informal use of the home where there is much overlapping in the activities carried on in most of the rooms. One advantage in combining the living and dining rooms into one area is that a larger unified space for the accommodation of large groups is possible.

A number of studies have been made dealing with the various uses made of the dining area by families. In the study of farm homes in the northeast, Beyer points out that

...the dining room is generally used for serving company meals. About 40 per cent of the families entertain at company meals once in two weeks or oftener, about a fourth have such meals about once a month, and the balance of the families have them less often. Four or five guests are usually served at

12. Carter, Deane G. and Hinchcliff, Keith H., Build or Remodel Your Farmhouse, Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., Publication No. 8, Circular 620, Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois, 1948. pp. 30-32.

13. Johnstone, op. cit., p. 50.

these meals--more than doubling the usual attendance at regular family meals.

In addition to serving some meals in the dining room nearly a third of the families use this room for sewing and about 14 per cent do their ironing there.¹⁴

From the study of the preferences for the dining area made by Lucille Campbell, it was discovered that activities carried on in the dining area of the homes included not only family and company meals, but in many of the families additional activities performed were: sewing, additional sleeping quarters, study, bridge parties, additional space for gatherings, sitting room, library, ironing, typing, radio programs, and music.¹⁵ In Birk's study others mentioned by the homemakers were: children's play during the day, and games, studies, hobbies, or homework in the evening.¹⁶ Storage space in the dining area was provided for "dishes, silver, linens, vases, and table decorations, and to a lesser degree, toys and games."¹⁷ A variety of other things included the sewing machine, articles to be mended, a piano, a typewriter, and files. The telephone was located in the dining room in 25 homes.¹⁸

In summarizing these studies which have been made concerning the location of the dining area in the house and the activities which are performed there, it can be concluded that according to Wilson, Beyer, and Campbell, dining rooms are still desired by older and established

14. Beyer, op. cit., pp. 87-88.

15. Campbell, op. cit., p. 13.

16. Birk, Ruth Ada, A Study of Room Uses of One Hundred Faculty Members. Master's thesis, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. p. 26.

17. Ibid.

18. Ibid.

families in farm, business, or professional groups. For the sake of economy, Carter, Hinchcliff, and Normille believe that satisfactory adjustments can be made by combining this room with another and many advantages acquired by doing so. The author believes that it is relatively easy for younger families who have never had dining rooms to adapt themselves to multiple uses of rooms. Johnstone stresses the importance of the flexibility of the dining area.

The argument for omitting the dining room because of its little use seems invalid. Studies made by Beyer, Campbell, and Birk showed that whether the families had a separate dining room or just a dining area combined with another room, numerous activities were carried on there. Much more thought should be given to making the dining space satisfactory for the various activities performed there.

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS

Data was obtained from thirty young families living in new housing developments with three sizes of dining areas concerning the family, the activities carried on there, and the homemaker's satisfaction with the area.

The Family

The information obtained about the family included the size and composition of each, the sex and age of the children, and the occupation of the husband. This data is tabulated according to size of dining area.

Family Members

By choice, thirty families were selected for the study: ten having a home with a small dining area, ten having homes with medium-size dining areas, and ten having apartments with a large dining area. (Table I). Within these thirty homes the size of families fell into the following categories: thirteen families had only one child, fifteen had two children, and two families had three children. Six of the families having the small and medium dining areas had two children, while six of the families with the large area had only one child.

In the homes having the small dining area, two-thirds of the children were girls while in the homes having the large dining area 60 per cent were boys (Table II).

The families having the small areas had younger children on the

whole than the families with the large areas. Eighty-three per cent of the children in the homes with the small area were three years of age or younger. Sixty per cent of the children in the homes with the large area were over three years.

TABLE I
FAMILY MEMBERS

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area			All families
	Small	Medium	Large	
	(Number of families)			
Husband, wife, one child	4	3	6	13
Husband, wife, two children	6*	6**	3	15
Husband, wife, three children	-	1***	1	2
All families	10	10	10	30
	(Per cent of families)			
Husband, wife, one child	14	10	20	44
Husband, wife, two children	20	20	10	50
Husband, wife, three children	-	3	3	6
All families	34	33	33	100

*In one family the mother-in-law spent one or two days each week with the family when the husband was away on business.

**The wife's sister lived with one family.

***A nurse lived with one family.

TABLE II

AGES OF CHILDREN ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA AND SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Ages of children	Size of dining area																	
	Small						Medium				Large							
	Size of family						Size of family				Size of family							
	One child		Two children		Three children		One child		Two children		Three children		One child		Two children		Three children	
B*	G**	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	
	(Number of families)																	
Under one year	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
One year	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Two years	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Three years	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	3	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	
Four years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Five years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	
Six years	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Seven years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	
Eight years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Twelve years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

* Boys; ** Girls

Occupations of Husbands

Although all of the homes would be considered small, most of the families were above average in the income level. The occupation of the husband had no apparent influence on the size of dining area which the family had (Table III). Each group included about the same number of husbands in clerical, managerial, and professional occupations.

TABLE III

OCCUPATIONS OF HUSBANDS

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Type of occupation	Size of dining area		
	Small	Medium	Large
Clerical	Clerk at Southern railway Salesman Bookkeeper Insurance salesman	Salesmen (4) Manufacturing agent representative	Works with New Dixie Motor Lines Salesmen (4) CIO Textile worker
Managerial	Credit manager for Sears and Roebuck Manager of furniture store Foreman for motor company	Manager of Carolina-Virginia Distributing Co. Commercial manager for WBIG Jr. executive for Jefferson Standard Owner of Floor Sanding Co.	Supt. of W. Division of Carolina Trailways Manager of Canada Dry plant
Professional	Engineer Civil Aeronautics engineer Teacher	Chemical engineer	Surgeon Lawyer

Activities Carried on in the Dining Area

The nine activities commonly carried on in the dining area by the families were: family meals, company meals, playing games, hobbies, office work by the husbands, study and reading and writing, ironing, talking with visitors, and machine sewing. For each of these activities, the number of families or individuals using the area for the purpose, the furniture in this area used for the activity, the satisfaction of the homemaker with this arrangement, and the adequacy of the storage of supplies and equipment there for use in the activities was studied. Attention was given to the relationship of these factors to the size of the dining area and the size of the family.

Family Meals

As one would expect, family eating was the major activity carried on in the dining area of these small houses and apartments. The number of persons eating family meals in the dining area varied from meal to meal.

Variation in the make-up of family groups eating meals in the dining area.—The eating habits of the husbands made an interesting study. Out of thirty families interviewed it was revealed that fourteen husbands were always away at lunch, while six usually were. In other words two-thirds ate lunch elsewhere (Table IV). One of the six was away three out of four weeks in the month at lunch and during the fourth week was away for dinner. The study further showed that one husband was usually away for the dinner meal, while six others for business and other reasons were frequently out. Even at breakfast one husband out of the thirty families was usually away and three others were reported absent occasionally. One

of these three absentees at breakfast was likewise usually gone at lunch. In one family report the husband was at home only on week-ends.

The eating habits of children revealed a varied pattern. In thirteen families the children were fed separately from the adults. In six families one child was away for lunch each weekday.

This picture of family eating habits would be incomplete without some report of those included other than the immediate family. In one family the wife's sister lived with them and was present for breakfast and dinner. A nurse who lived with another family joined them for dinner each night. In still another family the wife's mother spent one or two days each week with the family when the husband was away on business.

TABLE IV

VARIATION IN NUMBER OF PERSONS AT FAMILY MEALS
(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Persons at family meals	Seldom	Usually	Always
	(Number of families)		
Husbands away for			
Breakfast	3	1	-
Lunch	-	6	14
Dinner	6	1	-
Children fed separately	-	-	13*
Child away for lunch	-	-	6
Extra persons for			
Breakfast	1	-	1
Lunch	1	-	-
Dinner	1	-	2
Family ate in kitchen			
Breakfast	-	1	-
Lunch	-	1	1
Dinner	-	1	-

*In one of these families both children ate separately from family with the older child joining the parents for dessert at dinner.

Some variation in the place of eating was shown in the families studied. One family ate in the kitchen for all three meals; dinner was eaten in the dining area only two or three times a week. In the case of one family in which the husband was away for lunch, the wife and child always ate lunch in the kitchen.

Usual number of persons eating at dining table.--Of the thirteen families with one child, 85 per cent had all three persons at the dining table for breakfast and dinner; 62 per cent had only two persons for lunch (Table V).

TABLE V

USUAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EATING FAMILY MEALS AT THE DINING TABLE
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Meal	Number of persons present				
		One	Two	Three	Four	Five
		(Number of families)				
One child	Breakfast	-	2	11	-	-
	Lunch	3	8	2	-	-
	Dinner	-	2	11	-	-
Two children	Breakfast	-	1	6	8	-
	Lunch	-	7	6	2	-
	Dinner	-	1	5	9	-
Three children	Breakfast	-	-	-	-	2
	Lunch	-	-	-	1	1
	Dinner	-	-	-	-	2
		(Per cent of families)				
One child	Breakfast	-	15	85	-	-
	Lunch	23	62	15	-	-
	Dinner	-	15	85	-	-
Two children	Breakfast	-	7	40	53	-
	Lunch	-	47	40	13	-
	Dinner	-	7	33	60	-
Three children	Breakfast	-	-	-	-	100
	Lunch	-	-	-	50	50
	Dinner	-	-	-	-	100

Of the fifteen families with two children, 93 per cent had from three to four persons at the dining table for breakfast; for lunch 87 per cent of these families were represented by only three persons, and only 60 per cent had all four persons present for dinner.

