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Mary Hvidman

Sitting room

5 $\frac{1}{2}$ double bolts for wall

4 " for ceiling

3 bolts border

Dining Room

4 double for walls

3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ceiling

3 - border

Barber

6 double for walls

4 " ceiling

3 $\frac{1}{2}$ border

Kitchen

5 double wall

3 " Border

Mary Hindman

Sitting room

1/2 double bolts for wall

4 □ for ceiling

? 3 bolts border

Dining Room

4 double for walls

3 1/2 Ceiling

3 - border

Parlor

6 double for walls

4 □ ceiling

3 1/2 border

Kitchen

5 double wall

3 □ Border

Notes and Illustrations

Mary is likely making a list of wallpaper to order for her house. The terms "parlor" and "sitting room" are not commonly used today. In 1907, the "parlor" would have been the more formal room, ideally kept clean and orderly at all times, where guests would be entertained. It was the more public-facing room typically used for formal family affairs such as weddings and funerals.

[According to the Wikipedia article on Parlors:](#)

In the English-speaking world of the 18th and 19th centuries, having a parlor room was evidence of social status. It indicated that one had risen above those who lived in one or two rooms. As the parlor was the room in which the larger world encountered the private sphere of middle class life (the family's face to the world), it was invariably the best room (it was often colloquially called that) in the home. The parlour frequently displayed a family's best furnishings, works of art, and other status symbols.

On the other hand, the "sitting room" would be the more private, informal room where children could play. Sitting room was more akin to what we now call the "family room."

This article from the June 17, 1899 edition of the Daily Republican contrasts the use of parlors and sitting rooms during that period.

Cheerful Parlors.

The set, formal parlor, shut out from sunshine and fresh air for the greater part of the year, has long ago been abandoned by the greater number of sensible housekeepers. This does not mean that the parlor has been given up, and that the sitting-room has taken its place. The parlor is a necessary room to the house-mother who lives in the country and does her own work. She needs a room set apart which she will always find neat and dainty. Here she can receive the untimely or the unexpected caller—whom she would not be willing to receive in the sitting-room. The parlor is undisturbed by the invasion of the men of the house, and of children who are too hurried to set to rights the books or furniture they may have set awry. The sitting-room is subject to the small tracks of forgetful children who do not take off their overshoes and leave them at the doormat, where they should be left. It is often a place for the temporary deposit of various belongings of other members of the family. It is not possible to always keep the sitting-room in as orderly a condition as the mother desires it should be. It is for this reason and others that it is desirable to have a parlor apart from the sitting-room. This is especially the mother's reception-room, a room easily kept in faultless order, because it is seldom used, except for callers and company. It is desirable that the parlor should open out of the sitting-room by folding doors, so that on occasion the two rooms may be thrown into one. Delicate hangings, especially dainty articles that would not last long in the every day use to which they would be exposed in the sitting-room, may be properly kept in the parlor. Delicate bric-a-brac, such as so often tempts the fingers of little children who are

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