

FARM HOUSING
in SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA

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Toward Better Dwellings for Farm Families—

Improvement of farm dwellings has been listed among the possibilities for maintaining postwar business activity, and is one of the major objectives of the farm women of the state federated in the Oklahoma State Home Demonstration Council.

This bulletin reports facts obtained in a study of farm housing designed to find out the extent of opportunity for improving rural dwellings in Oklahoma. In general, the investigation shows that the opportunity is large.

Improvement of farm income is essential in improving farm homes. But improved income alone is not enough. The active interest of all the State's people, in cities as well as on farms, is also necessary. The information in this bulletin is intended to help focus attention on the problem and provide a factual basis for determining what types of improvement are most needed.

SUMMARY

Following are the principal findings of a study of farm housing in the open country of seventeen townships in southwestern Oklahoma and of nine townships in southeastern Oklahoma. The points summarized here are discussed further beginning on the pages indicated.

..... Almost without exception, families of farm owners as a group rate higher than those of tenants on the items studied, and families of "others" living in the open country rank lower than either class of farm operators. However, the tenure differences are not as great in southwestern as in southeastern Oklahoma.

..... Approximately one-half of the dwellings surveyed in each area are owner-occupied. Home ownership has increased relatively in southeastern Oklahoma since 1940 because more nonowner than owner families have moved away from that area Page 7.

..... The average replacement value of dwellings in southwestern Oklahoma is \$574, and in southeastern Oklahoma, \$189. Differences in the value of homes of owners, tenants, and "others" are large, the amounts decreasing in the order named. Page 8.

..... In southeastern Oklahoma, more than one-fourth of the farm dwellings were built during the past ten years. A large proportion of these are small houses constructed from native timber by families who migrated into this area between 1930 and 1940. In southwestern Oklahoma, less than one-tenth of the dwellings were built during the past decade. Page 8.

..... Approximately three-fifths of the population studied in southeastern and two-fifths of that in southwestern Oklahoma live in dwellings with less than one room per person. The heavy emigration resulting from the war boom since 1940 has not solved the problem of overcrowded houses. Page 10.

..... Nearly all houses of the families visited are of frame construction. Tenants and "others" occupy dwellings with vertical siding more often than owners, and the latter possess the few brick, stone, or stucco homes reported. Page 12.

..... Seven of every ten dwellings surveyed in southwestern Oklahoma, and three of every ten in southeastern Oklahoma, are painted. Page 13.

..... One-tenth of the dwellings surveyed in southeastern Oklahoma and one-half of those in southwestern Oklahoma have a solid wall foundation. ----- Page 13.

..... Few of the homes visited have landscaped or well-kept lawns. One-third of the dwellings in southwestern Oklahoma and three-fourths of those in southeastern Oklahoma are situated less than 100 feet from pens, barns, and other outbuildings. ----- Page 17.

..... Relatively few houses in either area have plaster or wallboard as a part of the interior walls. Ceiled houses predominate in southwestern Oklahoma, and unceiled houses in the southeastern section. Wallpaper is the common wall decoration in both areas. A few of the poorest dwellings have either heavy building paper or no inside covering at all. ---- Page 17.

..... Soft pine flooring is used in nearly all dwellings studied. One-fifth of the houses in southeastern Oklahoma and three-fifths of those in southwestern Oklahoma have painted or varnished floors in the living rooms. ----- Page 17.

..... Sharp differences exist between southwestern and southeastern Oklahoma and between tenure classes with respect to running water, kitchen sink, indoor toilet, and bathroom in dwellings. Only a few of the more prosperous families have these items. ----- Page 18.

..... In general, wide differences exist among owners, tenants, and "others," and also between areas in the possession of small or movable household equipment. ----- Page 18.

Farm Housing in Southern Oklahoma

By ROBERT T. McMILLAN
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This study describes the housing of families living in certain open country areas of southern Oklahoma (See Figure 1). These areas were chosen to be fairly representative of the southeastern and southwestern parts of the state.†

The need for improvement of rural dwellings in Oklahoma is great. The state ranks in the lowest one-fourth of all states with respect to possession of most of the housing items reported for farm families by the 1940 Census. High proportions of farm dwellings are without adequate room space, refrigeration, running water, improved heating and lighting facilities, flush toilets, radios, telephones, and other items.**

Ownership and Mortgage Status

Among the 323 open country dwellings surveyed in southwestern Oklahoma, 50.8 percent are owner-occupied. Of the 371 homes surveyed in southeastern Oklahoma, 49.6 percent house families who own them (Table 1). One-third of the owner-occupied dwellings are mortgaged in southwestern Oklahoma in comparison with about one-eighth of those in southeastern Oklahoma. This difference in mortgage status can be explained by the fact that nearly all these dwellings are located on owner-operated farms, which average larger, and large farms are more frequently mortgaged than small farms.

