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A STUDY OF THE ADEQUACY OF CLOTHING STORAGE PROVIDED IN
THIRTY SIMILAR THREE-BEDROOM HOUSES BUILT FOR SALE

by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

For years, houses with three bedrooms have been built for sale by contractors with concern for adequate family clothing storage being secondary, if considered at all, to those specifications established by the Federal Housing Administration, organized in June, 1934.¹ The occupants of these houses had little or no part in planning their storage facilities. The contractor, having had no basis for change; and the purchasing occupants, arriving too late upon the scene to offer constructive recommendations for changes, have been unable to utilize their abilities and needs to benefit both parties.

No record of a previous study was found which would support the contentions of either builders or occupants concerning the amount and type of planned storage.

It was the purpose of this study:

1. To determine the adequacy of the clothing storage provisions in houses built for sale.
2. To determine what additional provisions for clothing had been added by the purchasing occupant.
3. To determine what further provisions, if any, are desired by present occupants.

An interview form was prepared for determining the adequacy of clothing storage in houses built for sale, additional provisions, and

1. The Federal Housing Administration was created by the National Housing Act approved June 27, 1934. United States Government Organization Manual, 1956-1957. Revised as of June 1, 1956. Federal Register Division, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington 25, D. C. p. 435.

those provisions further desired by present occupants.

This interview form, as found in the appendix, was submitted personally to each of the thirty participating occupants of three bedroom houses with similar floor plans with the writer serving as interviewer. Since one interviewer conducted the study, the interpretation of data was more constant.

This house plan was selected from a number of plans suggested by a contractor as the plan most commonly used for building houses for sale to the moderate income family in the High Point, North Carolina, area. It is hoped that this study will be of benefit to contractors in future building; to persons contemplating purchase of this type house, and to individuals planning to build houses of this type.

Certain terms require defining according to their use in this study. They are as follows:

Adequacy - Adequacy as used in the study denotes the amount and type of storage which was considered satisfactory at the present by occupants for their particular family situation.

Similar - Similar is defined by the contractor as meaning only small differences in construction detail such as reversal of a plan on a lot, or one room placed on the east as opposed to a similar room on the west on the next lot. The amount of storage space for clothing was the same in all houses studied.

The Federal Housing Authority Requirements² - The Federal Housing Authority Requirements for closet space in living units of three bedrooms have the following standards:

2. Minimum Property Requirements For Properties Of One or Two Living Units. Sub-title: Located in Six Southern States. FHA Form 2231 Revised November, 1955, p. 302C. Publisher: Federal Housing Administration.

Each of the three bedrooms has at least one closet having just the minimum:

Depth of two feet
Width of three feet
Height of six feet above closet floor
One shelf, one rod and hooks

A coat closet readily accessible to the living room, preferably near the front entrance with a minimum area of eight square feet. The above specifications are also standards for this closet.

A linen closet near the bedrooms with minimum:

Depth of fourteen inches
Width of thirty inches
Shelves five in number
Clearance of twelve inches

The above specifications were met in each of the thirty houses studied.

"Third Bedroom" - This house plan specifies use of the fifth room as a third bedroom. In practice, the families used this "Third bedroom" as a den, dining room or third bedroom.

In order to familiarize the reader with family backgrounds of the persons interviewed, see Table I.

The thirty occupants interviewed had been in their present houses from a span of two months to four years. Sixteen families were in residence from two to nine months, while fourteen families were in residence one year to four years. Only one occupant had a part in the planning of the clothing storage; this was the addition of built in shoe racks in the bottom of the three bedroom closets and this would not affect her storage to a great degree.

TABLE 1

FAMILIES LIVING IN THE HOUSES

(Thirty families with similar three-bedroom houses in High Point, N.C.)

House Number	Number of Persons In Family			Occupations of Parents		Clothing Storage			Fifth Room Used As:		
	Chil- dren	Adults	Total	Husband	Wife	Inad- equate	Ade- quate	Adapted by family	Den	Third bedroom	Dining room
1	0	2	2	Veneer Salesman	Teacher	x					x
2	1	2	3	Y Secretary	Housewife	x			x		
3	1	2	3	Insurance Salesman	Bank Teller	x					x
4	2	2	4	Supply Salesman	Housewife	x			x		
5	1	2	3	Production Superintendent	Housewife	x			x		
6	2	2	4	Paint Contractor	Housewife	x			x		
7	1	2	3	Personnel Manager	Housewife	x		x	x		
8	1	2	3	Bread Routeman	Housewife	x			x		
9	2	2	4	Postal Clerk	Housewife	x			x		
10	2	2	4	Engineer	Housewife	x		x			x
11	2	2	4	Paint Tinter	Housewife	x		x			x
12	2	2	4	Engineer	Housewife	x					x
13	2	2	4	Production Manager	Secretary	x					x
14	4	3	7	Engineer	Housewife	x					x
15	2	2	4	Office Manager	Housewife	x		x			x
16	3	1	4	(Deceased)	Housewife	x					x
17	2	2	4	Salesman	Housewife	x		x			x
18	2	2	4	Engineer Research	Housewife	x		x			x
19	2	2	4	Sports Editor	Housewife	x					x
20	1	2	3	Plywood Salesman	Secretary	x					x
21	3	2	5	Sportswear Salesman	Housewife	x			x		
22	3	2	5	Veneer Worker	Looper	x					x
23	1	2	3	Office Clerk	Nursing		x				x
24	1	2	3	College Student	Housewife		x		x		
25	0	2	2	Carpenter	Housewife		x		x		
26	1	2	3	City Technician	Housewife		x		x		
27	1	2	3	Mill Supervisor	Housewife		x		x		
28	3	2	5	Upholsterer	Housewife		x		x		
29	0	2	2	Production Superintendent	Secretary		x		x		
30	1	2	3	Engineer	Housewife		x		x		
TOTALS	49	60	109			22	8	6	15	14	1

