This research deals with individuals who have remained in independent housing after retirement. The study attempted to describe the physical characteristics of their housing, to study the stated satisfaction and to study the relationship of the satisfaction with housing, retirement, and income. Three main areas were considered: 1) a description of the amount of space in selected living areas, 2) a description of the housing features that were most satisfying, and 3) a measurement of satisfaction with this housing, with retirement, and with present income.

All respondents were 1) women, 2) either single or widowed at least a year, 3) retired, 4) maintaining independent housing situations unassociated with specially planned retirement housing, 5) living in the Corvallis, Oregon metropolitan area, and 6) at one time had been employed by Oregon State University or married to someone who had been an employee of Oregon State University.
The names of qualified participants were obtained from the office of the Oregon State University President. These women were contacted by a letter which explained the research. An appointment was then made for the author to interview each of them. An interview schedule was used to collect the data.

The questions in the interview schedule concerned: 1) personal information, 2) description of past housing and future plans, 3) description of social interests, 4) description of the house, 5) importance of selected living areas, 6) satisfaction with housing, 7) satisfaction with retirement, and 8) satisfaction with income.

The respondents ranged in age from 64 through 96. Of this group 55.8% had graduated from college compared to a national average of 4%. 64.7% considered themselves in better than average health.

Twenty-seven owned and seven rented the homes they were living in. Six had lived in rented houses for a longer period of time than they had lived in houses they had owned. The average number of rooms for the sample was 5.9 compared to 4.9 for the total United States.

All of the respondents had a hobby or collection or both. All of the respondents entertained in some way in their homes, and all except one had overnight guests.

When each woman was asked to describe her living room, dining room, kitchen, and bathroom, 74.3% described these rooms
as either "adequate" or "perfect." 13.2% were described as "too small," but none were described as "too large." When asked for suggestions for changes or additions for their present housing, 19 suggestions involved enlarging the area or room.

When asked what features they liked most about their houses, the features mentioned were: 1) specific rooms and areas, 2) location of the house on the lot and within the community, 3) physical characteristics such as room arrangement, 4) the whole house in general, 5) spaciousness, 6) circulation or traffic within the house, and 7) the view.

When rating the importance of the various areas, the living room was considered important by all respondents, and a dining area outside of the kitchen area was considered important by slightly over two-thirds of these women.

Analysis of the responses to the questions on satisfaction revealed 65.6% were satisfied with their housing; 67.7% were satisfied with retirement; 73.3% were satisfied with their income. The relationship between retirement and income was similar to that found in the study by Crabtree (1966). A positive relationship was found to exist between these three items.
Housing Satisfaction of a Selected Group of Older Women in Corvallis, Oregon

by

Donna Marilyn Eichelberg

A THESIS

submitted to

Oregon State University

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Science

June 1968
APPROVED:

Assistant Professor of Home Management
in charge of major

Head of Department of Home Management

Dean of Graduate School

Date thesis is presented  August 1, 1967

Typed by Lucinda M. Nyberg for Donna Marilyn Eichelberg
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The writer wishes to express appreciation for the guidance and encouragement given by Mrs. Harriet Sinnard, Assistant Professor of Home Management, Oregon State University; her assistance and patience throughout the preparation of this thesis have been invaluable.

Appreciation is extended to Dr. Jean Warren, Professor of Home Management, formerly of Cornell University, for her help in analyzing the data and for her encouragement during this study; to Dr. D. Schalock, formerly Acting Head of the Family Life Department, and Dr. Helen Wells, formerly Acting Head of the Department of Home Management, for help given in setting up the problem and advice on procedure; to Dean Betty E. Hawthorne, Dean of the School of Home Economics, for her help during the summer of 1966.

Invaluable evaluation, criticism, and suggestions were given by Dr. Martha Plonk, Acting Head of the Department of Home Management, and Miss Freda Teitzel, Instructor in the Department of Home Management.

Appreciation is also extended to the women who so graciously responded to the interview and to all others who assisted with this study.

It is with gratitude that I also acknowledge the encouragement and understanding of my family.
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"Housing is both a personal problem of attaining a satisfactory home and a public problem of meeting the living needs of all families" (Carter, 1949 p.1). Evidences of concern with these housing problems are seen in magazine and newspaper articles, urban renewal projects, federal legislation, current research projects, and housing experiments such as apartments with shopping and parking facilities incorporated under the same roof, trailer courts with recreational facilities, and apartment complexes limited to specific age groups. Housing for the retired has become a special concern as the number of retired people in the United States increases and their needs become more evident. Various solutions to these needs are being explored.

Three developments in retirement housing are congregate living, which includes groups of people living under the same roof as in apartments; protected living, which consists of housing that includes nursing care when necessary; and proximate residences, which are single or small multiple dwellings located near each other, but restricted to retirement aged people.

In 1960 these retirement housing developments were used by
only 5.1 percent of the female population 65 years of age and over (Beyer, 1965). The other 94.4 percent of the retirement age, single women live dispersed throughout our communities. These people, in contrast to those in special retirement housing, are more difficult to find and isolate as retired; hence little is known about them or about their housing.

Slightly over 36 percent of the retired single women live in their own houses (Beyer, 1965). Some of these are living alone and some have others living with them.

