

GARRISON HOUSES



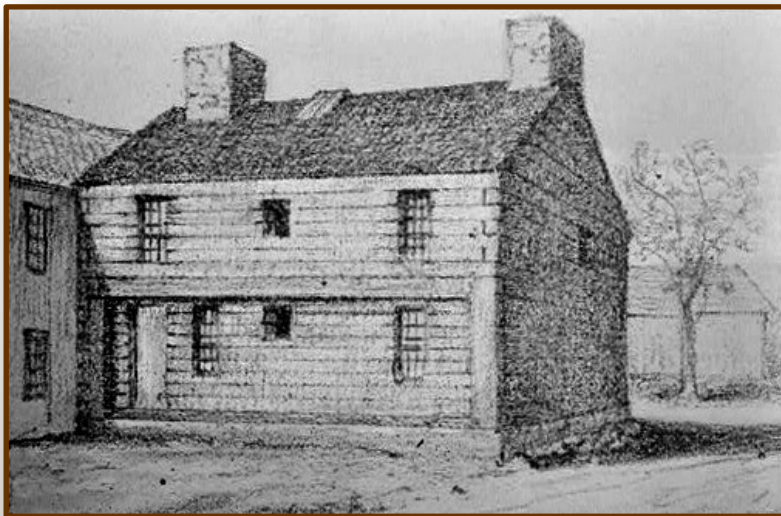
What were garrison houses?

Garrison houses were buildings constructed by English settlers to protect them from attacks by their enemies, like the French or Native Americans. Most settlements had at least one garrison house. At one time, Dover was so big that it had 12 garrison houses!

If the English thought they were going to be attacked, they would run to the garrison house that was closest to them for protection.



Most garrison houses have been torn down, but this one, located at the Woodman Museum in Dover, still exists. You can even visit it and go inside it!



This garrison house in Exeter on the corner of Water and Clifford streets was built in 1648. It was known as the Gilman House. This drawing was made many years later, when an addition had been put on the side of the building.

How were garrison houses different from other houses?

Garrison houses usually had thicker walls than other houses. The second story of a garrison house usually stuck out a little bit over the first story, which is called a jetty. The jetty made the second floor bigger than the first floor, and the second floor was thought to be safer. Garrison houses were usually stocked with food, water, weapons, and ammunition. They also often had tall fences built around them for added protection.