CHAPTER II

ADEQUACY OF CLOTHING STORAGE

Eight of the thirty occupants found their storage facilities for clothing adequate. Two of the satisfied families were those with no children.

With one exception, other residents who were satisfied with the storage were families with only one child. The exception, was a family with three children ranging in age from one to three years. In discussion concerning adequacy, this mother agreed that at their young age the storage was adequate, as two girls now divide storage space as well as use some of the same pieces of clothing, but as the children grow it would probably prove inadequate.

From this study, it was apparent that the satisfaction of these families with their clothing storage was derived from the fact that they either had no children, only one child, or young children (Table II).

Whether the mother was a working mother or a housewife was not related to satisfaction with clothing storage. Of those mothers who considered storage adequate, seventy-five per cent were housewives and twenty-five per cent were working wives; while in those of the dissatisfied group, seventy-seven per cent were housewives and twenty-three per cent were working wives. Since the percentage was approximately the same in both classifications, this point appeared valid to this study.

The use of the "third bedroom" varied with the composition of the family.

TABLE II
 FAMILIES SATISFIED WITH CLOTHING STORAGE
 BY NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN

Number of Children			Ages of Children					
0	1	3	Mo.	Yr.	Yr.	Yr.	Yr.	Yr.
			3	1	2	3	7	13
x								
x								
	x		1					
	x		1					
	x				1			
	x						1	
	x							1
		x		1	1	1		

In the group of fourteen families with none or one child, eleven used the third bedroom as a den or dining area while three families used it as a bedroom.

In the group of eleven families with two children, three used the third bedroom as a den and eight used it as a bedroom.

In the group of four families with three children, two used the third bedroom as a den and two used it as a bedroom. Both families with three children using the third bedroom as a den had one child a year old or less than a year old.

Only one family used in this study had four children and this family used all three rooms as bedrooms, with two double beds and a crib in the master bedroom. In all thirty cases, the third closet in this room was used for clothing storage for these small family groups.

Some cedar chests and trunks were used for storing other items than clothing. However, an interesting point to note was that all but one of those families making use of trunks and cedar chests as storage declared their clothing storage inadequate.

Forty-three per cent of the families had three chests of drawers; thirty per cent used four chests, and sixteen per cent had five chests in use (Table III).

TABLE III

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHESTS OF DRAWERS USED BY FAMILIES

Number of chests used for family clothing	Number of Families Using
One	0
Two	2
Three	13
Four	9
Five	5
Six	0
Seven	1

One family that found their clothing storage adequate had only one child, a boy seven years old. But additional clothing storage had been added in the form of two cedar chests, one wardrobe and three chests of drawers. This additional storage perhaps accounts for the feeling of adequacy in this family of three.

CHAPTER III

DETERMINATION OF ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR CLOTHING

ADDED BY THE PURCHASING OCCUPANTS

All families used in this survey had added chests of drawers to the clothing provisions supplied in the home by the builder. This type of storage formed the greater part of additional clothing storage used. There were one hundred and nine adults and children included in the families interviewed and exactly one hundred and nine chests of drawers were used. This average of one chest per person was slightly altered by the addition of four cedar chests which were used for clothing storage.

Table IV indicates that in most of these families, chests of three size groups were used. Most of the smaller chests were used for children's clothing and had a definite need in the family group.

TABLE IV

FAMILIES USING DRAWER - CHEST SPACE IN ADDITION TO CLOSET AREA

(Thirty families with similar three-bedroom houses
in High Point, N. C.)

Number of chests used for family clothing	Size of Chest of Drawers Width in Inches			Size of Cedar Chests Width in Inches			
	14-21½	23½-29½	30-47	38½	42	47	48
	(Number of families using)						
One	10	14	15	1	1	1	1
Two	8	7	7	0	0	0	0
Three	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Four	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	21	23	25	1	1	1	1

Six of the families interviewed had adapted their clothing storage in some way (Table V). The only family that made adjustments not pertaining to clothing facilities was one which adjusted shelves in the linen closet which did allow more space for clothing in the chests of drawers. This minor enlargement was an increase of five inches in depth on each of five shelves of the linen closet.

Five other families made more extensive adjustments in their houses for clothing storage. These five families can be classified as a group for various reasons. Each of the five considered their storage inadequate, each used all three bedrooms for their family, and each had one child three years or older, with three of the families having one child of school age. The above indicates a need for individual closet space for each family member as well as additional chest space.

One of the adjustments made by one family interviewed was to add a clothes rod in the attic for the storage of out of season garments. There is no enclosure as the attic is very dry and the clothes are in mothproof bags.