* This report is based, in part, upon data collected as a part of the Regional Land Tenure Research Project under the sponsorship of the Southwestern Land Tenure Research Committee composed of representatives of agricultural economics and rural sociology in the Land-Grant Colleges of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas, and one representative each from the U. S. D. A. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and the Farm Foundation. The Regional Land Tenure Research Project has been financed jointly by the institutions represented and the General Education Board.

K. C. Davis, Raymond E. Page, William Hudson, and Clint C. Drury, of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Robert L. Fisher of the Department of Sociology and Rural Life, and personnel of the Regional Staff assisted with the field work.

† A description of the survey areas and a discussion of the sampling procedures, together with other information obtained from these surveys, is given in Robert T. McMillan, *Social Factors Related to Farm Housing in Southern Oklahoma*, Okla. Agri. Exp. Sta. Tech. Bul. No. T-22, 1945.

** The housing data from the 1940 Census are summarized in Robert T. McMillan, *Rural Farm Housing Characteristics in Oklahoma*, Okla. Agri. Exp. Sta. Mimeo. Cir. No. M-140, May 1945.

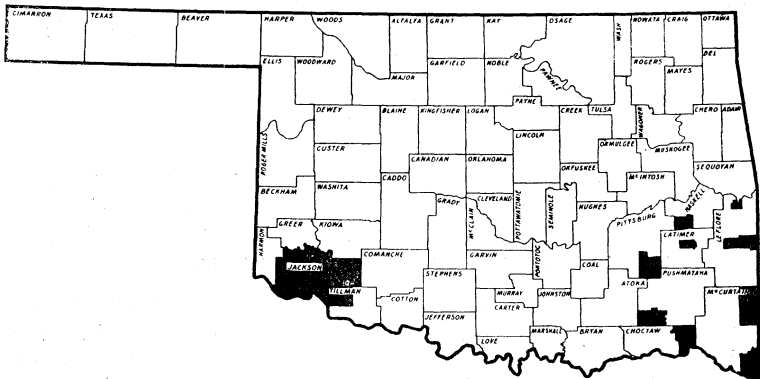


Fig. 1—Map of Oklahoma Showing Areas Surveyed.

The surveys indicate that farm and home ownership has increased relatively since 1940, due chiefly to the disproportionately heavy migration of nonowner families from the open country to villages and cities, especially in southeastern Oklahoma.

Value of Dwellings

The average replacement value of dwellings, exclusive of the building site, is \$574 in southwestern Oklahoma and \$189 in southeastern Oklahoma (Table 2). Farm families who own all the land they operate have homes of slightly higher value than those who own only part of the land farmed. Houses occupied by tenant families, including croppers, average about one-half the value of those occupied by owner families. "Other" families, who live in the open country but do not operate farms, have dwellings considerably lower in value than the families of farm operators.

Age of Dwellings

Dwellings in Oklahoma are comparatively new due to the recency of settlement. In the southwestern part of the State, 42.2 percent of the houses are less than 25 years old, and 9.0 percent are less than 10 years old (Table 3). In southeastern Oklahoma, 55.7 percent of the houses are less than 25 years old, with 28.1 percent being under 10 years old. The high percentage of recently built dwellings in southeastern Oklahoma probably can be accounted for partly by the heavy influx of population in the depression years following 1929. During those

OWNERSHIP OF DWELLINGS

Table 1. Ownership and Mortgage Status of Dwellings Surveyed.*

Ownership and Mortgage Status	SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA		SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All dwellings	323	100.0	371	100.0
Owner	164	50.8	184	49.6
Mortgage free	56	17.4	124	33.4
Mortgaged	107	33.1	49	13.2
Mortgage status unknown	1	0.3	11	3.0
Nonowner	159	49.2	187	50.4

* In this table and those which follow, the data are reported as of 1945 southwestern Oklahoma and as of 1944 for southeastern Oklahoma.

VALUE OF DWELLINGS

Table 2. Percentage Distribution of Dwellings Surveyed According to Value, by Farm Tenure Status.

Value of Dwellings, Dollars	PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS				
	All Tenures	Full Owners	Part Owners	Tenants	Others
	Southwestern Oklahoma				
Number of Dwellings	323	96	66	120	41
Total, Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1-200	9.6	2.1	3.0	15.5	42.9
201-400	23.8	14.8	18.2	32.7	35.7
401-600	19.2	15.8	21.2	21.6	14.3
601-800	11.3	12.6	7.7	13.8	0.0
801-1000	10.7	13.6	21.2	2.6	7.1
1001-1400	6.5	9.5	4.5	6.0	0.0
1401-1800	7.6	9.5	10.6	5.2	0.0
Over 1800	11.3	22.1	13.6	2.6	0.0
Median value, dollars	574	912	813	418	251
	Southeastern Oklahoma				
Number of Dwellings	371	104	54	126	87
Total, Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1-100	22.9	12.5	7.4	26.2	40.3
101-200	31.0	18.3	22.2	44.4	32.2
201-300	16.2	18.3	22.2	15.1	11.5
301-400	8.9	11.5	14.8	6.3	5.7
401-500	6.7	14.4	5.6	4.0	2.3
501-600	3.0	5.8	5.6	0.8	1.1
601-800	5.1	9.6	3.7	2.4	4.6
801-1000	3.8	5.8	11.1	0.0	2.3
Over 1000	2.4	3.8	7.4	0.8	0.0
Median value, dollars	189	313	297	155	133