Independence is important to retired people. Housing is recognized as an essential ingredient of independence by the U.S. President's Council on Aging, 1963 (p. 7), and as such it would influence the enjoyment or satisfaction of retirement. According to Beyer (1961), there is an increasing emphasis on "independent" as against "institutional" living. This fact increases the importance of gaining a better understanding of independent living after retirement.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this research is to describe the physical characteristics of the housing, to study the stated satisfaction and to study the relationship of the satisfaction with housing, retirement, and income of individuals who have remained in independent housing after their retirement. Three main areas were considered. They were
the amount of space in selected living areas, a description of the housing features that were most satisfying, and a measurement of satisfaction with this housing, with retirement, and with present income.
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The 1960 United States Census Bureau figures show that while the population of the United States is growing numerically, the aged portion is growing both numerically and as a proportion of the total population. The total population has increased 136 percent since the beginning of the century, while the increase in the aged portion of the population has been 438 percent. In 1960 persons over 65 years of age constituted slightly over 9 percent of the population (Beyer, 1965, Agan, 1965).

The proportion of retirement age people owning homes is higher than for the total adult population. Sixty percent of all families own their homes, while 75 percent is the proportion for those over the age of 65 who own their homes (Agan, 1965).

There is evidence today that fewer three-generation families live under one roof than was common a generation ago. The reasons seem to be mainly economic. The houses being built today are smaller than those built earlier and types of employment require families to be more mobile. However, there is also evidence that after a family establishes itself in a community and purchases a house, the parents stay in this home even after the children have been launched (Foote, 1960, Beyer, 1965). These houses which have been built for a family are then generally occupied by only one or two people, which
makes the persons-per-room ratio low (Foote, 1960). For the total United States, 46.6 percent of owner-occupied units and 34.1 percent of renter-occupied units had 0.50 or less persons per room (Beyer, 1965). For owners of retirement age who lived in their own houses, the median number of rooms per person was higher than the median number of rooms for all housing units (Reid, 1962). Too little space is more frequently the reason for moving than too much space. Too much space is less frequently the reason even when the houses are large, (Foote, 1960). When these houses are owned and the mortgages are paid, the operation, property maintenance costs, and taxes may keep the expense below that of many other types of housing. This could be another reason some people choose to remain in their pre-retirement homes.

The average number of persons per dwelling in the United States in 1961 was 3.5 (Beyer, 1965). Census figures for 1960 state that 4.9 was the median number of rooms for all housing units in the United States. The median for owner units was 5.5 rooms, while for renters it was 3.9, indicating that owner-occupied houses are larger than renter-occupied units.

Studies indicate that most retired people have relatives close at hand. In a nation-wide sample, Beyer (1965) found that 36 percent of retired people lived with at least one relative, that 24 percent of all retired people had relatives living within the same block or within
walking distance, 25 percent had relatives within a short ride, and only 15 percent had relatives living as far away as a day's travel or more.

There is evidence that the aged want to maintain individual households (Havighurst, 1953). According to Wilma Donahue, chairman of the division of gerontology at the University of Michigan, the aged should live independently if they are able to care for themselves (Agan, 1965). Staying in their established homes even when the homes are uncomfortable tends to help these people feel more secure (Beyer, 1965). Possibly this is the reason many women maintain their own independent houses for some years after becoming widows (Foote, 1960). Having a house is a stabilizing force during old age when it is needed most (Rosenberg, 1966). Living arrangements where relatives live near yet not under the same roof have been indicated as most desirable by many retired people (Havighurst, 1953). This type of arrangement becomes even more important when there is illness that requires extra care and attention.

Older people are a diverse group. This might be accounted for by the differences in their social, cultural, and economic experiences over a long period of time (Breen, 1960). Most studies of older people have been made in special retirement housing because as yet it is difficult for a researcher to isolate a random group of retired people within a community composed of families in all stages
of the family life cycle. Two of the reasons for the difficulty are finding a complete list of all the people over age 65 and defining the word "retirement" uniformly.

There are many women living alone by the time they are retirement age. These women include the single who have never married, the widowed, and the divorced. These women make up 36.4 percent of the total population of women 65 years of age and over (Beyer, 1965).

The 1964 Bureau of the Census figures show that 10 percent of the female population 65 years of age and over had completed at least one year of college. Of this group four percent had completed four or more years of college.

A Cornell study indicates that persons living in their own households had higher incomes than those living in households of others. Widowed women living in their own households had less income than couples or single men living in the same type of household. Hence, single women living in their own households are not receiving the highest incomes of the retired population; however, they are not receiving the least income (Beyer, 1965).

Stability, symbolized by the purchase of a house, was important to women who had been associated with a university society. (Foote, 1960). These women could possibly have afforded to build or buy houses that met their social and physical needs more than women who
had lower incomes. After retirement these women possibly stayed in their houses because they were very satisfied with their housing, especially if they owned it.

When Crabtree (1966) studied the current financial resources of 60 retired couples, she developed a scale for rating satisfaction with retirement. She found that most of the couples she interviewed expressed a high degree of satisfaction with retirement. When the composite scores for each of these couples was compared with their current income and net worth, it was found that there was a positive relationship between satisfaction and financial resources.

Teitzel (1966) studied the expressed satisfaction with house design of families of various ages and in various stages of the family life cycle. Her findings indicate that older respondents expressed greater satisfaction than younger respondents. The amount of space available for various activities was also found to be important to the satisfaction rating. The respondents were dissatisfied when the amount of space for overnight guests was not adequate. The homemakers with smaller families or with children over age 18 expressed more satisfaction than the other respondents.