Another family added shoe racks in the three-bedroom closets to hold eight pairs of shoes each. This family also added open shelf space in the bottom of both children's closets to serve as steps for the children to reach rods. This supplied open shelf storage for soiled clothing, clean clothing, shoes and play clothes. This storage was added in the form of two shelves in the bottom of the closet with three divisions each. This provided six pigeon holes for storage and appeared quite successful as a plan (Table V). This plan was a great aid to this family in providing clothing storage as well as a clothing training device for the children ages five to nine.

TABLE V

FAMILIES MAKING ADDITIONS IN STORAGE SPACE

Number	Children	Ages of Children	Use of Third Bedroom		Adjustments in Closet Areas	Number of Chests of Drawers Supplementing Closet Area By Width In Inches		
			Bedroom	Den		14-21 $\frac{1}{2}$	30-42	23 $\frac{1}{2}$ -29 $\frac{1}{2}$
7	1	Boy-15 months		X	Five inches in depth was added to each of five shelves in the linen closet.		2	1
19	2	Girl-2 months Girl-3 years	X		Put flooring in attic to use for storage of boxes. Added three shelves to one side of each daughter's closet, making a total of six additional shelves. Adjusted rod height in both daughter's closets to a 45" height. Added two six foot rods through rafters in attic for out-of-season clothing.	1	4	
17	2	Boy-2 years Girl-4 years	X		Turned bottom shelf of linen closet vertically to make a linen bin for storage of soiled clothing. Rods in three bedroom closets moved one and one-fourth inches toward the back of the closet to enable the use of over-door hangers. Side boards were placed in one closet for three adjustment levels of child's clothing.	1	1	1
18	2	Boy-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ years Boy-6 years	X		Added two shelves in the boy's closet to enable his dressing himself.	1	1	2
10	2	Boy-4 years Girl-7 years	X		Added one clothes rod in the attic four and one-half feet in length for the storage of out-of-season clothes.			3
11	2	Boy-5 years Girl-9 years	X		Added shoe racks in three closets to hold eight pairs. Added two shelves with three divisions each in the bottom of child's closet to enable them to step up and reach clothes.	3	1	

Three inexpensive adjustments were devised in another family to adapt their home to meet the family clothing needs. The first adjustment was a simple one which utilized the floor of the linen closet as a storage area for soiled clothing. The bathroom in these homes was so small that few occupants kept a bin for soiled clothing there, and for those objecting to a hamper in the bedrooms, a closet seemed to be the only logical place. This family removed the bottom or fifth shelf in the linen closet and turned it vertically broadside to the door to serve as a bin for soiled clothing. This gave a convenient place for storage as well as a less unsightly closet floor when the closet door was opened. The second clothing adjustment made by this family was that of adjusting the rods in the three bedroom closets by moving them one and one-fourth inches toward the back of the closet to enable the use of overdoor hangers. The last revision of clothing storage was made by this family in the rooms of the two children. Each of their closets had two boards placed vertically in the closet with three adjustment levels for the clothes rod cut into them to enable the movement of the rod as the children grew and the child's clothing lengthened. For inexpensive, minor adjustments, these are greatly benefiting the family at present and will provide aid in the future.

Shelving the size of the closet floor was added in the two bedrooms used by the boys of another family to aid them in becoming more independent in dressing. Two shelves were added in the two bedrooms for the boys to store a portion of their clothing. This plan has proved quite successful with the older boy who is six years old and will become more useful as the younger child who is seventeen months old can use the shelving.

The daughter's closet was the area of revision for another family. They added five shelves in one side of her closet to enable her to keep her clothing in the proper place. Most underclothing and clothes used for play were stored within easy reach of the child. To the left of the shelves in the closet, the rod was adjusted to forty-five inches in this daughter's closet. An addition for the storage of out-of-season clothing was obtained by laying boards across the floor of the attic for space for the storage of cardboard cartons, of which this family had twenty-four. Also, two six-foot iron pipes had been added to the attic rafters for the hanging storage of out-of-season garments. This family considered their clothing storage most inadequate, but it was possibly due in part to their failure to discard fashion-dated clothing.

Five families having comparable family-life situations had shown the will as well as the desire to improve their situations, and had done intelligent planning enabling their family to have more conveniences in clothing storage. It was interesting to note that their first and major changes had been in the children's clothing and out-of-season clothing areas. The one family who made minor adjustments, and the five families who made major adjustments, had used approximately four chests per family.

The type of door for storage areas that the occupants would desire if buying or building another home is shown by the following:

<u>Type of Door Desired</u>	<u>Number of Persons</u>
Sliding, into wall	8
Sliding, louvered	7
Sliding, overlap	6
Accordian	6
Flush	2
Some accordian and some louvered	1

Twenty-one of the thirty families preferred one of three types of sliding doors. The preference of sliding louvered doors was not qualified by the occupants as: sliding overlap, or sliding into wall. Many families preferring sliding doors had not had the test of experience with them, but much preferred them to accordian as they thought accordian "unsightly." Of those families preferring accordian doors, many had had unsatisfactory experiences with sliding doors in the past. These families stated that properly constructed sliding doors might be nice; but would not be preferred unless they were the sliding into wall type. The flush door was considered less desirable as a closet door as only two occupants requested this particular type.

Favorable comments concerning other storage space provided in these houses indicated that only ten persons considered their storage desirable while twenty persons mentioned desirable storage space.