Both of the families with three children reported all five persons at the dining table for breakfast and dinner. One had five present for lunch, while the other had only four.

This survey showed usually one less person for lunch than for dinner.

Furniture used for family meals.--The type of dining table used by these families showed a closer relationship to the size of dining area than to the size of family. All of the ten families having the large dining area had either a regular dining table or a drop-leaf table (Table VI). Nine of the ten families having the medium dining area had a regular dining table or a drop-leaf table; the other family in this group used a card table when eating in the dining area. Of the ten families having the small dining area only seven had a regular dining table, two had a dinette table, and one used a sewing machine table.

The possession of buffets and china closets likewise varied directly with the size of the dining area rather than the size of family. Of the families living in apartments with the large dining area, 50 per cent had china closets as compared with 20 per cent of the families with the medium dining area and with none of those having the small dining area. Of the families with the large and medium dining areas, 20 per cent had buffets in comparison with 10 per cent of those living in homes with the small dining area. The conclusion would seem to be that the number of

pieces and the type of furniture used were influenced more by the floor space available rather than individual preferences and requirements based on family size.

TABLE VI
FURNITURE USED FOR FAMILY EATING ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA
(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture used for family meals	Size of dining area			
	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
	(Number of families)			
Dining table*				
Regular	3	6	6	15
Drop-leaf	4	3	4	11
Dinette	2	-	-	2
Sewing table	1	-	-	1
Card table	-	1	-	1
Dining chairs				
One	-	-	-	-
Two	4	1	-	5
Three	1	1	2	4
Four	5	6	5	16
Five	-	2	1	3
Six	-	-	2	2
High chair	6	5	3	14
Buffet	1	2	2	5
China closet	-	2	5	7

*The distinction between the regular dining table and the dinette table was chiefly in the materials of which it was made; the regular table being made of a finished wood, the dinette, usually smaller in size, of metal.

On the contrary, the number of dining chairs kept in the dining area varied with the size of family and not with the size of dining area. Of the families with one child, about 90 per cent kept only two to four chairs in the dining area (Table VII). Of the families with two children about 90 per cent had three to five chairs in the same area. In the

two families with three children, five or six chairs were found in the dining area. As one would expect, more chairs became a necessity in the dining area as the size of families increased.

TABLE VII

FURNITURE USED FOR FAMILY EATING ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY
(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture used for family eating	Size of family			
	One child	Two children	Three children	All sizes
	(Number of families)			
Dining table	13	14	2	29
Dining chairs				
One	-	-	-	-
Two	4	1	-	5
Three	1	3	-	4
Four	7	8	-	15
Five	-	2	1	3
Six	1	-	1	2
High chair	4	9	1	14
Buffet	2	3	-	5
China closet	4	3	-	7
	(Per cent of families)			
Dining table	100	93	100	96
Dining chairs				
One	-	-	-	-
Two	31	7	-	17
Three	8	20	-	13
Four	54	56	-	50
Five	-	13	50	10
Six	8	-	50	7
High chair	31	60	50	50
Buffet	15	20	-	17
China closet	31	20	-	24

No significant conclusion could be drawn as to the extent of adaptability of dining chairs for use in other parts of the house based on the size of the dining area. There were four families in each of the small and large dining areas who kept part of their dining chairs in other parts of the house. Only one of the families having the medium dining area stated that extra dining chairs were used elsewhere.

Adequacy of the dining area for family meals.—In the case of those with the small dining area, three out of four families with one child found the area adequate for family meals (Table VIII). Of those with two children only one of the six families found this area to be adequate. No families of three children were found in this classification. Thus it seems apparent that while the small dining area proved adequate for families of one child, any larger group would ordinarily be too cramped in this space.

TABLE VIII

ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR FAMILY EATING
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA AND SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area					
	Small		Medium		Large	
	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate
	(Number of families)					
One child	1	3	-	3	-	6
Two children	5	1	1	5	-	3
Three children	-	-	-	1	1	-

In the medium and large classifications all families with only one child found the dining room area adequate for family meals. All but one family with two children were satisfied with their accommodations. In the case of the larger families it should be observed that past social standards, personal adjustability, and variety of other uses made of the dining area, are major factors in the satisfaction of occupants with the space available. For instance, of two families with three children, the one with the medium dining area found it adequate, while the family with the large area complained that her space was definitely too small. Other comments made by housewives are found in Table IX.

Adequacy of storage of furnishings for family meals.--The casual observer is often unconscious of the absolute necessity of abundant storage for the dining area until the long list of furnishings are considered. The inventory of articles commonly regarded as necessary in the modern home includes such items as china, silver, glassware, linen, trays, vases, and candlesticks in varying quantities. The storage furniture within the dining area found in this study included a buffet, china closet, secretary, chest, bookcase, cedar chest, and tea wagon. This furniture was in some instances also used for the storage of furnishings for other activities.

The table linen for the family meals of eight of the thirty families was stored in the dining area (Table X). Five used the buffet while the other three used a secretary, chest, or cedar chest. All of these families except the one who stored the linen in the secretary found the space adequate. Twenty-one stored their linen in the linen closet; only six of them thought the storage space inadequate (Table XI). One family stored the linen in the kitchen and thought this space inadequate.

TABLE IX

COMMENTS CONCERNING ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR FAMILY MEALS
 ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY AND SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area	Comments	
		Inadequate	Adequate
One child	Small	Not large enough even for family	Not as much as we would like, but adequate
	Medium		Dining area adequate, but would like to have more space for eating in the kitchen with children
Two children	Small	Too crowded with children Definitely not enough space Definitely not enough space, sometimes we eat one by one Just for husband and wife, but awfully messy with children	
	Medium	Would like it just for husband and wife. Too small with children	Yes, for this size house
	Large		Enough privacy
Three children	Medium		Not crowded at all

TABLE X

FURNISHINGS FOR FAMILY EATING
WHICH ARE STORED IN THE DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture in dining area used for storage	Furnishings used for family eating						
	China	Silver	Glass- ware	Linen Trays	Candle- sticks	Vases	
	(Number of families)						
Buffet	-	-	-	5	1	1	-
China closet	1	-	1	-	2*	2	-
Secretary	-	-	-	1**	1	-	-
Chest	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Bookcase	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Cedar chest	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Tea wagon	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
All families	1	3	2	8	4	3	1
	(Per cent of families)						
Buffet	-	-	-	17	3	-	3
China closet	3	-	3	-	7	-	7
Secretary	-	-	-	3	3	-	-
Chest	-	3	-	3	-	-	-
Bookcase	-	3	3	-	-	3	-
Cedar chest	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Tea wagon	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
All families	3	10	7	26	13	3	10

*One of these two families found the storage of trays in the china closet inadequate.

**This family found the storage space for linen in the secretary inadequate.

TABLE XI

FURNISHINGS FOR FAMILY EATING NOT STORED IN DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Storage space outside dining area	Furnishings used for family eating						
	China	Silver	Glass- ware	Linen	Trays	Candle- sticks	Vases
	(Number of families)						
Kitchen	29	27	28	1	21	2	11
Linen closet	-	-	-	21	-	7	6
Living room	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Bedroom	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
All over house	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
	(Number who thought given storage space was inadequate)						
Kitchen	19	13	11	1	13	1	9
Linen closet	-	-	-	6	-	2	2
Living room	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bedroom	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
All over house	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
	(Per cent who thought given storage space was inadequate)						
Kitchen	66	46	79	100	62	50	83
Linen closet	-	-	-	30	-	29	33
Living room	-	-	-	-	100	-	-
Bedroom	-	-	-	-	-	50	-
All over house	-	-	-	-	100	100	50

In four of the thirty families the trays were stored in the dining area. With the exception of one family who stored them in the china closet, all families found this storage space adequate. Thirteen of the twenty-one families who stored trays in the kitchen found this space inadequate. The families who stored trays in the living room or all over the house found this to be unsatisfactory. One family found adequate storage for trays in their extra bedroom.

Three families stored silver and candlesticks in the dining area and found the space adequate. Of the twenty-seven who stored silver in the kitchen, thirteen found this inadequate. Of the fourteen families who stored candlesticks outside the dining area, only five found that they had inadequate storage for them.

The two families who stored glassware for family meals in the dining area found this to be satisfactory. Of the twenty-eight families who stored glassware in the kitchen, eleven found this space to be inadequate.

The one family storing the china used for family meals in the dining area found this storage space adequate. Twenty-nine families stored this china in the kitchen; nineteen of them found the storage space inadequate.

Only one family stored vases in the dining area and found the space adequate. Twenty-four stored vases elsewhere and thirteen found the space inadequate.

All but two families who had storage furniture in the dining area felt that this storage space was adequate. However, it is interesting to note that more families stored the items used for family meals outside the dining area than in it. Fifteen of the twenty-one families who kept table

linen in the linen closet, which was located in the hall, found this satisfactory. It was evident, though, that most of the families who had to keep these furnishings in places other than the dining area felt that the space was inadequate.

Number of storage spaces outside of the dining area.--In half or more of the families, the homemaker in setting the table for family meals used furnishings stored in two areas outside the dining area, most often the kitchen and the linen closet (Table XII). In one-third of the families the furnishings were stored in three or more places outside the dining area.