AGE OF DWELLINGS

Table 3. *Percentage Distribution of Dwellings Surveyed According to Age, by Farm Tenure Status.*

Age of Dwellings, Years	PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS				
	All Tenures	Full Owners	Part Owners	Tenants	Others
Southwestern Oklahoma					
Total, Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 10	9.0	13.5	13.6	3.4	7.3
10-24	33.2	35.4	44.0	29.4	22.0
25-49	54.1	50.0	40.9	61.3	63.4
50 and over	3.7	1.1	1.5	5.9	7.3
Southeastern Oklahoma					
Total, Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 10	28.1	34.6	47.2	17.5	24.1
10-24	27.6	30.8	24.5	19.0	37.9
25-49	40.3	31.7	26.4	57.2	34.5
50 and over	4.0	2.9	1.9	6.3	3.5

years many people moved into the wooded, hill country and built inexpensive houses from native timber. These houses deteriorate rapidly as a result of weathering processes, and many of those visited have been rebuilt, some of them three or four times.

In both areas, the numbers of houses 25 years of age and over occupied by tenants and "others" are disproportionately large in comparison with those of equal age occupied by owner families. This suggests that owners have either built or bought new homes for themselves and have left the older houses for tenants and laborers. Part owners (who incidentally are becoming increasingly important in the agricultural economy of the State) live in newer houses than full owners.

Number of Rooms

Only a few of the houses surveyed have more than one story, and nearly all of the newer homes are one-story structures. In southwestern Oklahoma, dwellings contain an average of 4.4 rooms (Table 4). In the southeastern part of the state, the average is 3.9 rooms. In general, as farm tenure status advances, houses tend to increase in size and number of persons per dwelling decreases. For example, in southwestern Oklahoma the dwellings of "others" average almost one room less than those of full owners, but the families of "others" average 1.5 more persons than those of full owners. In

NUMBER OF ROOMS

Table 4. Average Number of Rooms and Average Number of Persons per Dwelling.

Farm Tenure Status	SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA		SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA	
	Number of Rooms	Number of Persons	Number of Rooms	Number of Persons
All tenures	4.4	3.7	3.9	4.3
Full owners	4.8	3.1	4.3	4.0
Part owners	4.6	3.7	4.3	4.4
Tenants	4.2	3.9	3.7	4.7
Others	3.9	4.6	3.5	4.0

southeastern Oklahoma, 44.2 percent of the dwellings have less than one room per person (Table 5). In southwestern Oklahoma, the corresponding percentage is 23.9.

Separate rooms for such activities as visiting, eating, and cooking are found in widely different proportions among families classified by area and tenure status (Table 6). More families in southwestern than in southeastern Oklahoma have a separate living room, dining room, and kitchen. In both areas, a separate living room is much more common than separate rooms for eating and cooking. Although larger percentages of owners than of nonowners of farms have rooms for each of the activities mentioned, these differences are smaller in southwestern than in southeastern Oklahoma.

The space devoted to sleeping quarters is difficult to measure because many families also use the living room or dining room for a bedroom. If only sleeping rooms are counted, more than one-half of the dwellings surveyed in southeastern Oklahoma have less than one-half bedroom per person, and two-thirds of the total population surveyed in that area reside in

ROOMS PER PERSON

Table 5. Percentage Distribution of Dwellings Surveyed According to Number of Rooms Per Person.

Rooms per Person	PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS	
	Southwestern Oklahoma	Southeastern Oklahoma
Total	100.0	100.0
Under .50	2.8	8.4
.50-.99	21.1	35.8
1.00-1.49	32.6	29.9
1.50-1.99	14.6	10.0
2.00-2.49	14.3	7.5
2.50-2.99	7.8	5.4
3.00 and over	6.8	3.0

SEPARATE-PURPOSE ROOMS

Table 6. Percentage of Dwellings Surveyed With Separate Living Room, Dining Room, and Kitchen, by Farm Tenure Status.

Classification of Rooms	PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS				
	All Tenures	Full Owners	Part Owners	Tenants	Others
Southwestern Oklahoma					
Separate living room	72.4	75.0	72.7	79.2	46.3
Separate dining room	38.1	54.2	39.4	30.0	22.0
Separate kitchen	41.8	57.3	45.5	33.3	24.4
Southeastern Oklahoma					
Separate living room	51.8	67.3	64.8	38.1	44.8
Separate dining room	19.4	33.7	29.6	11.1	8.0
Separate kitchen	20.8	35.6	31.5	12.7	8.0

these dwellings (Table 7). The degree of crowding is much less in southwestern Oklahoma. Overcrowding is significantly higher among nonowners than owners of farms.