Other storage space in their houses that the ten occupants considered desirable were as follows:

<u>Storage Features Liked</u>	<u>Number of Persons</u>
Built-in shoe racks	3
Basement storage	2
Attic storage	2
Large closets in bedrooms	2
Nice large linen closet	1
Large utility room made into office, sewing center, and pantry	1

In compiling the data concerning the types of accessories used, it was found that of a list of eleven closet accessories, only three were used by one-half or more of the families studied (Table VI). Twenty families used garment bags of either the single type used by dry cleaners

TABLE VI

STORAGE ACCESSORIES USED BY FAMILIES SURVEYED

(Thirty families with similar three bedroom houses in High Point, N. C.)

Accessory	Number Garments Held	Number of Accessory Items Used										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	12	18	24
		(Number of Families Using)										
Garment Bags	16	8	4	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garment Bags	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Trouser Racks	16	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hooks or Nails	1	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cardboard Cartons		2	1	1	1	1	3	0	1	1	0	1
Over door Hangers	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over door Hangers	8	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Skirt Hangers	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skirt Hangers	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skirt Hangers	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skirt Hangers	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
Belt Rack	10	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoe Racks	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoe Racks	9	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoe Racks	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoe Bags	20	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoe Bags	12	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Shoe Bags	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoe Bags	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tie Racks		14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trunks		5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar Chests		10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

or the larger size holding sixteen garments each. Approximately twenty families used either shoe racks and/or shoe bags for the storage of shoes. Fifteen families used tie racks; it was this accessory that most persons felt need of or were planning to add to their home.

Of the other accessories used, twelve persons used skirt racks, six persons used overdoor hangers and one person used a trouser rack.

When considering container accessories, twelve families used cardboard cartons for storage, eleven families owned cedar chests and seven used trunks; however, when asked for measurements all but four people denied having clothing stored in their trunks and cedar chests. This could be interpreted to indicate that without this additional area, drawer space might be taken from clothing for storage of the items stored in trunks and cedar chests.

There were four cases cited that used more than eight of any one accessory. One family had twenty-seven garment bags, but the reason for the number was evident as each of these garment bags held only one garment.

Another individual used eighteen skirt hangers, but this larger number was qualified by the point that single skirt hangers were used with only one skirt on each hanger.

The other two special cases of more than eight of one accessory were users of cardboard cartons. One of the families using twelve cardboard cartons was a widow with three children. She had out-of-season clothing stored in these cartons and had much clothing for the children to use in the future. Since this occupant did not work outside the home, many friends and family had given her children clothing that was not actually in use at the present time. The second case concerning cardboard cartons was a housewife that acknowledged her mistake of too little discarding of fashion-dated clothing. She used twenty-four cardboard cartons and indicated that many of them were packed with clothing to be made into suitable clothing for her two daughters.

The above cases pointed out that of these thirty families only in certain circumstances did these families use more than eight of any one type of accessory.

When discussing out-of-season clothing storage, the question concerning method and time of storage was answered in the following way:

<u>Time and Method of Storage</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>
After returned from dry cleaners	20
After one or more wearings without dry cleaning	9
After washing, unstarched, unironed	16
After washing, unironed in a box	7
After washing, unstarched, hanging	1
Left hanging on rods in closet	4
Folded in a drawer	3
At dry cleaners	3

It was found that the majority of winter-fall out-of-season clothing was stored after it was returned from the dry cleaners; the greater part of spring-summer out-of-season clothing was stored after washing, unstarched and unironed.

When considering the ways by which the family clothing needs were provided (Table VII), it was found that closet storage was the type used most frequently. The common place of storage for out-of-season clothing, clothing needing repair, overnight airing of clothing, dry cleaning and commercial laundry to be sent out, was either closet, closet floor or closet door area. While the attic might have been used for out-of-season clothing storage, a number of housewives objected to using the pull-down stairway provided, and, no provisions were made by the builder for storage of clothing in the attic. Laundry to be done at home was stored chiefly in baskets either in bathroom, bedroom, nursery, or in the washing machine and diaper pails.

After compiling the data concerning the storage of male clothing, one of the results found was that male outer garments with the exception of dress shirts and sweaters were stored on rods. These two garments were

TABLE VII

PROVISIONS FOR FAMILY CLOTHING NEEDS - GENERAL

Type Storage	Out-of-Season	For Repair	O'Nite Airing	Dry Cleaning	Comm. Ldry.	Home Ldry.	Sewing
A. Closet	18	25	3	23	2	0	
B. Closet floor	0	0	1	2	4	2	
C. Special closet Entrance	5	0	0	0	0	0	
D. Laundry bag	0	1	1	0	4	3	
E. Drawer	2	3	0	0	0	0	5
F. Chest Cedar	4	0	0	0	0	0	
G. Valet	0	0	2	0	0	0	
H. Hook	0	0	2	0	0	0	
I. Bin (in linen closet)	0	0	0	0	0	2	
J. Basket Bathrm.	0	0	1	1	1	8	
K. Laundry chute	0	0	0	0	0	0	
L. Washing machine	0	0	0	0	1	8	
M. Another house (Parents)	4	0	0	0	0	0	
N. Dry cleaners	4	0	0	0	0	0	
O. Fur storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	
P. Other							
1. Chair	0	0	2	3	0	0	
2. Utility room	0	0	5	2	0	1	
3. Attic	8	0	0	0	0	0	
4. Diaper pail	0	0	0	0	0	2	
5. Basket (Bedroom)	0	0	0	0	1	4	
6. Basket (Nursery)	0	0	0	0	2	1	
7. Basket (top of)	0	0	0	1	0	0	
8. Moth Cleaner Bag	1	0	0	0	0	0	
9. Closet door	0	0	7	0	0	0	
10. Basement	1	0	0	0	0	0	
11. Closet garment bag	5	0	0	0	0	1	
12. Utility Room Basket	0	0	0	0	0	1	
13. Cardboard Box	6	0	0	0	0	0	
14. Davenport	0	0	0	1	0	0	
15. Sewing Machine	0	1	0	0	0	0	