The size of the dining area and the size of family had little effect on the number of storage spaces outside the dining area used for the storage of furnishings for family eating (Tables XII and XIII).

TABLE XII

NUMBER OF STORAGE SPACES OUTSIDE OF THE DINING AREA
USED FOR STORAGE OF FURNISHINGS FOR
FAMILY EATING ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Number of storage spaces* outside the dining area used for family eating	Size of dining area			All sizes
	Small	Medium	Large	
	(Number of families)			
One	1	1	1	3
Two	6	6	5	17
Three	-	3	2	5
Four	-	-	-	-
All over house	3	-	2	5
All families	10	10	10	30

*The four storage spaces outside the dining area were the kitchen, linen closet, living room, and the bedroom.

TABLE XIII

NUMBER OF STORAGE SPACES OUTSIDE OF THE DINING AREA
USED FOR STORAGE OF FURNISHINGS FOR
FAMILY EATING ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY
(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Number of storage spaces* outside the dining area used for family eating	Size of family			
	One child	Two children	Three children	All sizes
	(Number of families)			
One	2	1	-	3
Two	8	9	-	17
Three	1	2	2	5
Four	-	-	-	-
All over house	2	3	-	5
All families	13	15	2	30
	(Per cent of families)			
One	15	7	-	10
Two	62	70	-	57
Three	8	13	100	17
Four	-	-	-	-
All over house	15	20	-	17
All families	100	100	100	100

*The four storage spaces outside the dining area were the kitchen, linen closet, living room, and bedroom.

Company Meals

All of the families sometimes served meals for extra persons. There were variations as to the frequency of these meals and as to the usual number present.

Frequency of company meals.—The usual number of company meals served by the thirty families varies from two or three a week to one every six weeks (Table XIV).

TABLE XIV

FREQUENCY OF COMPANY MEALS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA
(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Frequency of meals	Size of dining area			Total
	Small	Medium	Large	
	(Number of families)			
Two or three times a week	2	2	3	7
Once a week	3	3	3	9
Two or three times a month	1	1	2	4
Once every three weeks	1	-	-	1
Once a month	3	3	2	8
Once every six weeks	-	1	-	1
All families	10	10	10	30

The size of the dining area had only a slight influence on the number of meals at which extra persons were served. Six of each of the ten families who had a small or medium dining area and eight of the ten families with the large dining area had company for meals more often than once every three weeks.

The size of family also had little influence on the number of company meals. Two-thirds of the families with one or two children, but only half of the families with three children served company meals more often than once every three weeks (Table XV).

The usual number of persons eating together at dining table for company meals.—The number of persons eating together at the dining table for company meals in the thirty families varied from four to eight (Table XVI).

TABLE XV

FREQUENCY OF COMPANY MEALS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Frequency of meals	Size of family		
	One child	Two children	Three children
	(Number of families)		
Two or three times a week	4	3	-
Once a week	3	6	1
Two or three times a month	2	1	-
Once every three weeks	1	1	-
Once a month	3	4	-
Once every six weeks	-	-	1
	(Per cent of families)		
Two or three times a week	31	20	-
Once a week	23	40	50
Two or three times a month	15	7	-
Once every three weeks	8	7	-
Once a month	23	27	-
Once every six weeks	-	-	50

TABLE XVI

THE USUAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EATING TOGETHER AT DINING TABLE
FOR COMPANY MEALS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Usual number of persons	Size of dining area		
	Small	Medium	Large
	(Number of families)		
Four	1	1	2
Five	4	1	1
Six	4	6	5
Seven	-	-	1
Eight	1	2	1

The size of the dining area had only a slight effect on the number of persons eating company meals. Eight of the ten families having the small dining area usually served five or six persons; six of the families having the medium dining area and five of those having the large area usually served six persons. One or two families with each type of dining area stated that they often served as many as seven or eight persons at one time at the dining table.

The size of family, also, had no apparent influence on the number of extra persons who were entertained at company meals (Table XVII).

The most important factor that determined the number of persons eating together at the dining table for company meals was the decision as to whether the children were to be fed separately or with the guests. Seven of the ten families usually having only four or five persons at the table fed the children separately from the adults (Table XVIII). Thirteen

of the twenty-one families usually having six or more persons at the table for company meals served the children with the guests.

The size of dining area was not related to the family pattern for feeding the children at company meals. About half of the families having each size of dining area gave the children their meal before the other family members or guests were served.

As one would expect, the larger families more often fed the children separately from the adults (Table XIX). Only one-fourth of the families with one child, half of those with two children, and both families having three children followed the practice of feeding the children earlier.

TABLE XVII

THE USUAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EATING TOGETHER AT DINING TABLE
FOR COMPANY MEALS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Usual number of persons	Size of family		
	One child	Two children	Three children
	(Number of families)		
Four	1	2	1
Five	3	3	-
Six	8	7	-
Seven	1	-	-
Eight	-	3	1

TABLE XVIII

THE USUAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EATING TOGETHER AT DINING TABLE
FOR COMPANY MEALS AND THE PRACTICE OF FEEDING THE CHILDREN
SEPARATELY OR WITH COMPANY ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Usual number of persons	Children fed separately			Children fed with company			All families	
	Size of dining area			Size of dining area			Children fed separately	Children fed with company
	Small	Medium	Large	Small	Medium	Large		
	(Number of families)							
Four	1	1	2	-	-	-	4	-
Five	2	1	-	1	-	2	3	3
Six	1	2	2	4	4	2	5	10
Seven	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Eight	1	-	1	-	2	-	2	2
All families	5	4	5	5	6	5	14	16

TABLE XIX

THE USUAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EATING TOGETHER AT DINING TABLE
FOR COMPANY MEALS AND THE PRACTICE OF FEEDING THE CHILDREN
SEPARATELY OR WITH COMPANY ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Usual number of persons	Children fed separately			Children fed with company			All families	
	Size of family			Size of family			Children fed separately	Children fed with company
	One child	Two children	Three children	One child	Two children	Three children		
	(Number of families)							
Four	1	2	1	-	-	-	4	-
Five	-	3	-	3	-	-	3	3
Six	2	3	-	6	4	-	5	10
Seven	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Eight	-	1	1	-	2	-	2	2
All families	3	9	2	10	6	-	14	16
	(Per cent of families)							
Four	8	13	50	-	-	-	13	-
Five	-	20	-	23	-	-	10	10
Six	15	20	-	46	27	-	17	33
Seven	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	3
Eight	-	7	50	-	13	-	7	7
All families	23	60	100	76	40	-	47	53

Furniture used for company meals.--The furniture used for company meals was the same as that which was used for family meals except for a few adjustments that were mentioned by the homemakers in "Comments Concerning Adequacy of Dining Area for Company Meals According to Size of Dining Area and Size of Family" (Table XXI).

Adequacy of the dining area for company meals.--As one would expect more families found the dining area inadequate for company meals than for family meals. Eight families found the dining area unsatisfactory for family meals (p. 22) while twelve found this space inadequate for company meals (Table XX). Seven of the ten families having the small area found the space inadequate; about three-fourths of those with the medium and all having the large areas felt that the space was adequate.

TABLE XX

ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR COMPANY MEALS
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA AND SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of Dining Area					
	Small		Medium		Large	
	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate
	(Number of families)					
One child	2	2	-	3	1	5
Two children	5	1	2	4	1	2
Three children	-	-	-	1	1	-

TABLE XXI

COMMENTS CONCERNING ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR COMPANY MEALS
 ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA AND SIZE OF FAMILY
 (Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area	Comments	
		Inadequate	Adequate
One child	Small	Have to move out table. Too crowded. Not large enough. Very crowded.	Occasionally have it buffet; use folding chairs. Not too crowded if only two or three come in.
	Medium		Can make out, but would like to have an extra room for dining. Sometimes serve buffet style. Table large enough to accommodate six easily. Adequate for that number.
	Large	Too small for guests. Very inadequate. Sometimes serve buffet.	Serve plates at bridge table. Enough space. Usually just have a couple extra. Can serve six nicely. Adequate for not more than four extra.
Two children	Small	Too small to entertain. Often take friends out to eat. Much too crowded. Too crowded; have to set up an extra table. Too crowded with children and extra people. Much too crowded. Can get along when there are only three extra for lunch.	Have to put up card table. Adequate by doing so.

TABLE XXI (Continued)

Size of family	Size of dining area	Comments	
		Inadequate	Adequate
Two children	Medium	Not too good for entertaining. Set up card table for children A little crowded when extra people drop in.	Can serve six comfortably. By using the four extra chairs with bridge set, it is adequate. Can put two card tables in nicely. Enough space.
	Large	Crowded if several guests are present.	If we move bike and children's table, can serve eight very well. Adequate, but table is crowded when children eat with guests. Usually feed them earlier.
Three children	Medium		When not more than four adults, not too crowded.
	Large	Much too small.	

Of the thirteen families with one child, ten expressed satisfaction with this area for company meals while five of the six families having two children living in homes with the small dining area found the area inadequate. Two-thirds of the families with two children living in homes having the medium and large areas found that the space was adequate. Comments which the families made in regard to the adequacy of the dining area for company meals may be found in Table XXI.

Many adjustments for company meals were mentioned by the families. Four of them set up an extra table; two used folding chairs. One family arranged for the accommodation of the larger group by moving the table out from the wall. One family spoke of moving out the children's bicycle and table to make more room.

