

# THE FLINT HOMESTEAD

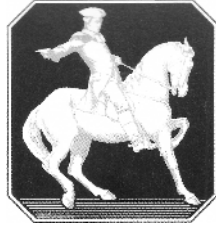


Lincoln Historical Society

*Prepared by Jack MacLean*

House Tour  
October 4, 2015

THE FLINT HOMESTEAD

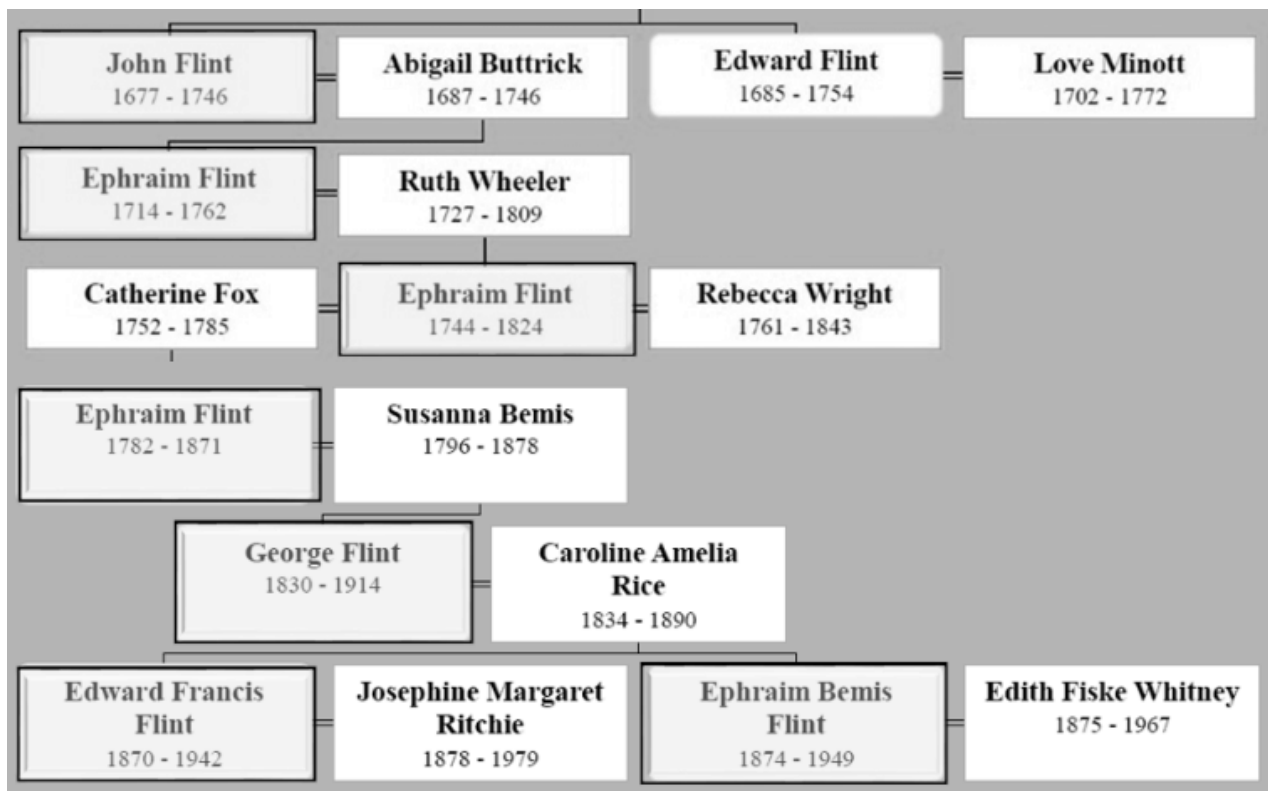


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## *Ownership*

The Flint Homestead was built by 1709 for Ephraim Flint (1641–1723) and his wife Jane Bulkeley. They did not have any children.