Montgomery's (1959) research on rural housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma also examined many age groups. In the section dealing with satisfaction, findings indicated that older people
expressed a higher degree of satisfaction than younger people. He found that those people in the lowest socio-economic level expressed less satisfaction with their housing than did those on a higher level.
GENERAL METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Definitions

Several terms used extensively in this study need clarification.

A woman was considered retired if she had retired from her career or if she were aged 65 or over.

Independent housing was used to indicate any single-family housing unit or one unit of a multiple dwelling in which the occupant lived alone. This was in contrast to congregate or proximate residences built especially for retirement.

The category single women included all women of retirement age who were living independently. This included those who had never been married, those who were divorced and were presently living singly, and widows who had not remarried.

Statement of Objectives

This thesis will attempt to answer the questions: What are some of the characteristics of the housing of retired single women? How satisfied are these women with their present housing? Does this relate to their satisfaction with retirement? Does this relate to their satisfaction with income? In what ways would they improve or change their present housing?

There is census information on the type of housing retired
people have and information about some of the physical characteristics of this housing. Several studies have been made of satisfactions with housing of all age groups and satisfaction of retirement-age people with retirement. There is also some information about women of retirement age.

The objectives of this study of retired single women and housing are:

1. to describe physical characteristics of their dwelling units,
2. to determine the level of satisfaction expressed about housing, retirement, and income,
3. to investigate the relationship between "satisfaction with housing," "satisfaction with retirement," and "satisfaction with income."

The Sample

In order to obtain a homogeneous group, the following variables were held constant. All respondents were 1) women, 2) either single or widowed at least a year, 3) retired, 4) maintaining independent housing situations unassociated with specially planned retirement housing, 5) living in the Corvallis, Oregon metropolitan area, and 6) at one time had been employed by Oregon State University or had been married to someone who had been an employee of Oregon State University.
A list of these women was obtained from the Oregon State University President's office. From this list, forty-five women met all of the above criteria. All of the women were contacted. Of these, thirty-four participated in the study.

**Procedure**

A personal interview using an interview schedule (Appendix B) was chosen as the best method of collecting the data. An interview schedule gave structure to the interview and improved the uniformity and completeness of the information gathered. An interview provided personal contact with the respondent and gave the interviewer an opportunity to probe for more complete answers to open end questions and to clarify and explain the questions asked.

The author developed the interview schedule after reading and studying the available material on retirement, retirement housing, and question writing. Interviews with specialists in the field of Home Management provided additional information.

There were several kinds of questions. Some could be answered by a simple "yes" or "no." Others provided a range of answers which were "definite yes, yes, no, definite no," "very satisfied, satisfied, not very satisfied, not at all satisfied," or "very important, important, not very important, not at all important." These answers were given values from one to four with the lowest
value indicating the highest satisfaction or importance level and the largest number indicating the least satisfaction or importance. Zero was used when no answer was given.

The first draft of the interview schedule was read and judged by the faculty of the Home Management Department of the School of Home Economics at Oregon State University for clarity of wording and pertinence of the questions. After changes had been made it was checked again by various interested faculty members. The interview schedule was then pretested with three women who fulfilled all of the qualifications except those of living in the Corvallis metropolitan area and having been employed by Oregon State University.

The final draft of the interview schedule consisted of seven pages. Fifty-seven questions pertained to information concerning the house, nine questions covered satisfaction with retirement, and nine questions asked for information about the respondent and her family.

Each prospective respondent was sent a letter of introduction explaining the purpose of the study and informing them that they would be contacted by the author. This was followed by a personal visit or a telephone call to make an appointment for an interview. Interviews were conducted between August 6, 1966 and October 10, 1966 in the homes of the respondents. Those who received letters but were not interviewed were eliminated because they had moved from the area or preferred not to participate.
All questions were asked by the author in the order in which they appear on the interview schedule (Appendix B). Most interviews lasted approximately one hour. Each respondent was offered a copy of the interview schedule for her use during the interview. It was generally used for only the first few pages.

The responses to the questions were recorded during the interview. A "definite yes" or a "definite no" was recorded when the response was immediate and emphatic or if special reasons were given after a period of thought.

The scaling of the degree of satisfaction or importance was done by each respondent with each interpreting the amount of satisfaction or importance from her own experience. The recording was done by the author within view of the respondent.

The answers were grouped as follows: 1) description of the house, 2) description of past housing and future plans, 3) description of social interests, 4) satisfaction with housing, 5) importance of selected living areas, 6) satisfaction with retirement, 7) satisfaction with income, and 8) personal information.

The answers were grouped in this way in order to meet the objectives of the study. Each group of answers were not derived from new questions. In the case of satisfaction with income, answers from two groups were used for purposes of analysis and comparison.
The questions in group one concerning the house were designed to learn more about the physical characteristics of the dwelling units such as the sizes of the living room, the dining room, the kitchen, the bathroom, and basement; the number of rooms and living areas; whether there was a garden; and whether there were problems with the house.

The second group of questions was designed to learn more about past and present housing experiences and future plans. These included whether the women owned their houses completely or were still making payments. If they were renting, they were asked if the unit was furnished or unfurnished. Another question dealt with their estimation of whether they had had more experience renting or owning their homes.