When faced with the inadequacy of the available dining space, nine families chose to limit the number of guests. One family preferred to take their friends out rather than entertain at home. Three other families met the shortage of dining space by serving the meal buffet style. Still another stated that she usually had her friends in for lunch rather than for dinner, since two of the family members were away for that meal.

Storage of furnishings for company meals.--Of the thirty families interviewed twenty had separate silver and glassware for company meals and twenty-seven had separate dishes (Tables XXII and XXIII). Ten families stored company china in the dining area; five of them stated that the storage space was inadequate. Seventeen families found it necessary to store the china for company meals outside the dining area. Eight of the thirteen families who stored this china in the kitchen and the family who stored it in the living room thought the storage space inadequate. Another remarked that because of the inadequacy of space in

the home, part of her good china had to be kept in storage. Three families found it necessary to store all of their good china outside the home.

TABLE XXII

FURNISHINGS FOR COMPANY MEALS WHICH ARE STORED IN DINING AREA
(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture in dining area used for storage	Furnishings used for company meals						
	China	Silver	Glass-ware	Linen	Trays	Candle-sticks	Vases
	(Number of families)						
Buffet	1	4*	1	5*	1	1	-
China closet	7**	1	6**	-	2	2*	1
Secretary	1*	-	1	-	1	-	-
Chest	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Bookcase	1	1	1	-	1	1	1
Cedar chest	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Tea wagon	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-
All families	10	9	9	7	5	4	2
	(Per cent of families)						
Buffet	3	13	3	17	3	3	-
China closet	23	3	20	-	7	7	-
Secretary	3	-	3	-	3	-	-
Chest	-	7	-	3	-	-	-
Bookcase	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cedar chest	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Tea wagon	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
All families	36	30	30	23	17	3	13

*One of these families considered the storage space inadequate.

**Four of these families considered space inadequate.

TABLE XXIII

FURNISHINGS FOR COMPANY MEALS NOT STORED IN DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Storage space outside dining area	Furnishings used for family eating						
	China	Silver	Glass- ware	Linen	Trays	Candle- sticks	Vases
	(Number of families)						
Kitchen	13	15	16	-	6	2	5
Linen closet	-	-	-	19	3	2	4
Living room	1	1	1	-	2	1	2
Bedroom	-	2	-	1	1	1	1
All over house	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
In storage	3	1	2	-	-	-	-
	(Number who thought given storage space was inadequate)						
Kitchen	8	7	10	-	5	1	3
Linen closet	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Living room	1	1	1	-	2	-	1
Bedroom	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
All over house	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
	(Per cent who thought given storage space was inadequate)						
Kitchen	62	50	62	-	83	50	60
Linen closet	-	-	-	54	-	-	-
Living room	100	100	100	-	100	50	50
Bedroom	-	50	-	-	-	-	-
All over house	-	-	-	-	100	100	67

In the case of nine families, the silver and glassware for guest meals was stored in the dining area; two of them thought the storage space for silver was inadequate and four of them were dissatisfied with the storage space for glassware. Of the nineteen families storing silver outside the dining area, fifteen families stored it in the kitchen, one in the living room, and two in the bedroom. Nine of these nineteen families thought that the storage space was inadequate. Sixteen families kept the glassware in the kitchen, one in the living room. Eleven of these seventeen families thought these storage facilities were inadequate. One family had the company silver in storage and two had the company glassware stored outside the home.

Linen for company meals was stored by seven families in the dining area, only one of which felt that this storage space was inadequate. Nineteen families stored their best table linen in the linen closet. Ten of these complained about the inadequacy of space. One family found sufficient storage space for linen in an extra bedroom.

Storage for trays in five homes visited was found in the dining area. Only one of the four families storing candlesticks there felt that the space was inadequate. Thirteen families kept trays outside the dining area; of these eight were dissatisfied with these arrangements. Two of the seven storing candlesticks elsewhere thought the storage space to be inadequate.

Vases were stored in the dining area by only two families. Fifteen sought space outside this area. Six of these complained of the inadequacy of their facilities.

Number of storage spaces outside dining area.—All of the families having the small and medium dining areas stored furnishings for company

meals outside this area; only 70 per cent of the families with the large areas stored their furnishings elsewhere (Table XXIV).

Ninety per cent of the families having the small dining areas used one or two outside spaces; 90 per cent of those having the medium dining areas with the extra bedroom stored furnishings for company meals in two or three places elsewhere in the house.

Thirty per cent of the families with the large dining areas found there sufficient room for all of their furnishings for company meals. Forty per cent of the families faced the necessity of appropriating one to two additional places while 30 per cent had to employ three or more extra spaces.

TABLE XXIV

NUMBER OF STORAGE SPACES OUTSIDE OF THE DINING AREA
USED FOR STORAGE OF FURNISHINGS FOR
COMPANY MEALS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Number of storage spaces* outside the dining area used for company meals	Size of dining area			All sizes
	Small	Medium	Large	
	(Number of families)			
None	-	-	3	3
One	2	1	-	3
Two	7	6	4	17
Three	-	3	2	5
Four	-	-	-	-
All over house	1	-	1	2
All families	10	10	10	30

*The four storage spaces outside the dining area were the kitchen, linen closet, living room, and bedroom.

Few of the families with one child used more than two outside spaces; about one-fourth of the families with two children and both of the families with three children used three or more such spaces (Table XXV).

TABLE XXV

NUMBER OF STORAGE SPACES OUTSIDE OF THE DINING AREA
USED FOR STORAGE OF FURNISHINGS FOR
COMPANY MEALS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Number of storage* spaces outside the dining area used for company meals	Size of family			
	One child	Two children	Three children	All sizes
	(Number of families)			
None	3	-	-	3
One	-	3	-	3
Two	9	8	-	17
Three	1	2	2	5
Four	-	-	-	-
All over house	-	2	-	2
All families	13	15	2	30
	(Per cent of families)			
None	23	-	-	10
One	-	20	-	10
Two	69	53	-	57
Three	7	13	100	17
Four	-	-	-	-
All over house	-	13	-	7
All families	100	100	100	100

*The four storage spaces outside the dining area were the kitchen, linen closet, living room, and the bedroom.

Playing Games

All but four of the thirty families used the dining area for playing games (Table XXVI). In the homes having the small dining area the parents and/or the children in all ten families assembled in this area for such activities. Eight of the ten families having the medium and large dining area also played games there. In two-thirds of the families this area was used by the children for play in the daytime, and by almost sixty per cent of the parents for night entertainment.

TABLE XXVI

FAMILY MEMBERS WHO USED DINING AREA FOR PLAYING GAMES
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Family members	Size of dining area			All sizes
	Small	Medium	Large	
		(Number of families)		
Children using dining area during day	8	5	7	20
Parents using dining area at night	7	5	5	17
Any family member	10	8	8	26

Furniture in the dining area used for playing games.--The dining table and chairs were used by about seventy per cent of the families for games (Table XXVII). In the case of three of the thirty families card tables were preferred and in one instance folding chairs were used. One family kept there a play pen. Another, who had a child's table with chairs to match, used both for play and meals.

TABLE XXVII

FURNITURE IN DINING AREA USED FOR PLAYING GAMES

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture used for playing games	Number of families	Per cent of families
Dining table	17	66
Card table	3	12
Dining chairs	19	73
Folding chairs	1	4
Play pen	1	4
Children's table and chairs	1	4

Adequacy of the dining area for playing games.—Seven of the eight families having the large and medium dining areas who used these areas for play thought them adequate for this purpose (Table XXVIII). Only five of the ten families having the small areas felt that this area was satisfactory for such activities—four of these families had only one child; the five who thought it inadequate had two children.

TABLE XXVIII

ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR PLAYING GAMES

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area					
	Small		Medium		Large	
	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate
	(Number of families)					
One child	-	4	-	1	-	5
Two children	5	1	1	5	1	2
Three children	-	-	-	1	-	-

The comments made by the housewives are summarized below:

Four stated that conditions were too crowded, especially for the children to spread out their toys.

One family complained that for playing cards the dining table had to be pulled out, which in turn blocked the door to the kitchen.

One family found the light inadequate.

Three families expressed satisfaction with their play facilities for the children.

Two families thought this area very good for playing cards.

Still another family said that while it was a nice place to play, she liked to keep the dining area "just so" all the time.

Equipment for playing games which was stored in the dining area.--

Although almost all of the families used the dining area for playing games, only twelve kept supplies and/or equipment for playing there (Table XXIX). Seven families kept cards, score pads and/or pencils there, five stored toys, one other games, and another kept in this area a card table which was used for playing and other activities. The four families who kept toys on the floor thought it inadequate.

The furniture used for storage in the several homes varied widely. Two families used the buffet, while in others either the secretary, chest, bookshelves, table, or desk was employed.

Hobbies

Only nine individuals in seven of the thirty families used the dining area for hobbies (Table XXX). Five husbands, three wives, and one child in seven families stated that they used this area for such activities.

TABLE XXIX

SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR PLAYING GAMES
WHICH WAS STORED IN DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture or part of dining area used for storage	Supplies and equipment used for playing games						
	Cards	Score pads	Pencils	Other games	Toys	Card table	Any equip- ment
	(Number of families)						
Buffet	2	2	2	-	1	-	2
Secretary	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
Chest	1*	1	1	-	-	-	1
Book shelves	1	1	1	1	-	-	1
Tables	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
Against wall	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
On floor	-	-	-	-	4*	-	4
Desk	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
Any furniture or part of dining area	7	7	7	1	5	1	12

*Families thought storage space inadequate.