stored in drawers along with sleeping garments, beachwear, and under-clothing.

With few exceptions the following adult male garments were stored as follows:

On Rods	In Drawers	Approximately Equal Storage Provision Between Drawers And Rods
Trousers	Dress Shirts	Sport Shirts
Night Robes	Sweaters	Evening Shirts
Sport Coats	Pajamas	
Jackets	Undershirts	
Suits	Undershorts	
	Socks	
	Beach Shirts	
	Beach Trunks	

Very few vests were worn by this group, but of the three males wearing vests all stored them on rods.

After consideration of storage provision for adult female clothing, it was found that the greater percentage of outer clothing was stored on rods while knitted garments, underclothes, sleeping garments and sportswear were kept chiefly in drawers.

With few exceptions the following adult female garments were stored as follows:

On Rods	In Drawers	Approximately Equal Storage Provision Between Drawers And Rods
Blouses	Sweaters	Pajamas
Skirts	Slips	Gowns
Jackets	Bras	Shorts
Night Robes	Panties	
Dresses	Pedal Pushers	
House Dresses	Socks and Hose	
Suits	Beach Shirts	

Few knit dresses were worn by this group, but the storage provision was as follows:

On Rods	In Drawers	In Boxes
Four	Six	Two

Tabulation of the data concerning the storage of male children's clothing gave the following results:

On Rods	In Drawers	Approximately Equal Storage Provision Between Drawers And Rods
Dress Shirts	Night Robes	Sport Shirts
Trousers	Pajamas	Sweaters
Sportcoats	Undershirts	
Jackets	Undershorts	
Suits	Socks	
Snowsuits	Beach Shirts	
	Beach Trunks	

Tabulation of the data concerning the storage of female children's clothing gave the following results:

On Rods	In Drawers	Approximately Equal Storage Provision Between Drawers And Rods
Skirts	Sweaters	Blouses
Jackets	Pajamas	
Night Robes	Gowns	
Dresses	Slips	
House Dresses	Bras	
Snowsuits	Panties	
	Socks and Hose	
	Beach Shirts	
	Shorts	
	Pedal Pushers	

Few knit dresses were worn by these female children, but those worn were stored as follows:

On Rods	In Drawers	In Boxes
None	One	Three

Certain items peculiar to infants, as diapers, diaper shirts, and booties were stored as follows:

<u>Type of Storage</u>	<u>Storage Number</u>
Bathinet	5
Drawer	4
Box	2
Top of Chest	1
Table Top	1
Closet	1
Linen Closet	1

With the exception of shoe, jewelry, tie and belt storage, no separate storage provision had been made by the occupants in these thirty houses for certain items, that usually need some particular consideration for storage (Table VIII).

TABLE VIII

PLACE OF STORAGE MADE FOR SPECIAL ITEMS

(Thirty Families in similar three-bedroom houses in High Point, N. C.)

Items	<u>Type of Storage</u>							
	<u>Closet</u>	<u>Chest</u>	<u>Shelf</u>	<u>Rack</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Bag</u>	<u>Floor</u>	<u>Wardrobe</u>
Shoes	25	0	2	12	9	5	7	0
Jewelry	0	29	0	0	19	0	0	0
Ties	26	4	0	14	0	0	0	0
Belts	22	4	1	7	0	0	0	0
Rainwear	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sportswear	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child's Playclothes	11	9	1	0	0	0	2	0
Hat or Cap	25	6	19	0	15	1	0	2
Coats	25	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Gardening	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloves	3	26	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarves	1	20	0	0	1	0	0	0
Formalwear	8	3	1	0	3	5	0	0
Purses	13	21	12	0	1	0	0	0

With the exception of formalwear of which approximately thirty per cent was stored in the attic, the majority of the other special items included in this grouping and for which no special provision was made were stored in either the bedroom area or entrance closet area (Table IX).

TABLE IX

STORAGE PROVISION MADE FOR SPECIAL ITEMS

(Thirty Families in similar three-bedroom houses in High Point, N. C.)

Items	Location of Storage					
	Bedroom	Entrance	Attic	Utility	Another Home	Den
	(Number of Families Using)					
Shoes	28	1				
Jewelry	27					
Tie	26					
Belts	26					
Rainwear	13	22		3		
Sportswear	4	2		1		1
Child's Playclothes	14	1	1			
Hat or Cap	27	8	1			
Coats	11	21	1			
Gardening Clothes				1		
Gloves	27	1				
Scarves	20	1				
Formalwear	9	1	5		1	
Purses	29	1			1	

With the exception of one family which used the entrance closet area for shoe storage, all of the storage provided for shoes was in the bedroom area.