Group three were questions about social interests and activities. The questions included information about the types of entertaining, who they entertained, whether they had overnight guests, what collections they had, and in what kinds of hobbies they participated. All of these activities would be done in the home, and most would require more than minimum space.

The questions in group four, dealing with satisfaction with housing, were asked as each room or area was discussed. This was to introduce the area or room, then to obtain a rating of their satisfaction with the area or room, and then to gain other information
about these areas. The questions were about the house in general, the dining room, the living room, the bathroom, the kitchen, the garden, and the accommodations for overnight guests. These areas lend themselves to the activities found to be popular, important, or necessary at this point in the family life cycle.

Group five questions were about the importance of the living room, the dining room, the garden, and space for overnight guests. These were included because it was felt that it was possible to be satisfied with and tolerant of useless space. These were asked in conjunction with the questions about the various areas.

The sixth group of questions concerning satisfaction with retirement were composed by Crabtree (1966) for her research on the financial resources of retired couples. These covered most of the areas of concern to retired people, such as income, use of time, social activity, adjustment, and capacity for adjustment to change. These were included in this study to provide some comparison with results from the Crabtree study and to strengthen the reliability of both studies.

The seventh group of questions dealt with satisfaction with retirement. These included questions about adequate income for current needs, provision for illness, income to visit relatives, and the standard of living maintained after retirement. The amount of education was included since it was felt that this would have some
bearing on income.

The eighth group of questions concerned information about the individual person and included age, marital status, educational level, condition of physical health, and proximity of relatives. These were studied as the variables that might isolate various respondents into groups with similar housing needs and satisfactions.

Validity of the Measuring Device

In the behavioral sciences, exact validity is difficult to prove. Human behavior is motivated and influenced by many varied stimuli. The answers from this sample would be influenced by health, time available for the interview, and ability to articulate. The author felt that the education level of this group kept the articulation at a high level.

Only actual use of the interview schedule revealed some of its weaknesses. Some of the questions were not as discriminating as others, and many could be rewritten. Suggested changes have been included in Appendix C.

Treatment of the Data

Responses from the interviews were grouped in order to derive indices of satisfaction with housing, retirement, and income and comparisons of these dimensions were presented in tabular form. In addition, selected physical characteristics of their housing were discussed.
FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Characteristics of the Sample

Thirty-four women were interviewed. All of them were single women who had retired and were living independently in single-family detached dwellings or in apartments. Seven had never been married, 25 were widowed, and 2 were divorced. All of them had had some previous association with Oregon State University either through their own or their husband's employment. They or their husbands had been retired from their positions from 9 months to 25 years. These women ranged in age from 64 to 96 years.

Table I. Age Distribution of Women in the Sample.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages of Respondents</th>
<th>No Response</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All had graduated from a high school, 13 had received additional training other than college, 5 had bachelor's degrees, 10 held the master's degree, and 4 had the degree of doctor.

When asked to estimate their present health as compared to their health before retirement, three women felt their health was better than it had been before retirement; nine felt their health was
not as good as it had been before retirement. There were 22 who felt their health was about the same as before retirement.

When asked to compare their present health with what they thought was average for their age, two felt their health was below average. Ten felt their health was about average for their age, and 22 felt their health was better than average.

Five of the eight oldest women in the sample felt their health was not as good as before retirement; however six women felt their health was better than average for their age.

It was found that fewer of these women lived near relatives than was characteristic of the respondents in the study done by Beyer (1965). Four had relatives as near as a block; 7 had their nearest relative within walking distance; 17 had their nearest relative within a day's travel; and 6 had no relatives as near as a day's travel.

Present and Future Housing Plans

These women had lived in their present house or apartment from 3 months to 56 years. Table II shows the period of time each woman had lived in her present housing.
Table II. Period of Residence in Present Living Quarters by 34 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Lived in Present House</th>
<th>Individuals Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 mo. to 9 yr.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 yr. to 19 yr.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 yr. to 29 yr.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 yr. to 39 yr.</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 yr. or more</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We find no new housing arrangements transacted during the ten-year period of the depression of the 1930's. The majority of transactions took place within the first ten years after World War II. The fewest changes have been made in the last ten years.

Twenty-seven of the women owned their homes at the time of the interviews. Only one of these was still making payments. The other seven women rented houses or apartments. Only one rented a furnished apartment. Six women said they had lived in rental housing longer than they had lived in housing they had owned. Twenty-six said they had lived longer in houses they had owned. Two women said they had lived in rented and owned housing almost equal lengths of time. Only two of the seven women who lived in rented housing had rented longer than they had owned. None of them had lived in their present houses longer than 13 years. The women
who owned their homes had lived in their present houses longer than the women who rented.

The data indicate those who owned at the time of the interviews and had owned for the longer period of time generally stayed in a house longer. Those who rented but had owned for the longer period of time had lived in their present housing for the least amount of time.

The seven single women in the sample who had never been married owned their own houses. Twenty of the other women owned their houses, and seven rented them. Most had experienced both owning and renting.

When asked if they would prefer to remain in their present house, 32 answered yes; of these, 31 planned on staying but one was planning to move. Two stated they would like to move, and one of these was planning to do so.