TABLE XXX

FAMILY MEMBERS WHO USED DINING AREA FOR HOBBIES
 ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY AND SIZE OF AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Family members	Size of dining area			All sizes
		Small	Medium	Large	
(Number of families)					
One child	Husband	1	-	2	3
	Wife	-	-	2	2
	Child	-	-	1	1
Two children	Husband	1	1	-	2
	Wife	1	-	-	1
	Children	-	-	-	-
Three children	Husband	-	-	-	-
	Wife	-	-	-	-
	Children	-	-	-	-
All sizes	Husbands	2	1	2	5
	Wives	1	-	2	3
	Children	-	-	1	1
(Per cent of families)					
One child	Husband	25	-	33	23
	Wife	-	-	33	15
	Child	-	-	17	8
Two children	Husband	17	17	-	13
	Wife	17	-	-	7
	Children	-	-	-	-
Three children	Husband	-	-	-	-
	Wife	-	-	-	-
	Children	-	-	-	-
All families	Husbands	7	3	7	17
	Wives	-	-	7	10
	Children	-	-	3	3

As one would expect, the smaller families apparently had more time for hobbies, as was shown by the fact that six of the thirteen families having one child had hobbies. On the other hand, only three of the fifteen having two children and neither of the two with three children had such interests.

The size of dining area seemed to have but little influence on the number of families who worked on hobbies there. Three of the ten families with the small dining area, one with the medium area, and three having the large areas came here for such activities.

Furniture in dining area used for hobbies.--Four of the seven families who used the dining area for hobbies used the dining table and chairs (Table XXXI). One family used a card table, put in this area for various purposes, and one family kept a movie screen in the dining area, since it was a convenient place for showing home movies.

TABLE XXXI

FURNITURE IN DINING AREA USED FOR HOBBIES
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture used for hobby	Size of dining area			
	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
	(Number of families)			
Dining table	2	-	2	4
Dining chairs	1	1	2	4
Card table	-	1	-	1
Movie screen	1	-	-	1
Any kind of furniture	4	2	4	4

Adequacy of dining area for hobbies.--Five of the seven families who used this area for hobbies thought the space adequate (Table XXXII). In many instances it was probably the only place that the individuals could spread out their materials very satisfactorily.

None of the families chose to store any of the supplies which were used for hobbies in the dining area.

TABLE XXXII

ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR HOBBIES

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area					
	Small		Medium		Large	
	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate
	(Number of families)					
One child	-	1	-	-	1	2
Two children	1	1	-	1	-	-
Three children	-	-	-	-	-	-

Office Work

It was interesting to discover that in fourteen of the thirty families, the husbands frequently used the dining area at night for work connected with their businesses (Table XXXIII).

Contrary to what one would expect, six husbands with small and six with medium dining areas often came home to work at night as compared to only two husbands with the large areas. Furthermore, the size of family seemed to have no influence in determining whether the husbands brought work to the dining area or did it elsewhere.

TABLE XXXIII

DINING AREA USED BY HUSBANDS FOR OFFICE WORK
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA AND SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area			All sizes
	Small	Medium	Large	
	(Number of families in which the husbands use dining area at night)			
One child	4	2	1	7
Two children	2	3	1	6
Three children	-	1	-	1
All families	6	6	2	14
	(Per cent of families)			
One child	100	67	17	54
Two children	33	50	33	40
Three children	-	100	-	50
All families	60	60	20	49

Furniture in dining area used for office work.--All of the families in which the dining area was used by the husband at night for office work used furniture which was permanently kept in this area. Thirteen husbands used the dining table and one having the medium area used a desk (Table XXXIV). All of the fourteen families used dining chairs for this work.

Adequacy of the dining area for office work.--All of the fourteen families who used the dining area for office work considered the space adequate (Table XXXV). Comments made by the housewives concerning the adequacy of this area for the husband's work may be summarized as:

A nice place, because he has space to spread out materials.

He finds it a nice place to work.

He works quite a bit at home.

TABLE XXXIV

FURNITURE IN DINING AREA USED FOR OFFICE WORK
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture used for office work	Size of dining area			All sizes
	Small	Medium	Large	
	(Number of families)			
Dining table	6	5	2	13
Dining chairs	6	6	2	14
Desk	-	1	-	1

TABLE XXXV

ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR OFFICE WORK
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY AND SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area					
	Small		Medium		Large	
	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate
	(Number of families)					
One child	-	4	-	2	-	1
Two children	-	2	-	3	-	1
Three children	-	-	-	1	-	-

Dining Area Used for Study, Reading, or Writing

Twenty individuals in twelve of the thirty families used the dining area for study, reading, or writing (Table XXXVI).

The size of dining area did have some effect on the number of families who used the area for these activities. Nine individuals living in homes with the small dining area did at least some of their studying, reading, or writing there, but only seven individuals having the medium area and four having the large area used the area for these purposes. One may assume that the families with the small area had no other place to do such activities, since the entire house was small; that the families with the medium dining area chose to use the extra bedroom or other rooms for these activities; and that the families having the large area had other suitable places.

The size of family did have some influence on the families who chose to study, read, or write in this area. The study showed that more of the husbands in families with two children than those with one child used the dining area for these activities, but no conclusion could be drawn as to why this was true.

Furniture in dining area used for study, reading, or writing.--All of the twelve families who did reading, studying, or writing in the dining area used furniture which was permanently located there (Table XXXVII). Eleven of the families used dining chairs either at the table or at the desk.

Adequacy of dining area for study, reading, or writing.--All of the twelve families who used the dining area for study, reading, or writing thought it adequate (Table XXXVIII). Most of the housewives commented that this area was convenient for these activities and about the best place that they had.

TABLE XXXVI

FAMILY MEMBERS WHO USED DINING AREA FOR STUDY, READING, OR WRITING
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY AND SIZE OF AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Family members	Size of dining area			
		Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
(Number of families)					
One child	Husband	1	-	1	2
	Wife	2	1	2	5
	Child	-	-	1	1
Two children	Husband	3	2	-	5
	Wife	3	2	-	5
	Children	-	1*	-	1
Three	Husband	-	-	-	-
	Wife	-	1	-	1
	Children	-	-	-	-
All sizes	Husbands	4	2	1	7
	Wives	5	4	2	11
	Children	-	1	1	2
(Per cent of families)					
One child	Husband	25	-	17	7
	Wife	50	33	33	17
	Child	-	-	17	3
Two children	Husband	50	67	-	17
	Wife	50	67	-	17
	Children	-	33	-	3
Three children	Husband	-	-	-	-
	Wife	-	100	-	3
	Children	-	-	-	3
All sizes	Husbands	40	20	10	23
	Wives	20	40	20	33
	Children	-	10	10	7

*The sister of the wife used it for study.

TABLE XXXVII

FURNITURE IN DINING AREA USED FOR STUDY, READING, OR WRITING
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture used for study, reading, and writing	Size of dining area			All sizes
	Small	Medium	Large	
	(Number of families)			
Dining table	5	4	2	11
Dining chairs	5	4	3	12
Desk	-	1	-	1

TABLE XXXVIII

ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR STUDY, READING, OR WRITING
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY AND SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area					
	Small		Medium		Large	
	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate	Inade- quate	Ade- quate
	(Number of families)					
One child	-	2	-	1	-	2
Two children	-	3	-	3	-	-
Three children	-	-	-	1	-	-

Equipment and supplies for study, reading, or writing which were stored in the dining area.—Of the twelve families who did study, reading, or writing in the dining area, only six kept books there, and just two kept paper and writing materials in this area (Table XXXIX). Books were stored in the bookcase by two families, in the buffet by two, in the desk

by one, and on book shelves by another family. All of the families who stored these articles there considered the storage adequate except the family who thought that the book shelves were inadequate for the number of books which they had.

TABLE XXXIX

EQUIPMENT FOR STUDY, READING, AND WRITING
WHICH WAS STORED IN DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture in dining area used for storage	Equipment used for study, reading, writing			
	Books	Paper	Writing material	Any equipment
		(Number of families)		
Bookcase	2	-	-	2
Buffet	2	1	1	4
Desk	1	1	1	1
Book shelves	1*	-	-	1
Any furniture	6	2	2	8

*Family considered storage inadequate.

Ironing

Sixteen of the thirty families used the dining area for ironing (Table XL). Thirteen of them used it for this activity in the daytime and the other three preferred to do it at night.

As might be expected, more of the families with the medium and large dining areas used this space for ironing than those with the small. Seven of the ten families with the large dining areas and six of those having the medium did their ironing there, as compared to only three out of the ten families with the small dining area. Several of the housewives

having the small dining areas remarked that they preferred to iron in the kitchen, since in there it was almost impossible for the children to get in to play around the ironing board.

TABLE XL

FAMILIES WHO USUALLY IRONED IN THE DINING AREA
(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of dining area	Time of day		
	Day	Night	Day and night
	(Number of families)		
Small	3	-	3
Medium	3	3	6
Large	7	-	7
All sizes	13	3	16

Furniture in the dining area used for ironing.--All but one of the sixteen families who ironed in the dining area used the dining table as a depository for clothes (Table XLI). Eight of the sixteen families used the dining chairs, and one used the buffet.