Exterior of Dwellings

Construction.—The types of housing construction observed in the areas visited conform closely to those prevailing throughout most of the Southern states. Alternatives in building materials are few, and the structural patterns of houses are surprisingly uniform.

BEDROOM SPACE

Table 7. Average Number of Bedrooms Per Dwelling and Per Person, and Percentage of Dwellings and of Occupants With Less Than One-Half Bedroom Per Person.

Item	SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA			SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA		
	Total	Owners	Non-owners	Total	Owners	Non-owners
Av. no. of bedrooms per dwelling	2.0	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.6
Av. no. of bedrooms per person	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
Pct. of dwellings with less than one-half bedroom per person	30.0	21.3	39.9	54.3	41.8	59.0
Pct. of persons living in dwellings with less than one-half bedroom per person	41.9	31.1	50.8	66.4	58.6	72.0

In southwestern Oklahoma, horizontal siding is found on 85.4 percent of the dwellings. Another 11.5 percent have vertical siding, and the small remainder are built of brick, stone, or stucco (See Tables 8 and 9).

In southeastern Oklahoma, dwellings with vertical siding are almost as numerous (44.9 percent) as those with horizontal siding (48.9 per cent). Log and composition materials are used as siding on the remaining houses.

In both areas, a larger percentage of landless than of farm-owning families live in houses with vertical siding. The few brick, stone, or stucco homes are occupied almost exclusively by full owners.

House Painted.—Painted dwellings vary widely by area and tenure status. In southwestern Oklahoma, 70.0 percent of the houses in the open country are painted; in southeastern Oklahoma, the corresponding percentage is 28.6. The frequency of unpainted houses is highest among tenants and "others," especially in southeastern Oklahoma. Several "other" families in southwestern Oklahoma occupy dwellings which until recently had been homes of owners, hence there is a relatively high percentage of painted houses among this group.

Foundation and Roof.—Among the numerous features reflecting housing construction in the South, none is more apparent than the kind of foundation. Only one-tenth of the dwellings surveyed in southeastern and one-half of those in southwestern Oklahoma have a solid wall foundation. Farm owners exceed nonowners in the proportion occupying dwellings with solid wall foundations.

The types of roofing on dwellings vary somewhat between areas but not appreciably among tenure classes. Shingles or composition materials are used for roofing on 97.0 percent of the houses in southwestern and 80.1 percent in southeastern Oklahoma. Sheet iron, tin, or tar paper serves as roofing on proportionally more dwellings of landless than of landowning families. Leaky roofs were reported on 29.6 percent of the dwellings in southeastern and on 25.7 percent of those in southwestern Oklahoma. In line with the widespread practice of conserving water in semi-arid areas, over one-half of the dwellings in the southwestern part of the State have eave troughs as against less than two in each hundred dwellings in the heavier rainfall area.

HOUSING ITEMS (SOUTHWEST)

Table 8. Percentage of Families in Southwestern Oklahoma, Classified by Farm Tenure Status, Having Specified Housing Items.

Item	PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH SPECIFIED HOUSING ITEMS				
	All Tenures	Full Owners	Part Owners	Tenants	Others
1. Exterior Construction					
Horizontal siding (frame)	85.4	82.3	90.9	85.0	85.4
Vertical siding (frame)	11.5	9.4	7.6	14.2	14.6
Brick, stone, or stucco	3.1	8.3	0.5	0.8	0.0
2. House Painted	70.0	80.0	75.4	59.2	70.0
3. Solid Wall Foundation	49.2	61.5	59.1	36.4	41.5
4. Roof					
Shingles or composition roof	97.0	94.8	96.9	98.3	97.6
Sheet iron or tin	2.8	4.2	3.1	1.7	2.4
Tar paper	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Leaky roof	25.7	14.7	16.9	30.3	52.5
Eaves trough	54.2	55.8	50.0	56.7	51.2
5. Chimney					
Flue	74.3	78.7	73.8	72.3	70.7
Chimney	22.9	18.1	26.2	24.4	24.4
Stovepipe	2.8	3.2	0.0	3.3	4.9
6. Screens	96.6	99.0	98.5	93.3	97.5
7. Doors and Windows fit well	87.7	80.0	77.3	59.0	48.8
8. Doors and Windows broken	6.9	2.1	1.5	6.8	27.5
9. Grounds					
Landscaped	44.0	60.4	51.5	30.8	31.7
Lawn	34.7	42.7	39.4	30.0	22.0
10. Building Site					
House located less than 100 feet from barns and pens	32.8	34.4	22.7	35.8	36.6
11. Interior Wall Construction*					
Ceiled	64.6	59.0	59.1	75.0	56.1
Wallboard	24.2	32.6	27.3	14.2	29.3
Plaster	6.5	8.4	12.1	3.3	2.4
Heavy paper	2.5	0.0	0.0	4.2	7.3
Unceiled	2.2	0.0	1.5	3.3	4.9
12. Wall Decoration*					
Wall paper	80.6	82.3	81.8	81.7	71.4
Paint or whitewash	10.8	12.5	12.1	9.2	9.5
Heavy paper	2.8	1.0	0.0	5.8	2.4
Decorative plaster	0.9	0.0	1.5	0.8	2.4
None	4.9	4.2	4.6	2.5	14.3
13. Floor*					
Softwood	92.6	86.5	87.9	99.2	95.2
Hardwood	6.8	12.5	12.1	0.8	2.4
Cement	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dirt	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4

(Continued)

Table 8—Continued.