All of the women were asked if they could adjust easily to new housing. Of the 32 planning to stay, 18 felt adjustment to another type of living would be easy. Ten of these thought it would be very easy. Fourteen responded that they felt they could not adjust to other housing. Two of the 34 women were planning to move and felt that they could adjust easily to new housing.

For this sample of retired women the highest number of persons per room was .50 persons-per-room. This indicates
that they were living in very spacious accommodations.

Characteristics of the House or Apartment

The houses or apartments had from two to ten rooms. These numbers included all rooms and areas listed in question seven except bathrooms, basements, and entry halls (Appendix B).

All of the houses had a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom. Thirty-three had from one to four bedrooms. Over half of these houses had dining rooms, entry halls, or basements. Some of the special rooms mentioned that were not listed in the question were breakfast-playroom, study, attic, sleeping porch, living porch, recreation room, sitting room, library, storage room.

The women were asked about problems with their houses. High taxes were considered a problem by 10 of these women. Six mentioned that their yards were too large, and six said that they were living too far from their families. The responses to the rest of questions yielded very little. Other aspects of housing were not considered problems by these women at this time.

Characteristics Preferred in the House

When asked to name two or three things they liked most about their houses, only one woman did not respond. This woman had a low satisfaction rating for retirement, for housing, and for income
Table III: Features in Present House or Apartment Preferred by 34 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features Preferred</th>
<th>Number of times Feature was Mentioned by Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific rooms and areas mentioned</td>
<td>Totals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireplace</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Room</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yard</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stairways</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Room</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basement</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patio</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of the house on the lot and within the community</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical characteristics such as room arrangement</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole house in general</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spaciousness</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation or traffic within the house</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other features mentioned such as: easy to keep, inexpensive to keep, memories located here, pleasing color, privacy.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description of Rooms

The women gave brief descriptions of their living room, dining room, kitchen, and bathroom. Each question was composed of adjectives and adjective phrases from which the respondent could select those she felt most appropriate, or she could substitute her own description if she chose. All answers contained "too small," "too large," "adequate," and "perfect." For the living room and dining room, "unused" was added. For the kitchen "poorly arranged," "too hot," and "too dark" were added. "Needs modernizing," "poorly arranged," and "inadequate" were included for the bathroom.

One hundred thirty-six rooms were described using the above method. Nineteen rooms were described by their owners as perfect; 79, adequate; 5, unused; 10, too small; and 20 had other comments which included: "comfortable," "okay," "all right," "suits my needs," none of which were mentioned more than four times. "Too large" was never used as a description for any of the rooms (Table IV).

Living Room

The living room was considered important by all women, and most were described as either perfect or adequate. The sizes ranged from approximately 150 square feet to approximately 450
square feet. Seven houses had combination living-dining rooms. In addition to the descriptive adjectives indicated in the interview schedule, the following comments were made about their living rooms: "I had the benefit of Maude Wilson's advice—what she wanted in a living room." "I wouldn't want to give it up." "It is comfortable." "Sometimes I feel cooped up, but my house is as large as I can care for." "I like corner windows." Changes and additions for the living room that were mentioned only once each were: remove cork floors, add panel wall, remove woodwork, lower windows for better view, lower the ceiling, build a better place for the piano, build a bay window, add an entrance hall, take out the living room fireplace, install other than forced air heating, build another fireplace, make the room more open.

Table IV. Frequency Distribution of Adjectives Used to Describe Specific Areas of Present Living Quarters by 34 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectives</th>
<th>Living Room</th>
<th>Dining Room</th>
<th>Kitchen</th>
<th>Bathroom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perfect</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unused</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too small</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too large</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table V. Improvements Desired for Living Rooms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes or Additions</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlarge</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Furniture</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bathroom

There was more discussion and less satisfaction with the bathroom than with any other room. Seven women were dissatisfied with this room. Ten were definitely satisfied with it. The sizes of bathrooms ranged from approximately 30 square feet to approximately 120 square feet. In addition to the description adjectives chosen from the interview schedule, the following comments were made about the bathroom: "It suits me fine." "It is old fashioned." "I like the bowl near the tub for holding." "I don't want too much space." "There are arm rests on the toilet for my aged mother." Changes and additions for the bathroom that were mentioned only once each were: build another bathroom upstairs, get a better mirror, install a glass door for the shower, lower the ceiling, build a new wash basin area, change the toilet seat, install an exhaust fan, replace plumbing, get a tub with an emergency drain, add more light, get a larger sink, have roll-out shelves built, add more electrical outlets, and move bathroom closer to bedroom.
Table VI. Changes or Additions Desired for Bathrooms by 34 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes or Additions</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add more storage</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add dressing table, cabinet</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlarge</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add shower</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modernize</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>34</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Kitchen**

The kitchen had the largest number of comments made about it. Most of the women were satisfied with their kitchens. The sizes ranged from approximately 48 square feet to approximately 198 square feet. In addition to selecting the descriptive adjectives indicated in the interview schedule, the following comments were made about the kitchen. "I like few steps, easy reach, much storage." 

"The smallest kitchen you can make is best, but it is nice to have an island in the center." 

"I like a large kitchen so two or three can work at the same time." Changes and additions for the kitchen that were mentioned only once each were: install a new sink, lower window sills a foot in breakfast room, remove laundry facilities to the family room, lower cutting surface, install a light over the sink, build more open area, build an outside wall with a window, add a better fan, change the door to the porch to open into the garage,
install new linoleum, install more electrical outlets, and enlarge.