TABLE XLI

FURNITURE IN DINING AREA USED FOR IRONING
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture used for ironing	Size of dining area			
	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
	(Number of families)			
Dining table	3	5	7	15
Dining chairs	1	2	5	8
Buffet	-	-	1	1
Any dining furniture	3	6	7	16

Adequacy of the dining area for ironing.--All but one of the sixteen families that did their ironing in the dining area thought it was adequate (Table XLII). No comments were made as to why the one housewife was dissatisfied. A variety of comments were made by the other housewives:

Seven stated that the dining area was a very convenient place to iron.

Three commented on the advantage of having the dining table on which to put the clothes.

Two liked the lighting facilities there better than those elsewhere in the house.

One family liked the area for ironing but found that the outlet was in the wrong place.

Another housewife liked this area for ironing because the outlets were quite satisfactory. These two families did not live in the same type of house.

TABLE XLII

ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR IRONING
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Adequacy of dining area	Size of dining area			All sizes
	Small	Medium	Large	
	(Number of families)			
Adequate	3	6	6	15
Inadequate	-	-	1	1
All families	3	6	7	16

Equipment for ironing which was stored in the dining area.--Only six of the sixteen families who used the dining area for ironing stored equipment there (Table XLIII). Five of these families used the space behind the door: two storing the ironing board there, two keeping

unironed clothes there, and one keeping the ironer in this location. One family stored the iron in the buffet.

TABLE XLIII

EQUIPMENT FOR IRONING WHICH WAS STORED IN THE DINING AREA
(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture or part of dining area used for storage	Equipment used for ironing				
	Ironing board	Iron	Ironer	Unironed clothes	Any kind of equipment
	(Number of families)				
Buffet	-	1	-	-	1
Behind door	<u>2*</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2*</u>	<u>5</u>
Any furniture or any part of dining area	2	1	1	2	6

*One of these families thought the storage space inadequate.

Talking with Visitors

Fourteen of the thirty families used the dining area at times for talking with visitors (Table XLIV). Half of these had the small dining area. The small families used it for this purpose more than did the larger families.

Adequacy of dining area for talking with visitors.--Of the fourteen families who used the dining area for talking with visitors, ten families stated that the area was adequate for this (Table XLV). All of the four families who thought the area to be inadequate had the medium dining area. No explanation for this fact can be made.

TABLE XLIV

FAMILIES WHO USED DINING AREA FOR TALKING WITH VISITORS
 ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY AND SIZE OF AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area			All sizes
	Small	Medium	Large	
	(Number of families)			
One child	4	2	2	8
Two children	3	2	1	6
Three children	-	-	-	-
All sizes	7	4	3	14
	(Per cent of families)			
One child	100	67	33	61
Two children	50	33	33	40
Three children	-	-	-	-
All sizes	70	40	30	47

TABLE XLV

ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR TALKING WITH VISITORS
 ACCORDING TO SIZE OF FAMILY AND SIZE OF AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area					
	Small		Medium		Large	
	Inade-quate	Ade-quate	Inade-quate	Ade-quate	Inade-quate	Ade-quate
	(Number of families)					
One child	-	4	2	-	-	2
Two children	-	3	2	-	-	1
Three children	-	-	-	-	-	-

Machine Sewing

Eleven of the thirty families did machine sewing in the dining area (Table XLVI). Of these families six did most of their sewing in the daytime and five preferred to do it at night. At first it seemed surprising that more of the families with the small dining areas used this space for machine sewing. Seven of the ten families with the small dining area carried on this activity there, in comparison with only one family having the medium and three having the large dining areas. This situation is probably explainable by the fact that many of the families having the medium dining area also had an extra bedroom which was available for many activities. Furthermore, those with the large dining areas invariably possessed larger bedrooms and due to their location upstairs, offered facilities with less confusion and congestion for sewing purposes.

Another family used the dining table for cutting out garments, but did the sewing in another room(p. 67).

TABLE XLVI

FAMILIES WHO DID MACHINE SEWING IN DINING AREA
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF THE AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of dining area	Time of day		
	Day	Night	Day and night
	(Number of families)		
Small	4	3	7
Medium	-	1	1
Large	2	1	3
All sizes	6	5	11

Furniture in the dining area used for machine sewing.--All of the housewives who used the dining area for machine sewing used the dining table and chairs (Table XLVII). Only one kept a console machine in this area; the others had portables which they kept in other parts of the house.

In addition, one housewife kept her sewing equipment in the chest and one wife had a card table in this area which she used for machine and also for cutting.

TABLE XLVII

FURNITURE IN DINING AREA USED FOR MACHINE SEWING
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture used for machine sewing	Size of dining area			All sizes
	Small	Medium	Large	
		(Number of families)		
Dining table	7*	1	3	11
Dining chairs	7	1	3	11
Chest	1	-	-	1
Machine	-	-	1	1
Card table	-	-	1	1

*Dining table was actually a sewing machine table.

Adequacy of the dining area for machine sewing.--Most of the eleven families who used the dining area for machine sewing thought the space adequate. Five of the seven families having the small area who carried on this activity there thought that it was the best place that they had (Table XLVIII). The one family with the medium dining area said

that she liked to do machine sewing there, and two of the three families with the large dining area who sewed there thought the space was adequate. The other family with the large area had three children so this may explain why this housewife did not like to sew there.

TABLE XLVIII

ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR MACHINE SEWING
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Adequacy of dining area	Size of dining area			All areas
	Small	Medium	Large	
		(Number of families)		
Adequate	5	1	2	8
Inadequate	2	-	1	3
All families	7	1	3	1

Comments made by the housewives may be found in Table XLIX.

Equipment for machine sewing which was stored in dining area.--

Only four of the eleven housewives who used the dining area for sewing stored supplies such as a sewing box, patterns, and material there (Table L). Three of these kept supplies in a chest or buffet and one used the machine for some of her sewing materials.

TABLE XLIX

COMMENTS CONCERNING ADEQUACY OF DINING AREA FOR MACHINE SEWING
 ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA AND SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area	Comments	
		Inadequate	Adequate
One child	Small	Have to clean up sewing before meals can be served.	About the best use of the dining area. Nice for cutting.
	Large		Yes, very convenient.
Two children	Small	Too crowded. Not a good place to cut out garments. Main objection is that it messes up living room. Main objection is that it makes too much confusion.	Yes, except when children are around.
	Medium		Yes, and I would do more if I had a more substantial table.
Three children	Large	Family can't eat until I take card table down. Much too small.	

TABLE L

SUPPLIES FOR MACHINE SEWING WHICH WERE STORED IN DINING AREA
(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Furniture in dining area used for storage	Supplies used for machine sewing			
	Sewing box	Patterns	Material	Any supplies
	(Number of families)			
Buffet	1	1	2	2
Chest	1	1	1	1
Machine	1	-	-	1
Any furniture	3	2	3	4

Other Activities Carried on in Dining Area
By Only One Family

Seven activities were performed in the dining area by only one family (Table LI). These included decorating the Christmas tree, listening to the radio, dressing the children, cutting out garments, gift wrapping, piano playing, and hand-sewing.

The family who did hand-sewing in the dining area had three children and lived in an apartment having the large dining area. The housewife chose this area for doing this activity because of its greater convenience at night after the children were in bed and because of the extra table for laying out materials. She commented on the fact that the lighting was better there than in other rooms that could be used for mending or other hand-sewing.

TABLE LI

OTHER ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON IN DINING AREA
BY ONLY ONE FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Activity	Size of dining area	Size of family
Decorating the Christmas tree	Small	One child
Listening to radio	Small	Two children
Dressing children	Small	Two children
Cutting out garments	Medium	Two children
Gift wrapping	Large	One child
Piano playing	Large	One child
Hand-sewing	Large	Three children

Various Number of Activities Performed by Families

It was interesting to see that the dining area was used by most families for several activities. All of the families carried on at least three, and two-thirds made from four to six different uses of this area (Table LII).

TABLE LII

VARIOUS NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY FAMILIES
ACCORDING TO SIZE OF DINING AREA AND SIZE OF FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of dining area	Size of family	Number of activities						
		Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight	All
		(Number of families)						
Small	One child	-	-	-	1	-	3	4
	Two children	-	1	1	2	1	1	6
Medium	One child	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
	Two children	-	1	2	2	1	-	6
	Three children	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Large	One child	-	1	2	2	-	1	6
	Two children	-	2	-	-	-	1	3
	Three children	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
All families		1	6	7	8	2	6	30

Other Items Stored in the Dining Area by One Family

Several families chose to store articles in the dining area, some of which were not used there. A dinette table was kept there by a family having a small dining area in addition to a drop-leaf table (Table LIII). One family in the homes having the small area kept the console radio there. The family who kept the washing machine there moved it into the kitchen to do her laundry. The family who kept baby clothes in this area usually dressed the baby in the bedroom. One family having the medium dining area kept the baby carriage there, but it was often used elsewhere. A spinning

wheel for ornamental purposes was kept in the large dining area by one of the families. Two families, not mentioned before, stored books there but chose to use them elsewhere. A piano and bicycle were also kept there by three families.

The families who kept food, the child's souvenirs, the stroller, and the laundry cart in this area found the space inadequate. Many of these families commented that these articles were kept there because of the lack of space anywhere else and not from choice.