The provision for jewelry storage was in the bedroom area: either loose in a drawer, in a jewelry box inside a chest, or in a jewelry box on top of a chest.

The provision for tie storage was in the bedroom area. With the exception of four families storing ties in chests, all provision for ties was in the closet area.

All provision for belt storage was in the bedroom area; in the closet in twenty-two cases, in chests in four cases, and on a shelf in one case.

With the exception of sportswear, child's playclothes, and gardening clothing, all of the items, for which special provision is sometimes provided were used by the thirty families, in quantities of one or more per family. Four accessory items used by the families interviewed in quantities of three or more per family were: hats, or caps, shoes, ties, and jewelry. (See Table X.)

TABLE X

NUMBER OF SPECIAL ITEMS

(Thirty Families in similar three-bedroom houses in High Point, N.C.)

Items	Average Number of Garments
Jewelry	19.05
Ties	18.66
Shoes	17.01
Hat or Cap	13.02
Belts	8.06
Scarves	7.20
Purses	6.70
Gloves	4.80
Coats	4.30
Rainwear	2.04
Formalwear	1.09
Seldom Used Items	
Sportswear90
Child's Playclothes73
Gardening Clothes03

Since the combination of two rain garments per family and four coats could be totaled as storage for six outer garments, these two items warrant special provision in the living room closet area, since this area was the preferred storage for these items.

Gloves and scarves though small in number could well deserve storage provision of drawer type.

As over thirty-five per cent of the occupants interviewed stored their shoes and hats in the closet area, and over thirteen of each of these articles were stored per family, provision should be made for shelf storage in the closet area for the storage of these two items (Table XI). Drawer space should be provided for the storage of jewelry of which nineteen pieces were stored per family. Forty-six per cent of the purses stored were stored in chests with the average numbers being used per family being over six.

TABLE XI
PERCENTAGE OF ITEMS STORED IN STORAGE PROVIDED

Items	Per Cent Stored				
	Closet	Chest	Box	Shelf	Rack
Hats	38	9	23	29	0
Shoes	54	0	20	0	26
Purses	28	46	0	26	0
Ties	65				35
Belts	67	12			21
Jewelry		60	40		

CHAPTER IV

TYPE OF ADDITIONAL CLOTHING STORAGE DESIRED

The type of storage most desired by the families interviewed was a storage wall. Two-thirds of the families in this study desired a storage wall (Table XII). Nine families desired no storage furnishings other than a storage wall.

TABLE XII

TYPE OF CLOTHING STORAGE DESIRED

Type of Storage Desired	Number of Persons Desiring
Fitted storage wall	22
Two closets in master bedroom	17
No storage furnishings other than storage wall	9
Shelves in one side of closet	7
Built in drawers in bedrooms	6
Built in dressing and clothing storage in master bedroom	4
Two closets in all bedrooms	3
Two closets in master bedroom preferred over storage wall	2
Built in shoe racks	2
One cedar closet	2
Walk-in closets	2
Rod in closet adjustable to grow with the child	1
Extra cardboard closet	1
Closets built to ceiling with shelves to ceiling for out-of-season clothing	1

All of the families indicating this desire for a storage wall did not specify the articles they would prefer storing in the wall, but of those indicating a preference the following was desired:

<u>Specified Type of Storage Wall Area</u>	<u>Number of Families Desiring</u>
Short space for blouses	17
Shelf space for hats	15
Partitioned shirt drawer space	10
Double rods	5
Shelf space for shoes	4
Shelf space for purses	3
Partitioned space for socks and handkerchiefs	2
Provision for sweater storage	1

One of the persons indicating desire for a storage wall mentioned future plans of her family to add storage wall to outside back wall of one bedroom of their present home.

The type of storage next most desired in addition to that in these homes was two closets in the master bedroom. Seventeen families desired this storage and felt that it could be included in this type and price house. Other types of storage desired by more than five families are: shelves built in one side of closet (7), and built in drawers in one side of closet (6).

Other types of storage desired by these occupants were not entirely clothing storage but were so closely related to clothing storage that it was of importance to mention them (Table XIII).

TABLE XIII
RELATED STORAGE DESIRED

Storage Desired	Number of Families Desiring
Larger linen closet	6
Larger linen closet in bathroom	6
Larger utility room	5
Special storage in carport for equipment and laundering	4
Full basement	4
Storage for vacuum, etc.	4
Storage for card table, games, etc.	4
Sewing room	4
Luggage storage	3
Storage for quilts and blankets	3
Larger bathroom	2
Storage for blankets above closet in each bedroom	2
Additional utility room	1
Space for washer and dryer in bathroom	1

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS

This study was made in thirty three-bedroom houses using a house plan which was selected from a number of plans suggested by a contractor as the plan most commonly used for building houses for sale to the moderate income family in the High Point, North Carolina, area.

The purposes of this study were:

1. To determine the adequacy of the clothing storage provisions in houses built for sale.
2. To determine what additional provisions for clothing had been added by the purchasing occupant.
3. To determine what further provisions, if any, are desired by present occupants.

The method used for collection of data was by means of a personal interview with each family which was recorded on the interview form by the writer.