In 1723 he willed his “mansion house” to his nephew, John Flint, and to John’s son, Ephraim. The homestead has passed down through their descendants to the present day.



Henry Rice Flint, who last lived in the house, was the son of Edward Francis Flint. Along with its contents, the house reflects generations of change made by one of Concord’s and Lincoln’s founding families.

It is now owned by great-grandchildren of Ephraim Bemis Flint.

## *The Farm*

In 1636 immigrant Thomas Flint (1603-1653)—then described as “both an able man in estate, as alsoe an honest godly man”—left his native Matlock, England, and sailed with his wife for the New World. Settling in Concord, he became a leader and financial backer of that wilderness Puritan community. Recognizing his contributions, Concord granted him a farm of 750 acres along with Flint’s Pond. Additional lots were subsequently acquired, at one point creating a farm of over 1000 acres, plus the pond.

The family originally lived near the Concord River, with widow Abigail renting out the future Lincoln farm until son Ephraim settled here. As he wrote in a 1709 deed, Ephraim at first lived in what he called an “old house,” while he was then living in his “now dwelling house”—the earliest documentary record of the Flint Homestead.

## *The House*

The original “First Period” house was two rooms over two with a central chimney. In the eighteenth century a kitchen wing was added at the back, perhaps as a saltbox.

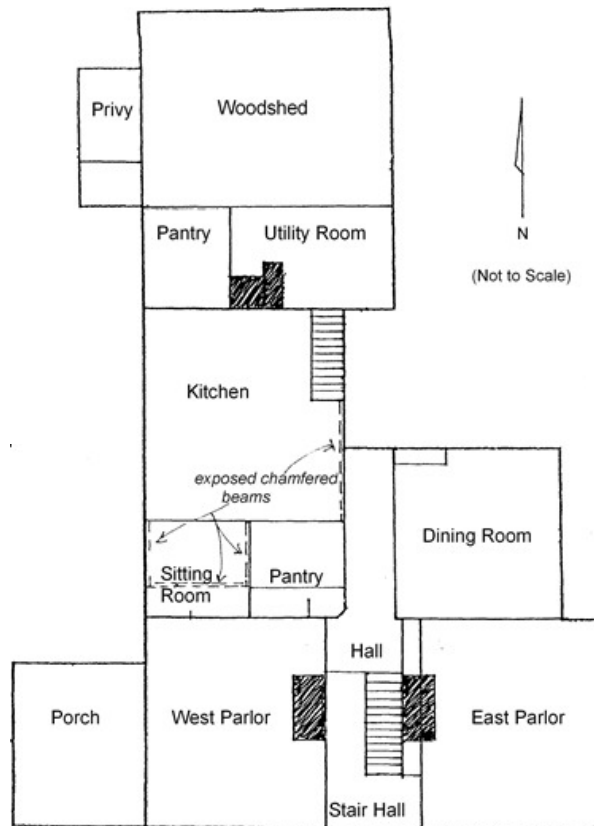
In 1859-60 the center chimney was removed to create a central hall, with a dining room and new kitchen added, along with bedrooms above. Part of the earlier kitchen addition was likely moved at that time and incorporated into the current kitchen.

The back bedrooms were constructed for hired hands around 1900, when the roof of the 1859 wing was also raised. Porches on the west side of the house were built soon thereafter. A notable story lies behind the house’s two-over-two windows. They were installed after a robber shot out 25 windows in 1896. When the family threw \$25 outside, the robber finally fled!