TABLE LIII

OTHER ITEMS STORED IN THE DINING AREA
BY ONLY ONE FAMILY

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Articles stored	Furniture used for storage	Size of dining area	Size of family
Washing machine	-	Small	One child
Console radio	-	Small	Two children
Food*	Buffet	Small	Two children
Extra dinette table	-	Small	Two children
Baby clothes	Chest	Small	Two children
Baby carriage	-	Medium	Two children
Books	Bookcase	Medium	Two children
Piano	-	Large	One child
Child's souvenirs*	Cedar chest	Large	One child
Spinning wheel	-	Large	One child
Stroller*	-	Large	Two children
Laundry cart*	-	Large	Two children
Books	Bookshelves	Large	Two children
Bicycle	-	Large	Two children

*The families found the storage for these articles inadequate.

Satisfactions with Dining Area

One-half or more of all the families having the medium and large dining areas were satisfied with the size of the area, but only ten per

per cent of those having the small area thought it adequate (Table LIV). This may help to explain why only 40 per cent of the families having the small area liked the dining area as an alcove off the living area while three-fourths of those having the medium and large areas were satisfied with this arrangement.

The shape of the dining area was satisfactory to 90 per cent or more of those having the medium and large spaces but to only 60 per cent having the small. The homes having the small areas had a linen closet in the hall which actually cut out part of the dining space. The families who were dissatisfied would have preferred this space thrown into the dining area, but they did not want to do without the linen closet. In other words, they really wanted more space.

All of the families were satisfied with the relationship of the dining area to the other rooms. Since this area was located between the kitchen and living room in all homes, it was very convenient for all uses.

The size of family showed little influence on the satisfactions with the various features of the dining area.

TABLE LIV

SATISFACTION WITH DINING AREA

(Thirty families with living-dining room in Greensboro, N. C.)

Size of family	Size of dining area			All families
	Small	Medium	Large	
	(Per cent of families satisfied with size)			
One child	25	33	67	46
Two children	-	67	33	33
Three children	-	100	-	50
All families	10	60	50	40
	(Per cent of families satisfied with dining area as an alcove off living room)			
One child	50	100	67	70
Two children	33	83	67	67
Three children	-	-	-	-
All families	40	80	70	63
	(Per cent of families satisfied with shape of dining area)			
One child	50	100	83	77
Two children	67	100	100	87
Three children	-	100	100	100
All families	60	100	90	83
	(Per cent of families satisfied with the relationship of dining area to other rooms)			
One child	100	100	100	100
Two children	100	100	100	100
Three children	-	100	100	100
All families	100	100	100	100

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

One of the most debated subjects in house planning in recent years has been the question of the importance of a separate room which is devoted only to dining purposes. While the kitchen, living room, bedrooms and bathrooms apparently are indispensable, the dining room has been omitted entirely or combined with other rooms in many homes which have been built recently. One can hardly justify a room which is used only one to two hours a day or when company is present if economy is to be considered.

Most young families faced with the need for economy have adapted themselves to their environment and worked out satisfactory uses for the small homes which they occupy. Interest in the adjustments which families have made prompted a study of the activities carried on in the dining areas. Thirty families with young children living in small houses or apartments having a combination living-dining room were contacted. The families lived in three sections of Greensboro and had homes with different sizes of dining alcoves. In order to keep the variables at a minimum, ten homes having similar floor plans were selected in each of these sections.

The families living in the Rosewood housing development had small dining alcoves, those in the Guilford Hills section had medium-sized alcoves, and those in the Latham Park area had large alcoves. The homes in Rosewood and Latham Park had two bedrooms while those in Guilford Hills had three.

The purposes of the study were:

1. To find out what activities were carried on in the dining alcove.
2. To find out what furniture was used in these activities.
3. To find out how satisfactory the dining area as an alcove off the living area was for the activities which were performed there.
4. To find out how satisfactory the dining area was for the storage of supplies and equipment needed for the activities.
5. To find out the satisfaction with the major physical features of the room.

Facts were obtained from each family by means of a personal interview using a pretested schedule which was filled out at the time of the interview.

Data pertaining to family activities in the dining alcove and the satisfaction derived from the use of the dining alcove was tabulated according to the size of dining area and the size of family.

The Families

In the thirty homes the size of family fell into the following categories: thirteen families had only one child, fifteen had two children, and two families had three children. Six of the families having the small and medium dining areas had two children, while six of the families with the large area had only one child.

In the homes having the small dining area, two-thirds of the children were girls while in the homes having the large area 60 per cent were boys.

The families having the small areas had on the whole younger children than the families with the large areas. Eighty-three per cent of the children in the homes with the small area were three years of age or younger. Sixty per cent of the children in the homes with the large area were over three years of age.

The occupation of the husband had no apparent influence on the size of dining area. Although all of the homes would be considered small, most of the families were above the average income level, representing clerical, business, and professional groups.

Usual Persons Performing Activities

As would be expected, the dining area was used by all of the thirty homes for family and company meals. All but four of the families chose this area for playing games. From one-third to one-half of the families used the area for these purposes: ironing; talking with visitors; office work; study, reading, and writing; and machine sewing. Seven families selected this area for working on hobbies. Other activities carried on in the dining area by only one family each were: hand-sewing, decorating the Christmas tree, dressing the children, cutting out garments, gift wrapping, listening to the radio, and piano playing.

Two-thirds of the husbands and one-fifth of the children were usually or always away for lunch on weekdays, though normally all family members used this area for meals.

Between meals in the daytime, the wives used the dining area for ironing, talking with visitors, or machine sewing; and the children used it for play. At night approximately one-half of the husbands carried on office work in the area, and two-thirds of the parents used it for games occasionally.

In all the families, at least three activities were carried on by each family in the dining area and two-thirds of the families performed from four to six activities there regularly.

Furniture and Equipment in Dining Area
Used in Various Activities

The dining table and chairs were the items of furniture in the dining area which made it possible to use the area for many activities. Many of the families had a high chair and one family kept a child's table and chairs in this area.

About half the families had a china closet, buffet, chest, secretary, combination bookcase and desk, cedar chest, or tea cart. All of these were for storing equipment or furnishings needed for family or company meals, and most of them also used for other storage purposes.

Furniture and equipment associated with other activities carried on in the dining area and kept there by a few families were: an ironer, ironing board, basket of unironed clothes, sewing machine, desk, bookcase, bookshelves, piano, movie screen, card table, folding chairs, radio, and play pen.

The following articles were kept in the dining area by only one family each: a washing machine, laundry cart, stroller, and bicycle. One family having a large area kept a spinning wheel there for ornamental purposes only. One family having a small dining area kept a dinette table there, in addition to a drop-leaf table, which was not used for family meals.

Adequacy of Dining Area for Activities

For its main purpose, eating, the dining area was considered adequate for family meals by about three-fourths of the families and adequate for company meals by 60 per cent. When faced with the inadequacy of available space for entertaining friends for meals, nine families chose to limit the number of guests. One family preferred to take their friends

out rather than entertain at home. Three other families met the shortage of dining space by serving the meal buffet style. Still another stated that she usually had her friends in for lunch rather than for dinner, since two of the family members were away for that meal.

The satisfaction with the area for supplementary uses was as great as or greater than for meal service. All of the families using the dining area for office work or for study, reading, and writing thought the space adequate. Ninety-four per cent of the housewives ironing there thought it adequate. About three-fourths of the families who used the area for playing games, machine sewing, talking with visitors and hobbies considered the area adequate.

Adequacy of Storage for Furnishings Used in Activities

The usual place for storing the furnishings and equipment used for family and company meals was not in the dining area. Most families found adequate storage for their table linen and candlesticks in the linen closet. For many of the families, the kitchen provided inadequate storage for silver, china, glassware, trays, and vases. The few families who had storage furniture in the dining area for these furnishings thought that the space was adequate. More of the families used furniture in the dining area to store furnishings for company meals than for regular family meals. Having separate china, silver, and glassware for company meals created a storage problem for most families. Three of the thirty families found it necessary to keep all of their good furnishings in storage.

With the exception of furnishings for meal service, most of the families found the storage space in the dining area satisfactory for the

furnishings and equipment used for all other activities normally carried on in the area. However, of the five families who kept the children's toys on the floor, only one was satisfied with this arrangement. One of the two families who kept the ironing board behind the dining room door thought the space inadequate. One of the two families who kept unironed clothes behind the door also thought this unsatisfactory.

Size of Dining Area and Size of Family Related to Activities Carried on in the Dining Area

Activities carried on in the dining area varied more with the size of the area than with the size of family.

The Small Dining Area

It was surprising to find how much furniture the families had in the small dining area. Seven of the ten families had either a regular dining table or a drop-leaf table; two used a dinette table and one used a sewing machine table for meals. In addition to the regular dining chairs, five of the families also had a high chair in this area. Only one family had a buffet, but other items of furniture kept in the dining area by these families were: a chest, secretary, combination bookcase and desk, washing machine, play pen, card table, extra dinette table, radio, and a movie screen. Three families had nothing but a table and chairs in the dining area. One family had the play pen, card table, and console radio in addition to the table and chairs.

For entertaining at company meals, half of the families with small dining areas usually had five or less at the table. Seventy-five per cent of the families with one child considered the area adequate for family meals but only 50 per cent of them thought it adequate for company meals. Greater dissatisfaction was seen in the families with two children:

only 17 per cent of these families considered it adequate for both family and company meals.