The thirty occupants interviewed had been in their present houses from a span of two months to four years. Sixteen families were in residence from two to nine months, while fourteen families were in residence one year to four years. Three bedroom closets, one entrance closet and one linen closet were found in this house plan. Only one occupant had a part in the planning of the clothing storage, this was the addition of shoe racks in the bottom of the three bedroom closets.

Although fifty per cent of the families used the "third bedroom" as a den, forty-seven per cent used this room as a bedroom, and three per

cent used it as a dining room. In all cases, the closet area of this room was used for clothing storage.

The greater part of additional storage furniture used was chests of drawers. Of the one hundred and nine adults and children interviewed in this study, one hundred and nine chests of drawers were used by them. Forty-three per cent of all families studied had three chests of drawers; thirty per cent used four chests, and sixteen per cent had five chests in use.

Eight families found that the closets in the house, supplemented by their storage furniture was adequate for clothing storage. From this study it was apparent that the satisfaction of these families with their clothing storage was derived from the fact that they either had no children, only one child, or young children.

Five families with two children and with the oldest child three years or older, who made extensive adjustments in their houses for clothing storage, made their adjustments in the children's clothing and out-of-season clothing areas.

It was found that the majority of winter-fall out-of-season clothing was stored after it was returned from the dry cleaners; the greater part of spring-summer out-of-season clothing was stored after washing, unstarched and unironed. No separate storage was provided for the out-of-season clothing in this house.

Two-thirds of the occupants interviewed mentioned no desirable storage space was found in this house plan.

The type of clothing storage most desired was a storage wall, with over two-thirds of the occupants desiring this type of storage. Over half of the occupants preferred two closets in the master bedroom.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO BUILDER BASED ON PRACTICE

<u>I t e m</u>	<u>R e c o m m e n d a t i o n s</u>			
Out-of-Season Clothing	1. Bedroom closet large enough, or, 2. Separate shelf and rod storage in the attic in addition to the bedroom closet area. A. Better stairway to the attic.			
Children's Clothing	1. Adjustable rods and shelves in the closets, or, 2. One high rod and one low rod in the closet or, 3. Lower rod and shelf storage. 4. Shelf-steps for children to reach rods if no low rods are provided.			
Adjut Clothing	1. Storage wall including rods for short and long clothing, adjustable for at least one drawer each, and the following preferred storage for these items:			
	<u>A. In Drawers*</u>	<u>B. On Rods</u>	<u>C. On Racks</u>	<u>D. On Shelves</u>
	Dress Shirts	Trousers	Ties	Shoes**
	Sweaters	Night Robes	Belts	Hats
	Pajamas	Sport Coats	Shoes**	
	Underclothing	Jackets	Purses**	
	Socks and Hose	Suits		
	Beachwear	Blouses		
	Jewelry	Skirts		
	Scarves	Dresses		
	Gloves	House Dresses		
	Handkerchiefs			
	Purses**			

* It is the writer's belief that some of these items might be stored on shelves or trays more economically.

**Items stored in large number of cases in two places.

I t e m	R e c o m m e n d a t i o n
Items not desired in clothes closet as:	Storage space in hall and/or living area for the storage of these items.
Vacuum and cleaning equipment Game Tables Blanket and quilts Sewing supplies Luggage	

RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAMILY BASED ON PRACTICE

I t e m	R e c o m m e n d a t i o n
Out-of-Season Clothing	1. Addition of rod, small chests, and shelf space in the attic.
Children's Clothing	1. Steps for the children to enable them to reach present rods. 2. Double rods in closet. 3. Rod adjustment inserts. 4. Shelves built in bottom of closet or to one side of closet.
Adult Clothing	1. Individual partitioning of drawer space. 2. Addition of a rod for short clothing. 3. Shelves built on one side of closet.
Family Clothing Needs	1. Addition of the following accessories: overdoor hangers garment bags tie racks shoe bags or racks skirt racks trouser racks

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

To increase our knowledge of storage provision for clothing, the writer suggests the following:

1. A more detailed study of those storage adjustments related to the out-of-season storage of clothing desired by occupants of certain homes.
2. A study of the clothing storage needs of children as related to adjustments made by occupants and provisions made by the builder.
3. A study of the satisfaction with the storage wall as a means of clothing storage with specifications for a desirable storage area of this type.
4. A study of satisfaction with different types of closet doors.
5. A study of comparative cost of various clothing storage features.
6. A study of consumer choices of clothing storage based on desirability.

APPENDIX

A STUDY OF THE ADEQUACY OF CLOTHING STORAGE PROVIDED IN THIRTY
SIMILAR THREE-BEDROOM HOUSES BUILT FOR SALE

Interview Form

Name of Residents _____

Date _____

Names of Children _____

Address _____

Other Residents of Home _____

Does Mother Work Outside The Home? _____

Nature of Work _____ Hours _____

Father's Occupation _____ Hours _____

Length of Time Occupying Home _____

Did You Have A Part in Planning Storage Area When House was Built? _____

Have You Added To or Adapted Your Storage? _____

____ Added Space _____ Adjusted Rods _____ Accessories _____ Others?

I - Provisions Made For The Storage of Clothing While Building

Storage Space	Adult Male				Adult Female				Child I				Child II			
	N	H	W	D	N	H	W	D	N	H	W	D	N	H	W	D
A. CLOSET																
1. Floor Space																
2. Rod Length																
3. Shelving																
B. CHEST																
1. Drawers																
a.																
b.																
c.																
2. Cabinet																
3. Other																