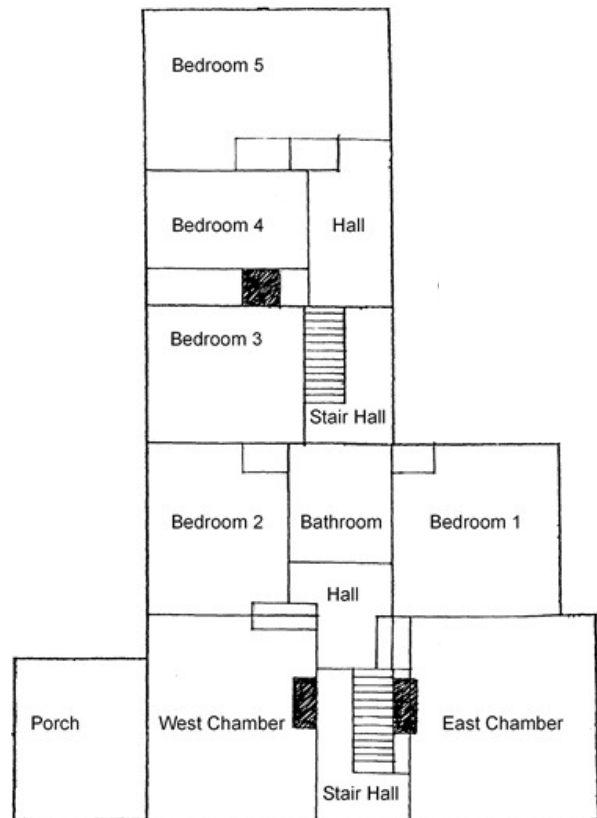
## *The Barn*

The north half of the barn behind the Flint Homestead dates back to the eighteenth century. It was originally an “English Barn” with the barn door on the side, rather than on the gabled end (a “New England Barn”). In the early nineteenth century the barn was doubled in size. It originally stood across the road from the house, but in 1918 it was moved to its current location, now standing as a New England Barn.

***The Flint Homestead and barn are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and they are protected under a 2004 Preservation Restriction administered on behalf of the Town of Lincoln by the Lincoln Historical Commission.***



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

## *Tour Route*

You will enter the back of the house through the *Utility Room*, with its historic built-in tub for washing clothes.

Please respect the fact that rooms contain the original Flint furnishings as they were used by the family. While the historic home needs professional restoration, this is a unique opportunity to see it in its untouched state—and to also appreciate the work needed to preserve this Lincoln treasure for future generations.

When you go through the *Kitchen* and *Sitting Room*, you are in rooms evidently laid out in 1859 by reusing an earlier eighteenth-century addition.

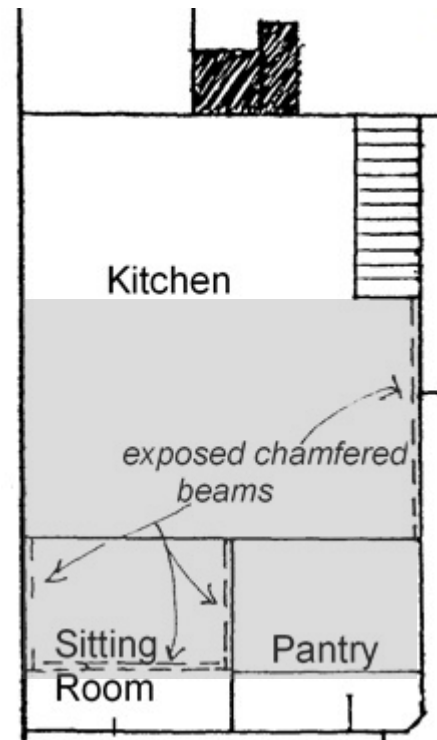
As you next enter the *West Parlor*, you are entering the original four rooms of the house, built before 1709. Continuing through the *Stair Hall*, check the original horizontal paneling to either side of the front entry before going upstairs to see the *West Chamber*, and then cross over to the *East Chamber*.

Return downstairs to the *East Parlor*. You will then be leaving the original portion of the house when you enter the 1859 *Dining Room*—then exit to view the *Barn*.