All of the families with one child, but only one of the six families having two children thought this small area adequate for playing.

For talking with visitors, all of the families with one child and half of those with two children used the area for this purpose. About two-thirds of the families having the small dining areas used them for machine sewing and for the husband's office work. Only one-third used it for ironing.

The Larger Dining Areas

As would be expected, the families having the medium and large dining areas showed a greater satisfaction for all activities than did those having the small areas. Ninety-five per cent of these families had regular or drop-leaf tables in contrast to 70 per cent of the families using this type table in the small area. More conventional storage furniture was kept in the dining area by those families having the larger areas. Seventy per cent having the large dining area and 40 per cent with the medium had either a china closet or a buffet, as compared with 10 per cent of those in the small area using such furniture. Other items of furniture and large equipment which the families kept in the larger areas were: dining chairs, a child's table and chairs, tea cart, cedar chest, desk, bookcase, bookshelves, sewing machine, laundry cart, ironer, ironing board, piano, baby carriage, stroller, bicycle, and spinning wheel.

The families having the larger areas usually served more people for company meals than did those with the small area. Three-fourths of

them had from six to eight at the table when company was present, but only half of the families with the small area served that many persons at the table.

All families with the larger areas having one child thought the area adequate for family meals. All but one considered it adequate for company meals. Of the families with one child having the small area, only 75 per cent thought it adequate for family meals and only 50 per cent found it adequate for company meals. Of the families having two children, all but one of the nine families having the larger area considered it adequate for family meals, and six of the nine considered it adequate for company meals; only one of the six having the small dining area thought it adequate for family and company meals.

Of the families using the dining area for games, more of those with the medium and large area than those with the small ones considered them adequate for the purpose.

More families having a larger area ironed there than did those having a small area. Fewer of the families having a larger area used it for talking with visitors, the husband's office work, games, study, reading, writing, and machine sewing than the families having the small area. The other rooms were larger in the homes having the larger dining areas; probably other satisfactory space for these activities could be found. The third bedroom, which occurred only in homes with the medium dining area was used by some families for machine sewing and hobbies.

Size of Family

Activities in the dining area which were affected by the size of family were family meals, company meals, and hobbies.

For family meals, the families having more children naturally had more persons at the table. However, for company meals, the larger families had fewer persons at the table since more of them followed the practice of feeding the children separately from the adults.

Fewer of the larger families worked on hobbies in the dining area. No record was kept of how many families used other parts of the house for such activities, but there was probably less time for the hobbies in the larger families.

General Satisfaction with the Dining Alcove

When asked whether they were satisfied with their present dining areas, more than half of those with the medium and large areas were satisfied with the size, but only 10 per cent of those with the small area were satisfied. This dissatisfaction with size may account for the fact that fewer of the families with the small areas than of those with larger areas were satisfied with the dining space as an alcove off the living room. The shape of the small dining area was less satisfactory because a linen closet opening into the hall projected into the dining area.

Both Beyer and Lucille Campbell found less entertaining was done at company meals among families with the dining alcove or dining area at the end of the living room than by those having a separate dining room.

Conclusions

General conclusions drawn from this study of thirty young clerical, business, and professional families who had from one to three children living in three housing developments with homes having different sizes of dining alcoves:

(1) Less than half the families were satisfied with the size of dining area, but actually the greatest dissatisfaction was found in the families having two children and a small dining area, 5'6" x 7'6". The families having the medium area, 8'4" x 9'4", showed greatest satisfaction, possibly because of the third bedroom which helped to eliminate some of the congestion in the dining area and possibly due to pride of ownership.

(2) The uses of the dining area and the satisfaction with the space varied more with the size of dining area than with the size of family. The smaller dining areas were used for more activities than were the larger ones, probably because the other rooms in the house were also small. Less conventional furniture and less storage furniture was kept there and fewer persons were entertained at company meals in the homes having the small areas. It was considered less adequate for both family and company meals and for playing games.

(3) Over half of the families were satisfied with the dining area as an alcove off the living room.

(4) All of the families were satisfied with the location of the dining alcove between the kitchen and living room.

(5) Families in small homes used the dining area for many purposes. Nine activities were frequently carried on in the dining area. Two-thirds of the families used this area for from four to six different activities. Each family member used the dining area for one or more activities other than eating.

(6) In all three sizes of dining areas both the floor space and the storage space were less adequate for eating purposes than for other activities.

Recommendations

From the study of the activities carried on in the dining alcove by the thirty young families, the following recommendations are made:

- (1) The size of the dining alcove should be 8' x 9' or larger.
- (2) The area should contain adequate storage facilities for furnishings used for meals and other activities carried on there.
- (3) Families living in such areas should have furniture that can be used for more than one purpose.
- (4) The alcove should be arranged so that privacy from the kitchen and living area may be obtained by the use of folding doors, screens, movable storage cabinets, and the like.
- (5) Sufficient electrical outlets and adequate lighting for the various activities should be provided.
- (6) Flooring should stand hard wear and be easily cleaned.
- (7) Windows and doors should be so placed that as much floor and wall space as possible is usable.

Recommendations for Further Study

Additional information is needed along the following lines:

- (1) The kind and amount of entertaining done by families having different types of dining areas, such as the separate dining room, dining alcove, dining area as part of the living room, or breakfast nook.
- (2) The number of activities for which families use the different types of dining areas and the degree of satisfaction with the areas.
- (3) Previous experience of young home owners with the various types of dining areas and the type chosen for their own home.
- (4) The degree of satisfaction of young families living in houses approximately the same size divided into few larger rooms contrasted with more small rooms.

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APPENDIX

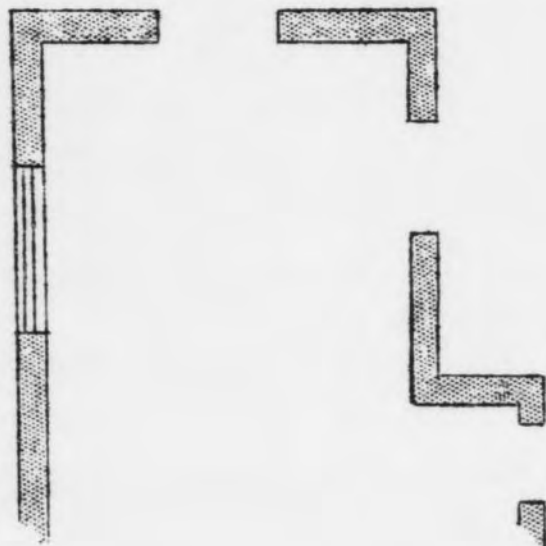
APPENDIX A
 PREPARED SCHEDULE USED IN COLLECTION OF DATA
 FAMILY USE OF DINING AREA

THE FAMILY

Street Address _____

Family				Meal at home weekdays			Comment
Members	Sex	Age	Occupation	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	Hours away
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	

FLOOR PLAN



ARE THE FOLLOWING SATISFACTORY?

	Yes	No
Dining area as an alcove off the living room _____	()	()
Size of dining area _____	()	()
Shape of dining area _____	()	()
Location of doors _____	()	()
Location of windows _____	()	()
Relationship to other rooms _____	()	()

DINING AREA FURNITURE USED IN ACTIVITY

Activity :	Use :		Furniture used in activities :					Adequacy for activity :
	When :	By whom :	Dining : :table :	Chairs : : No. Type :	Buf- : : fet :	China : : closet :	Other :	
Family eating	: Weekdays :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	: B L D* :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	: Week-end :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	: B L D :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Company meals	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Machine sewing	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Hand sewing	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ironing	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

* B L D--Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

STORAGE FOR EQUIPMENT USED IN THESE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Article stored	Place of storage				Adequacy of storage
		Buffet	China closet	On floor	Other	
Family eating	China	:	:	:	:	:
	Silver	:	:	:	:	:
	Glassware	:	:	:	:	:
	Linen	:	:	:	:	:
	Trays	:	:	:	:	:
	Vases	:	:	:	:	:
	Candlesticks	:	:	:	:	:
Company meals	China	:	:	:	:	:
	Silver	:	:	:	:	:
	Glassware	:	:	:	:	:
	Linen	:	:	:	:	:
	Trays	:	:	:	:	:
	Vases	:	:	:	:	:
	Candlesticks	:	:	:	:	:
Machine sewing	Machine	:	:	:	:	:
	Sewing box	:	:	:	:	:
	Material	:	:	:	:	:
Hand sewing	Sewing box	:	:	:	:	:
	Material	:	:	:	:	:
Ironing	Ironing board	:	:	:	:	:
	Iron	:	:	:	:	:
	Unironed	:	:	:	:	:
	clothes	:	:	:	:	:

DINING AREA FURNITURE USED IN ACTIVITY

Activity	Use		Furniture used in activities					Adequacy for activity
	When	By whom	Dining table	Chairs No. Type	Buf-fet	China closet	Other	
Playing games	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Hobby	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Study, reading, and writing	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Office work	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Talking with visitors	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Storage	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Other	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

STORAGE FOR EQUIPMENT USED IN THESE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Article	Place of storage				Adequacy of storage
		stored	Buffet	China	On floor	
			closet			
Playing games	Cards					
	Score pads					
	Pencils					
	Games					
	Toys					
	Card table					
Hobby						
Study, reading, and writing	Books					
	Paper					
	Writing equipment					
Office work	Typewriter					
	Records					
Talking with visitors						
Storage						
Other						