Code: N=Number; H=Height; W=Width; D=Depth

II - Provisions Made For The Storage of Clothing Since Building

Storage Space	Adult Male				Adult Female				Child I				Child II			
	N	H	W	D	N	H	W	D	N	H	W	D	N	H	W	D
A. CLOSET																
1. Floor Space																
2. Rod Length																
3. Shelving																
B. CHEST																
1. Drawers																
a.																
b.																
c.																
2. Cabinet																
3. Other																

III - Closet Accessories

Type	No	Provided	No	Added
GARMENT BAGS				
HOOCS				
CARDBOARD CARTON				
OVERDOOR HANGERS				
SKIRT HANGERS				
SHOE RACKS				
TIE RACKS				
TRUNKS				
OTHERS				

IV - What Provision Has Been Made For the Following?

A. Adult Clothing

Type of Garment	Adult Male						Adult Female					
	S	W	R	D	B	S	S	W	R	D	B	S
	S	F		R	X	L	S	F		R	X	L
BLOUSES												
SKIRTS												
JACKETS												
SWEATERS												
NIGHT-ROBE												
PAJAMAS												
GCWNS												
SLIPS												
BRAS												
PANTIES												
PEDAL PUSHERS												
SOCK-HOSE												
BEACH-SHIRT												
SHORTS												
DRESSES												
DRESSES, KNIT												
DRESSES, HOUSE												
SUITS												
SHIRTS, DRESS												
SHIRTS, SPORT												
SHIRTS, EVENING												
TROUSERS												
SWEATERS												
NIGHT-ROBE												
PAJAMAS												
UNDERSHIRTS												
UNDERSHORTS												
SOCKS												
BEACH-SHIRT												
BEACH-TRUNK												
SPORTCOATS												
JACKETS												
SUITS												
VESTS												

SS-Spring and Summer; WF-Winter and Fall; R-Rod; DR-Drawer; BX-Box; SLF-Shelf.

IV - What Provision Has Been Made For the Following?
 B. Children's Clothing

Type of Garment	Child I						Child II						
	S	W	R	D	B	S	S	W	R	D	B	S	
	S	F		R	X	L	S	F		R	X	L	
BLOUSES													
SKIRTS													
JACKETS													
SWEATERS													
NIGHT-ROBE													
PAJAMAS													
GOWNS													
SLIPS													
BRAS													
PANTIES													
DIAPERS													
SOCK-HOSE													
BEACH-SHIRT													
SHORTS													
PEDAL PUSHER													
DRESSES													
DRESSES, KNIT													
DRESSES, HOUSE													
SUITS													
SHIRTS, DRESS													
SHIRTS, SPORT													
SHIRTS, EVENING													
TROUSERS													
SWEATERS													
NIGHT-ROBE													
PAJAMAS													
UNDERSHIRTS													
UNDERSHORTS													
SOCKS													
BEACH-SHIRT													
BEACH-TRUNK													
SPORTCOATS													
JACKETS													
SUITS													
VESTS													

SS-Spring and Summer; WF-Winter and Fall; R-Rod; DR-Drawer; BX-Box; SLF-Shelf.

V-What Provision Has Been Made For the Storage of the Following:

Type Garment	Type				Location of Storage				
	N O	S H	C L	C H	U T	A T	E N	B R	Other
A. RAINWEAR									
B. SPORTSWEAR									
C. CHILDREN'S PLAYCLOTHES									
D. HAT OR CAP									
E. SHOES									
F. COATS									
G. GARDENING									
H. GLOVES									
I. SCARVES									
J. JEWELRY									
K. FORMALWEAR									
L. PURSES									
M. TIES									
N. BELTS									
O. OTHER									

Code: NO-Number; SH-Shelf; CL-Close6; CH-Chest; UT-Utility; AT-Attic;
 EN-Entrance; BR-Bedroom

VI-In What Condition Do You Store Out-Of Season Clothes?

- A. After one or more wearings without cleaning.
 B. After returned from dry cleaners.
 C. After dry cleaning, but not pressing.
 D. Other _____

VI-Provisions For Family Clothing Needs-General.

Type	Cut of Season	For Rpr.	O'Nite Airing	Dry Cl.	Comm. Ldry.	Home Ldry.	Other
A. CLOSET							
B. CLOSET FLOOR							
C. SPECIAL CLOSET							
D. LAUNDRY BAG							
E. DRAWER							
F. CHEST							
G. VALET							
H. HOOK							
I. BIN							
J. BASKET, BATHROOM							
K. LAUNDRY CHUTE							
L. WASHING MACHINE							
M. ANOTHER HOUSE							
N. DRY CLEANERS							
O. FUR STORAGE							
P. OTHER							

VII-Check Door Type Desired:

- A. SLIDING, INTO WALL
 B. SLIDING, OVERLAP
 C. LOUVERED
 D. FLUSH
 E. ACCORDIAN
 F. OTHER? _____

VIII-What Desirable Storage Features Do You Have, Not Mentioned in The Above? _____

IX-What Storage Would You Desire In Addition to The Space You Now Have? _____