## *Kitchen and Sitting Room*

These rooms were part of an 1859–60 expansion. George Flint had married Lincoln neighbor Caroline Rice in 1858. His parents continued to live here, but George would take over the operation of the farm while the house was enlarged to serve an expanded multi-generational household. An earlier eighteenth-century addition (*shaded area*) was apparently moved slightly and reused; look for the exposed eighteenth-century chamfered beams in both of these rooms (the kitchen ceiling is lower than that of the sitting room and it may cover other early beams).

- Under a Preservation Restriction with the Town, the c. 1907 Palace Crawford stove and the soapstone sink must be preserved in the house, along with the chimney and clothes-washing set tub in the Utility Room
- Note that the door to the Pantry differs from the other Kitchen doors—it is a reused eighteenth-century door



## *West Parlor*

Constructed before 1709, the room's original post-and-beam construction can be seen in corner posts, girts, and a summer beam, all encased during the eighteenth century. This was the first of three different kitchens in the house's history. It initially had a bake oven and kitchen fireplace that would be removed in 1859, when the current projecting fireplace was installed. The room became the best parlor; many of the furnishings date from the subsequent Victorian period and appear in a c. 1904 photograph of this room.

- The square piano in the Empire style was built in Boston in about the 1830s
- A clipping suggests that the bass viol may have originally belonged to Lincoln innholder Henry Rice, who played the viol at church during nineteenth-century First Parish services
- Picture at left on mantel is Edward Francis Flint, Sr. (c. 1889), father of Henry Flint (whose picture as a child is next to it). Silhouettes unidentified; pictures on wall above are Ritchie relatives (family of Henry's mother—she is shown with her sister in picture above desk)



FLINT FAMILY  
WEST PARLOR, C. 1904

### *Stair Hall*

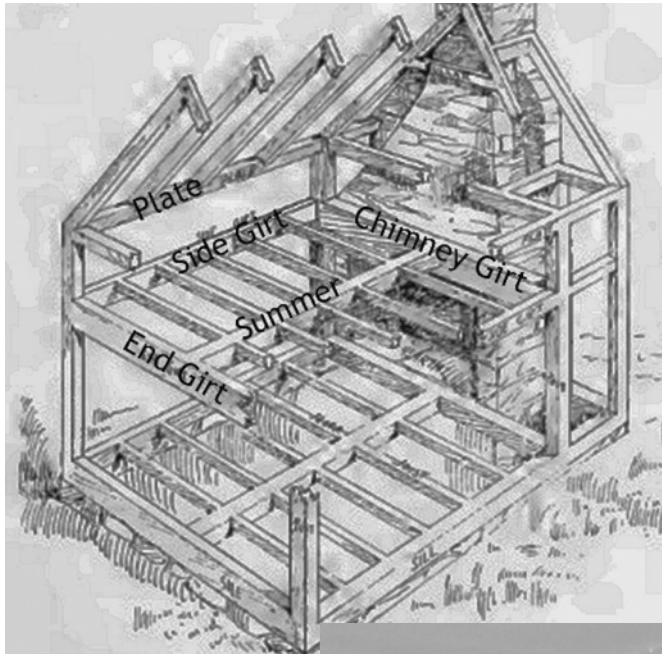
This space initially consisted of a large central chimney, with a staircase in front of it. The horizontal paneling to the side of the front entrance is likely part of the original design and the oldest panel work in the house.

### *West Chamber*

This room again features original post-and-beam construction, but on the second floor (as in the basement) the center Summer Beam runs from the front of the house to back, while on the first floor it runs from the fireplace wall to the end wall. Also, the corner posts on the second floor flair out at the top to form “gunstock posts.”

During the eighteenth century a local joiner installed some fine classical Georgian paneling in the room, making it the “Best Chamber” in the house. Note that the paneled door, with its interior HL-hinges, also carries on the lines of the wall paneling. The wall’s center sections of paneling were removed when an extended fireplace was constructed in 1859, but a portion of an early paneled overmantel was “reused” in the attic.