Item	PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH SPECIFIED HOUSING ITEMS				
	All Tenures	Full Owners	Part Owners	Tenants	Others
14. Floor Finished*	57.1	69.6	76.2	50.0	21.4
15. Woodwork Finished*	88.0	93.7	93.9	87.5	66.7
16. Water Piped Into Dwelling	13.9	21.9	24.2	5.8	2.4
Hot and cold	6.8	12.5	12.1	0.8	2.4
17. Kitchen Sink	33.4	42.7	46.2	25.8	14.3
18. Toilet					
Outdoor, ordinary	62.7	52.1	47.0	74.2	78.6
Outdoor, sanitary	25.9	31.2	37.9	18.3	16.7
Indoor	7.7	14.6	13.6	1.7	0.0
None	3.7	2.1	1.5	5.8	4.7
Septic tank or cesspool	9.6	16.8	16.7	2.5	2.4
19. Bathroom	7.1	10.4	15.2	1.7	2.4
20. Basement	3.4	6.2	3.0	4.0	2.4

* Item reported for living room only.

HOUSING ITEMS (SOUTHEAST)

Table 9. Percentage of Families in Southeastern Oklahoma, Classified by Farm Tenure Status, Having Specified Housing Items.

Item	PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH SPECIFIED HOUSING ITEMS				
	All Tenures	Full Owners	Part Owners	Tenants	Others
1. Exterior Construction					
Horizontal siding (frame)	48.9	57.3	55.7	38.9	32.2
Vertical siding (frame)	44.9	34.0	40.7	33.1	65.5
Log	4.0	4.9	1.8	5.6	2.3
Composition	2.2	3.8	1.8	2.4	0.0
2. House Painted	28.6	41.3	46.3	17.5	18.4
3. Solid Wall Foundation	10.4	15.7	15.7	5.6	8.2
4. Roof					
Shingles or composition roof	80.1	83.7	85.2	76.2	78.4
Sheet iron or tin	18.0	16.3	13.0	21.4	18.2
Tar paper	1.9	0.0	1.8	2.4	3.4
Leaky roof	29.6	20.4	13.2	38.1	38.4
Eaves trough	1.6	1.9	3.8	0.8	1.2
5. Chimney					
Flue	56.1	64.4	55.6	53.2	50.6
Stovepipe	24.3	18.3	18.5	23.0	36.8
Chimney	19.6	17.3	25.9	23.8	12.6
6. Screens	67.9	79.8	87.0	57.9	56.3
7. Doors and Windows fit well	61.1	72.8	85.2	47.6	51.7
8. Doors and Windows broken	26.1	19.8	13.0	31.7	33.0

(Continued)

Table 9—Continued.

Item	PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH SPECIFIED HOUSING ITEMS				
	All Tenures	Full Owners	Part Owners	Tenants	Others
9. Grounds					
Landscaped	1.6	3.9	1.9	0.8	0.0
Lawn	41.9	51.5	53.7	34.1	34.5
10. Building Site					
House located less than 100 feet from barns and pens	77.3	68.3	75.9	77.6	88.5
11. Interior Wall Construction*					
Ceiled	34.0	38.4	51.9	30.1	23.0
Wallboard	5.9	7.7	9.2	4.0	4.6
Plaster	1.3	2.9	0.0	1.6	0.0
Uncelled	58.8	51.0	38.9	64.3	72.4
12. Wall Decoration*					
Wallpaper	66.8	61.6	77.6	65.9	67.8
Paint	10.8	11.5	11.1	11.1	9.2
Heavy paper	6.2	5.6	5.7	8.7	3.5
None	16.2	21.2	5.6	14.3	19.5
13. Softwood floor*	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14. Floor Finished*	20.8	32.7	35.8	11.9	10.3
15. Woodwork Finished*	40.5	57.7	63.0	27.8	24.1
16. Water Piped Into Dwelling	2.4	4.8	7.4	0.0	0.0
Hot and cold	0.8	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
17. Kitchen Sink	3.5	4.8	10.2	0.8	2.3
18. Toilet					
Outdoor	91.9	90.4	92.6	92.1	93.1
Indoor	2.2	4.8	5.6	0.0	0.0
None	5.9	4.8	1.8	7.9	6.9
Septic tank or cesspool	2.2	3.8	5.6	0.0	1.1
19. Bathroom	2.4	5.8	5.6	0.0	0.0
20. Basement	0.8	1.0	1.8	0.0	1.1

* Item reported for living room only.

