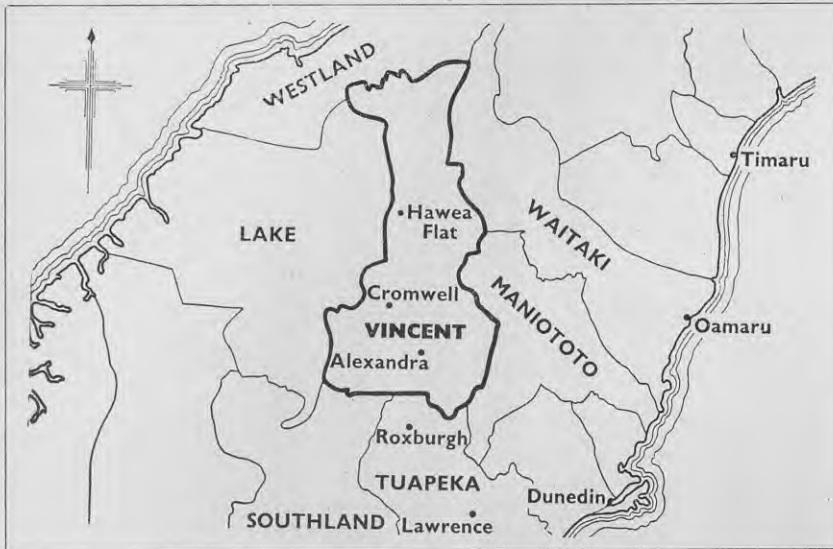


HOUSING IN VINCENT COUNTY



The average number of rooms in a house was five. Bathrooms, kitchenettes, sculleries, pantries, storerooms, laundries, and unenclosed porches were not counted as rooms, but kitchen-living rooms and sunporches which could be enclosed and used as bedrooms were counted. The number of rooms varied from two to eleven. One standard of adequacy for housing is the room ratio, found by dividing the total number of rooms by the number of people who usually live in the house. About 10 per cent. of the homes had less than one room per person, the most common reason being that none of the children of the family had yet left home.

Facilities and Fittings

Another criterion on which the standard of housing may be judged is the number of facilities. The following table shows the proportions of the houses visited in which certain facilities were present:—

Facility	County (per cent.)	Boroughs (per cent.)	County plus boroughs (per cent.)
Piped cold water ..	92	100	95
Piped hot water ..	82	95	87
Bathroom ..	88	100	92
Laundry or wash-house ..	81	98	88
Water closet ..	43	95	64
Electricity ..	89	100	94
Electric range only	31	38	34
Coal range only ..	50	45	48
Both coal and electric ranges ..	19	17	18

A smaller proportion of houses in the county than in the borough had piped hot water, piped cold water, bathroom, laundry, and electricity. Lack of electricity was a result of the isolation of some of the homes in the county.

The unusually large number of houses having both a coal and an electric range is accounted for by two facts—the cold winters, making some source of heating in the kitchen desir-

able then, the coal range serving this purpose as well as cooking; and interruptions to the power supply making an alternative way of heating water an advantage. Therefore the coal range is not always removed when an electric one is installed. The electric range is a boon to many housewives in summer, reducing the discomfort of cooking in the heat and saving work.

In some parts of Vincent County a reliable water supply is not easy to obtain, and it is a prerequisite for a hot-water system and for the installation of a septic tank. Of the houses in the county 43 per cent. had water closets, but the percentage of farm houses having these would be lower, for the county includes the small townships of Clyde and Omakau. Despite the fact that parts of the county have an annual average rainfall of only 12in., three households visited depended on rainfall alone for their water supply, and a number of others used rainfall supplemented by irrigation water, which is not always available at the time or in the quantity desired. Nor are wells or springs always reliable as sources of supply.

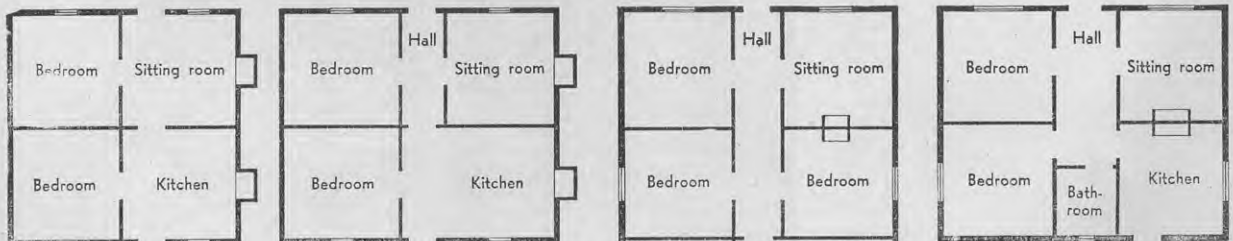
Additions and Alterations

Details of additions made to their houses by the present owners were available in 26 cases. Reasons for additions were one or a combination of the following: To accommodate a family increasing in size, to facilitate the work of the housewife, or to add amenities.

Most frequently additions were bedrooms or sunrooms which could be used as bedrooms. If the kitchen was the only living room, a second living room might be added. Sometimes extra living space was provided by building a new kitchen and turning the old one into a dining or living room. Bathrooms, wash-houses, porches, and water closets were also among the additions.

Most alterations were to the work areas of the house, particularly the kitchen. Sculleries or pantries often were turned into kitchenettes, the old kitchen being used as a dining-living room; this change was as popular in farm houses as in the boroughs.

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN DESIGN



The earliest houses in Vincent County were often built to this plan, sometimes in two stages, two rooms at a time. Usually the chimneys were built on the outside and windows were small, one to a room.

This was a development of the first plan. The back entrance still led directly into the kitchen, but a front entrance hall had been added.

Two more rooms added to the basic design.

By the time this kind of house appeared with a straight hall and four, five, or six rooms, windows were larger and chimneys were built between two rooms, serving a fireplace in each. The end of the hall was cut off to form a bathroom.