Table VII. Changes or Additions Desired for Kitchen by 34 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes or Additions</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More counters, cabinets, cupboards</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No changes wanted</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appliances other than a dishwasher</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishwasher</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double sinks</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>34</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dining Room

Twenty-one of the houses had separate dining rooms. Seven had combination living-dining rooms. Only six do not have dining space outside of the kitchen. Of the 21 women with separate dining rooms, only one was not satisfied with her dining room. Four of these women said their dining rooms were unused. The separate dining rooms ranged in size from approximately 100 square feet to approximately 238 square feet.

In addition to the descriptive adjectives mentioned in the interview schedule, the following comments were made about the dining room: "I wouldn't do anything about it now." "I am adjusted to it." "It is important to have one at times." "It is important for a family to have one." "There is no point in having a separate dining room." "Years ago I would have liked it larger."
Table VIII. Changes or Additions Expressed as Desirable for Dining Rooms by 20 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes or Additions</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More storage, cabinets</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlarge</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change traffic pattern</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change color</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basement

Basements were another area of the house that was investigated. Twenty of the houses had basements. Sixteen of these were full basements, two were three-quarter size, and two were half basements. Basements were considered important by all but two of the 20 women. One commented that she felt a basement "necessary in Oregon."

Only four indicated that they were dissatisfied with their basements. Uses of the basement that were mentioned only once each were: as a recreation room, library, sales room, desk, for the water heater, and as storage for garbage cans and yard equipment.

There were very few changes or additions mentioned for the basement. Such changes and additions that were mentioned only once each were: install tile floors, make the stairs less steep, add a rumpus room, put in a new floor, change to automatic heat.
Table IX. Stated Uses of Basements in Houses of 20 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stated Uses</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace or heating equip.</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit room</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel storage</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra bedroom</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work bench</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes lines</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals:</strong></td>
<td><strong>72</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table X. Changes or Additions Desired for the Basement in the Houses of Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes or Additions</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finish concrete floor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seal</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add bathroom</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The adjectives selected to describe the basement were "used often, used occasionally, dark, damp." Fifteen indicated that their basements were used often, five were used occasionally. Three were described as dark. One was described as damp. Three of the women having either dark or damp basements still used them often.
Thirty women had gardens for flowers or vegetables. Most of these gardens contained only flowers. Twenty-five felt their gardens were important, with 13 of these feeling they were very important. Six felt gardens were not too important, and four gave no answers. Most women found it difficult to answer the question on garden size. The sizes of the gardens ranged from large yards to a row of parsley grown in an apartment flower box. Twenty-seven women were satisfied with the amount of garden space they had. Five were not too well satisfied. Two of the women who had no gardens did not answer this question.

Although comments were unsolicited, many additional comments were made about gardens. Their general comments are summarized in Table XI.

Table XI. Comments About Garden Space Made by 22 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Number Commenting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required care by another person</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resigned to the amount of space</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred someone else to care for it</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was all they could care for themselves</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoyed results</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanted very much</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Yearns for one&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ratings of the Importance of Selected Rooms and Areas

The respondents were asked to rate their estimations of the importance of a living room, dining area, room for overnight guests, and garden area respectively. The scale was of four points similar to that used for the questions on "satisfaction." The possible range of scores was 4 to 16, with the lowest score indicating the greatest importance. The actual range was from 4 to 10.

Table XII. Distribution of Ratings of the Importance of Selected Rooms and Areas as Indicated by 26 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scores</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of respondents receiving scores</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The living room was considered important by all of the respondents. There were 28 who had dining rooms, and of these 24 felt they were important. Twenty-nine felt that room for overnight guests was important. Twenty-five of the 30 women who had gardens felt that gardens were important.

Description of Social Interests

All of the women entertained in some way. Visiting was the social activity mentioned most often; dinners followed closely. Less
than half entertained at bridge or by watching television. Types of entertaining mentioned in addition to those listed in the interview schedule included garden parties, sewing parties, board meetings, staff meetings, discussion groups, going out to dinner, coffees, desserts, teas, committee meetings. All but one mentioned entertaining friends. Twenty-nine mentioned entertaining family: 27, neighbors; 23, club or organizational groups; 5, business associates. The following additional groups were mentioned by one or more women: foreign students, OSU association for retired persons, students, and church groups. Twenty-three felt they entertained more before retiring; however, three entertain more now. When entertaining groups, the smallest group reported was four, while the largest was 100 at a coffee hour.

Twenty-seven were satisfied with the amount of entertaining they did, and seven were dissatisfied. Several added that they would like to do more if they had more energy. Only three said they would have entertained more if their houses had been larger.

Twenty-nine felt it was important to have room for overnight guests. Only 13 felt that they had overnight guests often; 18 felt that they had overnight guests occasionally; and only one had no overnight guests. Thirty-one were satisfied with the amount of room they had for overnight guests.
Description of Collections and Hobbies

Every woman in this sample had either a hobby, a collection or both; some women had several of either or both. Hobbies that were mentioned only once each were: driving and riding, mountain climbing, keeping house, birds, OMSI work, hiking, swimming, camping, flower arranging, cooking, DAR history research, thrift shop, gadding, and attending basketball games. A list of hobbies is given in Table XIII.