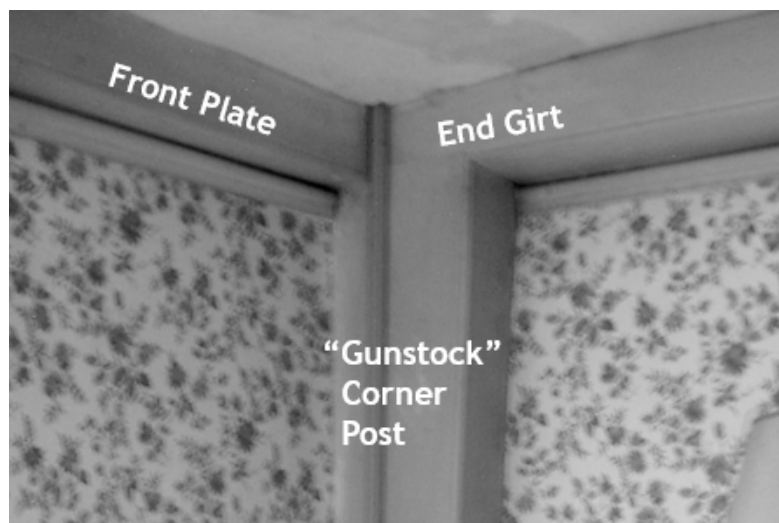


## POST-AND-BEAM CONSTRUCTION

WEST PARLOR



WEST CHAMBER





## *East Chamber*

When Lincoln founding father Ephraim Flint died in 1764, the house was divided between heirs. Widow Ruth received “The East End of the Dwelling House...and alsoe the Priviledge of Backing in one of the Ovens in the Other End,” while son Ephraim received the west half of the house. A generation later the pattern was repeated in 1824 when that Ephraim left this chamber to one of his daughters (again with the right to use a bake oven); the East Parlor below went to his widow; and the west half of the house went to a son (again named Ephraim!).

- Along with the room’s original post-and-beam construction, a closet door features butterfly hinges
- On the mantel is a sampler by Susan Bemis. She was the sister of Lincoln benefactor George Bemis (Bemis Hall and Bemis Lectures). She married the Ephraim Flint who inherited the house in 1824

## *East Parlor*

This room has had various changes in use through the years. Originally it was the best room, with a kitchen across the hall. From 1824 until her death in 1843, widow Rebecca (Wright) Flint would have lived in this room, no doubt having a bedstead here; her Bible remains in the room, and her sampler is still in the house. The desk and bookcases now here were added in the 1960s, making it an active library.

- There are a number of family Bibles in the room, including two on the front table that list births, marriages, and deaths of family members
- Note the farm-scene photograph on the desk; the ox yoke seen in the picture is still in the barn
- Pictures along the wall by the desk include Edward F. Flint, Jr.; Charlotte Flint; Henry Flint; and their mother Josephine (Ritchie) Flint
- Left of the door to the Dining Room is a 1879 drawing of Lincoln’s second Congregational Church, which stood where the stone Parish House is today

## *Dining Room*

In 1859-60 the family “modernized” the house—and also in doing so, their social patterns—when they added a dedicated, formal Dining Room to the house. While other rooms reflect a mixture of construction changes from different periods, the Dining Room more fully expresses its original period of construction.

Henry Flint

Sept. 16, 1931

A

### My Ideal Home

No matter where you are there is the wish for return that is if it is an ideal home. Home which has a strong influence with family <sup>life</sup> and comradeship. It is not necessary for a fine elaborate house it is not the house that counts it is the spirit of everybody. Whether a rude cabin it will be warm and ~~affection~~ <sup>affection</sup> again ~~in all the days~~. Always something to come home to. The long absence is the hardest thing. The home should have a welcome door always open. The family should work together as a ~~whole~~ <sup>unit</sup> or two at the table everyone helping each other. The cabin which we made in the woods for would offer a walk on spare moments. The family in harmony together would always have a place to come and enjoy that <sup>thoughtful</sup> my ideal home.