Chimney.—Nearly one-fourth of the dwellings visited in southeastern Oklahoma have only a stovepipe or galvanized pipe extending through the ceiling and roof for a smoke vent. The flue is much more common than the chimney (fireplace) in the dwellings of both areas.*

Doors, Windows and Screens.—Less than two-thirds of the dwellings in both areas have doors and windows which fit well, and in southeastern Oklahoma more than one-fourth have

* A dwelling with a fireplace in southeastern Oklahoma may be indicative of low housing status, while in the southwestern part of the State this may be a mark of high status. For the latter area, the fireplace has mostly an ornate value due to the scarcity of firewood.

broken doors and windows. Nearly all homes in southwestern Oklahoma have screens, but in southeastern Oklahoma fewer than seven of every ten dwellings have this item.

Grounds and Building Site.—The few farmsteads with landscaped ground or lawns are confined chiefly to owners.

The distance from the house to pens, barns, and other out-buildings differs on farmsteads classed by area and tenure group. Nearly three times as large a proportion of dwellings in southwestern as in southeastern Oklahoma are located more than 100 feet from other farm buildings and pens. Usually the site of dwellings occupied by tenants and "others" is closer to these structures than that of owners.

Interior of Dwellings

Wall Construction and Decoration.—Ceiled houses predominate in southwestern Oklahoma; unceiled dwellings are preponderant in southeastern Oklahoma (See Tables 8 and 9). Wall board and plaster are used as interior wall construction on the better structures, while heavy paper sometimes is tacked to the frame of the poorest dwellings.

Although wallpaper is the most common type of wall decoration in the open country, over one-fifth of the houses surveyed in southeastern Oklahoma either have heavy builder's paper on the living room walls or no inside covering at all. Tenure differences on this characteristic of housing are insignificant.

Floors and Finishing.—Soft pine is used almost exclusively as flooring in the dwellings visited. In southwestern Oklahoma, a few homes (6.8 percent), chiefly those of farm owners, have hardwood (oak) flooring.

A varnished or painted floor in the living room is found in nearly three-fifths of the dwellings in southwestern, and one-fifth of those in southeastern Oklahoma. Although the dwellings of owners and nonowners differ greatly with respect to the finish of floors, the contrast between owners and tenants especially is less in southwestern than in southeastern Oklahoma.

Finished Woodwork.—Varnished, stained, or painted woodwork in the living room is found in 88.0 percent of the dwellings surveyed in southwestern Oklahoma and in 40.5 percent of those in southeastern Oklahoma. In the former area, the dwellings of over nine-tenths of the owners, less than nine-tenths of the tenants, and only two-thirds of the "others" have

finished woodwork. In the latter area, approximately three-fifths of the owners, and one-fourth of the tenants and "others" have finished woodwork in their houses.

Water Piped Into Dwelling.—Water piped into the dwelling is found in 13.9 percent of the houses in southwestern Oklahoma and in 2.4 percent of those in the southeastern part of the State. Nonowners' dwellings almost without exception lack running water.

Kitchen Sink.—One-third of the dwellings in southwestern and less than one-twentieth of those in southeastern Oklahoma have kitchen sinks. In both areas, the dwellings of part owners are equipped with this convenience more frequently than those of full owners. Comparatively few houses of nonowners have kitchens equipped with sinks.

Toilet Facilities.—Indoor toilets are rare among farm owners' dwellings, and almost completely absent among non-owners' dwellings. Nine of each ten homes report an outdoor toilet. A few families have no toilet facilities. Information obtained in southwestern Oklahoma shows that nearly one-third of the outdoor toilets are improved or sanitary toilets.

Bathroom.—In the open country of the areas visited a bathroom is found almost exclusively in the homes of the most well-to-do farm owners. Only 7.1 percent of the dwellings in southwestern and 2.4 percent of those in southeastern Oklahoma are equipped with bathrooms.

Basement.—Relatively few homes surveyed in either area have a basement (3.4 percent in southwestern and 0.8 percent in southeastern Oklahoma). Cellars are reported only for southwestern Oklahoma, where they provide refuge from storms as well as storage space. They are found on the grounds of 46.1 percent of the dwellings in that area.

Housing Equipment

Tables 10 and 11 reveal that differences in housing equipment are equally as great as differences in the dwelling and its characteristics. The large differences between tenure groups in the possession of equipment indicate that the spread between the status of owners and nonowners is not lessened for many low-cost household articles. There are some notable exceptions which are given consideration.

Approximately two-thirds of the families in southwestern and one-fourth of those in southeastern Oklahoma have living room suites. Rugs or carpets (including linoleum or similar

HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT (SOUTHWEST)

Table 10. Percentage of Families in Southwestern Oklahoma, Classified by Farm Tenure Status, Having Specified Household Equipment.