Table XIII. Hobbies of 34 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hobbies</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening and flower raising</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community activity, politics, clubs</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting with guests, friends, people</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church (attendance or related activities)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence and writing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knitting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaving</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiques</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass and china (collecting)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There were fewer kinds of collections than there were kinds of hobbies. Table XIV shows the collections mentioned. Only one woman mentioned that she had disposed of her collections. Collections mentioned only once each were: rocks, coins, Red Cross TB seals, family heirlooms, student mementos, family pictures, and filing things of interest from reading materials.

Table XIV. Collections of 34 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collections</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiques</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figurines</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souvenirs from trips</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The only addition or change mentioned for the hobby areas was to make them larger. This was mentioned by four women of the 13 who responded to this question.

Satisfaction with Housing

Eight questions dealt with housing satisfaction. The question on dining areas was excluded from the final analysis because not all women had a dining area outside of the kitchen. Scores on the
remaining seven questions were analyzed. The respondents rated their satisfaction "definite yes, yes, no, definite no." The following table indicates the number and kinds of responses to each question.

Table XV. Satisfaction with Housing as Rated by 34 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions Asked</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very Satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. How satisfied would you say you are with your whole house?</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Are you satisfied with your living room?</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Are you satisfied with your kitchen?</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Are you satisfied with your bathroom?</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Are you satisfied with the amount of room you have for overnight guests?</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. How satisfied are you with the amount of garden space you have?</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56. How satisfied are you with the amount of entertaining you do?</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹NA = No Answer

When analysis was done on these questions, "definite yes" was assigned a value of one, "yes" a value of two, "no" a value of three,
and "definite no" a value of four. The range of possible scores when all questions were answered was seven to 28, with the lowest score representing the greatest degree of satisfaction. The actual range was 8 to 18, showing general satisfaction. The women seemed to be pleased with what they had. Two women were not included here because they had no gardens. Table XVI shows the distribution.

In general the women interviewed were satisfied with their houses. Most of them had achieved what they liked, and they would like to stay as long as they can; most plan to stay. They feel that they have enough room, enough money, and the house is theirs.

Table XVI. Distribution of Scores for Satisfaction with Housing of 32 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scores</th>
<th>7-9</th>
<th>10-12</th>
<th>13-15</th>
<th>16-18</th>
<th>19-21</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Respondents Receiving Score</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satisfaction with Retirement

Nine questions dealt with satisfaction with retirement. The respondents interpretation of all but question number six dealing with expenditure of time and energy was fairly uniform, which indicates an understanding of the questions being asked. The eight remaining questions were used for this analysis. Table XVII indicates the number and kinds of responses to each question.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number Responding</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Definite</td>
<td></td>
<td>Definite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Do you find retirement to be a satisfying way of life?</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Do you have enough income for your current needs?</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Do you use your time in a manner agreeable to you?</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Do you associate often enough with friends whose company you enjoy?</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Do you have adequate provision made in case of extended illness?</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Omitted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Do you have enough income to visit children and relatives as often as you'd like?</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Do you live near enough to your preretirement standard of living to please you?</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. If the need arose for you to move to a different kind of housing, could you adjust easily?</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The answers to these questions were assigned the same values as were the questions dealing with housing. The possible range of the total scores was 8 to 22, with the lowest score representing the greatest degree of satisfaction. The actual range was 8 to 20.

Thirty-one women responded to all of the questions about retirement.

Table XVIII. Distribution of Scores for Satisfaction with Retirement of 31 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scores</th>
<th>8-10</th>
<th>11-13</th>
<th>14-16</th>
<th>17-19</th>
<th>20-22</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of respondents receiving score</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some women offered comments during the interview. They had enough income; however, many mentioned that they had fewer needs or had adjusted their needs to the amount of income available. Most were satisfied with the way they spent their time, but found it frustrating to have less energy than they had had before. Most felt that they saw friends frequently enough. Most felt that adequate provision had been made in case of extended illness, and many mentioned Medicare as one means. Some mentioned modifying the demands on their time and energy through careful planning. Most had enough income to visit children and relatives as often as they liked. Most lived near their preretirement standard of living. Generally
those who were satisfied with retirement thought adjustment to
another type of housing would be easy.

**Satisfaction with Retirement Compared to
Satisfaction with Housing**

Scores on the retirement questions and the housing questions
were totaled for each respondent. These scores were then used to
divide the respondents into four groups. All respondents who were
satisfied with both their retirement and their housing were placed in
one group; all respondents who were satisfied with retirement and
dissatisfied with housing were in a second group; all respondents who
were dissatisfied with retirement and satisfied with housing were in
the third group; and the fourth group consisted of those respondents
dissatisfied with both retirement and housing. This division is shown
in Table XIX. Not all women answered both groups of questions.

The mean for satisfaction with housing is 11.9. The mean for
satisfaction with retirement is 12.5.

All respondents receiving a total score of 13 or less on the re-
tirement questions were considered satisfied with retirement. All
respondents receiving a total score of 12 or less on the questions about
housing were considered satisfied. These boundaries were reached by
subtracting the lower limits of the range from the upper limits, then
dividing the answer by two and adding this figure to the lower limit
of the range to obtain the upper division. The next lower number is then the upper limit of the lower scores.