Item	PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH SPECIFIED HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT				
	All Tenures	Full Owners	Part Owners	Tenants	Others
1. Living Room Suite*	65.4	79.2	75.8	60.0	33.3
2. Rugs or Carpets*	92.6	96.9	95.5	93.3	76.2
3. Window Decoration*					
Shades and curtains or drapes	81.4	87.4	95.5	76.7	58.6
Shades only	11.5	8.4	0.0	15.0	26.8
None	7.1	4.2	4.5	8.3	14.6
4. Heating*					
Stove	43.3	36.5	27.3	50.4	64.3
Gas or oil circulator	45.2	52.1	62.1	38.7	21.4
Wood or coal circulator	9.6	10.4	7.6	9.2	11.7
Furnace	1.9	1.0	3.0	1.7	2.4
5. Lighting*					
Kerosene lamps	44.7	36.5	24.2	50.8	78.6
Electric lights	37.7	40.6	60.6	32.5	9.5
Mantle or pressure lamps	17.6	22.9	15.2	16.7	11.9
6. Kitchen Range	55.6	65.6	62.1	50.0	38.1
7. Kitchen Stove	44.4	34.4	37.9	50.0	61.9
8. Kitchen Fuel					
Kerosene or gasoline	72.2	63.5	68.2	77.5	83.3
Gas or electricity	23.2	32.3	28.8	17.5	9.5
Wood or coal	4.6	4.2	3.0	5.0	7.2
9 Pressure Cooker	67.0	71.3	81.8	68.9	28.6
10. Refrigeration					
Ice	39.2	29.2	25.8	47.5	59.5
Mechanical	38.6	47.9	62.1	31.7	0.0
None	22.2	22.9	12.1	20.8	40.5
11. Kitchen Cabinet					
Movable	65.4	60.4	59.1	66.6	83.3
Built-in	31.5	37.5	39.4	29.2	11.9
None	3.1	2.1	1.5	4.2	4.8
12. Laundry Facilities					
Help-self laundry	47.5	45.9	39.4	53.9	45.2
Power washer	33.5	40.6	46.9	27.7	11.9
Tubs	14.9	12.5	7.6	13.4	38.1
Sent out	3.1	0.0	6.1	4.2	2.4
Hand washer	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.8	2.4
Electric or fuel iron	67.9	65.6	87.9	67.5	42.9
13. Radio	88.6	89.6	97.0	90.0	69.0
14. Piano or Organ	25.0	33.3	33.3	21.7	2.4
15. Telephone	25.3	34.4	43.9	15.8	2.4
16. Sewing Machine	83.5	91.7	92.4	81.5	56.1
17. Carpet or Electric Sweeper	7.4	9.4	13.8	4.2	2.4
18. Automobile	82.7	81.2	89.4	81.7	78.0

* Item reported for living room only.

HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT (SOUTHEAST)

Table 11. Percentage of Families In Southeastern Oklahoma, Classified by Farm Tenure Status, Having Specified Household Equipment.

Item	PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH SPECIFIED HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT				
	All Tenures	Full Owners	Part Owners	Tenants	Others
1. Living Room Suite*	26.1	40.4	46.3	12.7	16.1
2. Rugs or Carpets*	65.8	74.0	79.6	61.9	52.9
3. Window Decoration*					
Shades and Curtains or drapes	50.0	58.3	74.1	43.6	23.6
Curtains or Drapes only	15.6	18.4	1.8	15.1	21.8
Shades only	11.4	7.8	13.0	14.3	10.3
None	23.0	15.5	11.1	27.0	33.3
4. Heating*					
Stove	79.7	78.8	75.5	76.2	88.5
Fireplace	18.9	16.3	24.5	23.8	11.5
Circulator	1.4	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
5. Lighting*					
Kerosene lamps	79.5	72.8	66.7	84.9	87.4
Mantle or pressure lamps	15.9	20.4	25.9	12.7	9.2
Electric lights	4.6	6.8	7.4	2.4	3.4
6. Kitchen Range	67.6	82.7	83.3	65.9	42.5
7. Kitchen Stove	32.4	17.3	16.7	34.1	57.4
8. Kitchen Fuel					
Wood or coal	88.9	90.4	87.0	92.9	82.6
Kerosene or gasoline	9.2	8.7	7.4	6.3	15.1
Gas or electricity	1.9	1.9	5.6	0.8	2.3
9. Pressure Cooker	51.4	72.1	64.8	45.2	26.4
10. Refrigeration					
Ice	39.9	45.2	38.9	41.3	32.2
Mechanical	8.8	12.5	18.5	2.4	3.4
None	52.3	42.3	42.6	56.3	64.4
11. Built-in Cabinet	7.5	13.5	11.1	2.4	5.7
12. Laundry Facilities					
Tubs	77.8	70.2	55.5	88.8	85.1
Power washer	19.2	28.8	35.2	9.6	11.5
Hand washer	2.2	1.0	7.4	0.8	2.3
Sent out	0.3	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0
None	0.5	0.0	9.0	0.8	1.1
Electric or fuel iron	21.8	26.9	29.6	14.3	21.8
13. Radio	80.1	88.9	90.4	81.7	56.3
14. Piano or Organ	9.2	13.5	24.1	4.0	2.3
15. Telephone	2.4	4.8	3.7	0.8	1.1
16. Sewing Machine	79.8	90.4	92.6	81.7	56.3
17. Carpet or Electric Sweeper	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	2.3
18. Automobile	22.6	34.6	25.9	12.7	20.7

* Item reported for living room only.

materials) are found on the living room floor in 92.6 percent of the dwellings in southwestern Oklahoma and 65.8 percent of those in the southeastern area. Window shades, curtains or drapes (separately or in combination) are found in 92.9 percent of the houses in southwestern Oklahoma and 77.0 percent of those in the southeast. Most frequently the houses with shades only, or with no decorations, are those occupied by nonowners.

Improved means of heating are fairly widespread in southwestern Oklahoma where 45.2 percent of the families have either a gas or an oil circulator. Another 9.6 percent of the homes have a wood or coal circulator in the living room, 1.9 percent are heated with a furnace, and the remainder contain either wood or coal stoves. In southeastern Oklahoma, eight of every ten homes contain a stove in the living room, nearly one in five has a fireplace, and a negligible proportion has some type of circulator.

More than one-half of the families in southwestern Oklahoma have either electric lights or a mantle lamp in the living room. In southeastern Oklahoma, two of every ten families possess one of these types of lighting facilities. In both areas, farm owners have most of the improved heating and lighting systems.

Kitchen ranges are somewhat more common in southeastern than in southwestern Oklahoma, due partly to the difference in the fuel used. Wood is the cooking fuel in nine of every ten houses in southeastern Oklahoma. In southwestern Oklahoma, which is located in a plains region, kerosene or gasoline is used in nearly three-fourths of the kitchens and butane gas in the remaining one-fourth. The use of kerosene and gasoline ranges or stoves is greatest among the lower tenure groups: gas and electric ranges are found most frequently in homes of farm owners.

A large percentage of families in both areas have pressure cookers. The emphasis upon home-produced food in educational programs and in advertising, and a low purchase price for this equipment, probably explain its widespread use. This applies to nonowners, especially "others," to a lesser extent than to owners.

The lack of ice or mechanical refrigeration in 52.3 percent of the dwellings in southeastern Oklahoma and 22.2 percent of those in southwestern Oklahoma indicates the existence of a need which could be met by ice routes, mechanical refrigeration, or locker services in the postwar period.

The old-fashioned washtub continues to be used by nearly eight of every ten families visited in southeastern Oklahoma. Nearly one-fifth of the families there have power laundry equipment. In southwestern Oklahoma, where water is less plentiful, "help-yourself" laundries in villages and towns are patronized by nearly one-half of the families. Another one-third use power washers. The remainder depend upon the washtub and other facilities. Only a small percentage of the families on farms in either area patronize commercial laundries. The power washer is most frequent among farm owners, and the washboard-and-tub among nonowners.

The difference in the frequency of electric or fuel irons in the homes of the two areas can be traced in part to the greater availability of electricity and to the widespread use of gasoline for fueling lights and tractors in southwestern Oklahoma.

In both areas the sewing machine and radio apparently are almost universal items of housing equipment. Approximately four-fifths of all homes surveyed contain a sewing machine. Although its use is most prevalent among farm owners, the percentages of families in each tenure group who have a sewing machine are nearly identical in the two areas.

Nearly nine-tenths of the families in southwestern and four-fifths of those in southeastern Oklahoma own a radio. Only among "other" families does the percentage without a radio appear fairly large.

Among the houses visited in southwestern Oklahoma, 25.3 percent have telephones, and in southeastern Oklahoma the proportion is 2.4 percent. There are large differences in the proportions of owners and nonowners reporting this item.

Reliance for recreation upon the radio, commercial amusements, and expanded extra-curricular activities in the schools probably accounts for the fewness of pianos in homes. Only one-fourth of the homes in southwestern Oklahoma and less than one-tenth of those in the southeastern area have pianos. Again there is wide contrast between owners and nonowners.

Comparatively few families own a hand-powered or electric sweeper in either area, although a large majority have rugs or carpets.

In this study the automobile is assumed to be as much a material factor in the level of living as the radio or telephone. Almost as many families (82.7 percent) in southwestern Okla-

homa have automobiles as have radios.* The automobile is nearly as prevalent among nonowners as owners of farms. The high proportion of large farms in southwestern Oklahoma results in long distances to trade centers and makes an automobile a necessity. In southeastern Oklahoma where farms are smaller and the density of population is greater, only 22.6 percent of the families possess a car. There the owners more frequently have an automobile than nonowners.

* This figure does not include trucks or pick-ups upon which some farm families rely for transportation.