Table XIX. Comparison of Ratings of Satisfaction with Retirement to Ratings of Satisfaction with Housing of 30 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction with retirement</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>satisfaction with housing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction with retirement</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dissatisfaction with housing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with retirement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>satisfaction with housing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with retirement</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dissatisfaction with housing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Receiving a score of 12 or less is considered satisfaction with housing. Receiving a score of 13 or less is considered satisfaction with retirement. Cutting points differ because the number of items on scales are not equal.

Satisfaction with Income

The questions concerning satisfaction with income were taken from the section on satisfaction with retirement and from the general questions. These questions were analyzed in the same manner as those dealing with satisfaction with retirement and with housing. Table XX indicates the number and kinds of responses for questions on adequate income for current needs, provision for extended illness, income to visit relatives, and preretirement standard of living.
Table XX.  Expressed Satisfaction with Income of 34 Single Retired Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions Asked</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Definite Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Do you have enough income for your current needs?</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Do you have adequate provision made in case of extended illness?</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Do you have enough income to visit children and relatives as often as you'd like?</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Do you live near enough to your preretirement standard of living to please you?</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The section concerning each woman's formal training and education beyond high school was analyzed. Two of the women had no schooling beyond high school, 11 had had some special training such as nursing or music, 6 had received a bachelor's degree, 11 had received a master's degree, and 4 had earned their doctorate.

The possible range of the total scores for satisfaction with income was 5 to 17; however, the actual range was 5 to 13, with the
lowest score indicating the highest level of satisfaction. The following table shows the distribution of the satisfaction with income scores.

Table XXI. Distribution of the Scores for Satisfaction with Income of 30 Retired Single Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scores</th>
<th>5-7</th>
<th>8-10</th>
<th>11-13</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of respondents receiving score</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The larger number of lower scores indicates that in general these women were satisfied with their income. Two women did not answer all questions and so could not be included. It was puzzling to the author that the respondents who were most satisfied with their income made some comment about high taxes when answering questions which dealt with problems they felt were characteristic of their housing.

Satisfaction with Income, Housing, and Retirement Compared

Table XXII divides the four groups of women according to the total scores they received for their answers to the questions concerning their satisfaction with their income. The greatest degree of satisfaction with income is indicated by the lowest score. Thirty
respondents are compared because they answered completely all questions being analyzed.

Table XXII shows that those people who have indicated the most satisfaction with their incomes are generally satisfied with both retirement and housing; however, some were dissatisfied with housing. Those people who are least satisfied with income were generally dissatisfied with both retirement and housing, although some of them were satisfied with housing.

Table XXII. Scores for Satisfaction with Income Related to Combined Ratings for Satisfaction with Retirement and for Satisfaction with Housing as Expressed by 30 Single Retired Women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scores on Satisfaction With Income</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction with Income</td>
<td>Satisfaction with Retirement; Dissatisfaction with Retirement; Satisfaction with Housing; Dissatisfaction with Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparison of the Eight Oldest and the Eight Youngest Respondents

The eight youngest and eight oldest respondents were compared on the following items: years retired, marital status, educational level attained, satisfaction with housing, satisfaction with retirement, number of rooms in their present house, size of the rooms in their houses, years in their present house, and their health. The only differences found between the groups were better health and shorter length of time in their present house for the eight younger women. Three of the 16 women in both groups were dissatisfied with their housing. These three from both groups felt their health was about the same or worse than before retirement.

Comparison of Those Most Satisfied with Those Least Satisfied with Retirement and Housing

When the eight least satisfied with both housing and retirement were compared with the eight most satisfied with their housing and retirement on the same items as above, the only significant differences found were that the two divorced women were members of the group that was least satisfied. All areas and rooms indicated by these women as part of their houses were added together and then averaged. The more satisfied women averaged 6.4 rooms per woman, while the least satisfied women averaged 5.7 rooms per woman. The average number of rooms for the sample was 5.9.
SUMMARY

The purposes of this study are 1) to describe the physical characteristics of the dwelling units, 2) to determine the level of satisfaction expressed about housing, retirement, and income, and 3) to investigate the relationship among satisfaction with housing, satisfaction with retirement, and satisfaction with income of single, retired women.

A list was obtained of retired people who were at one time associated with the college in some way. From this list 45 names were selected because they met the limitations of the sample. All respondents were women, either single or widowed at least a year, retired, maintaining independent housing situations unassociated with specially planned retirement housing, living in the Corvallis, Oregon metropolitan area, and at one time employed by Oregon State University or married to such an employee.

These women were then contacted by the author and an appointment for an interview was made. The interview was conducted with the aid of an interview schedule which was developed by the author to structure and to give direction to the interview. Thirty-four women were interviewed.

The women ranged in age from 64 to 96. Of this group 55.8% had graduated from college compared to a national average of 4%.
They felt their health was not as good as before retirement, but that generally it was better than average.

They had lived in their homes from 3 months to 56 years. 94% wanted to stay where they were for as long as they could, and most planned to do so. 77% of the women owned their homes and 23% rented; 79% had owned property more than they had rented property.

The average number of rooms for the sample was 5.9. All the houses had a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom. All but one had at least one bedroom. Over half had a dining room separate from the kitchen, an entry hall, or a basement.

When the respondents were asked to describe selected areas of the house by using a list of adjectives, it was interesting to note that "too large" was never used, although "too small" was used 18 times. Many women did not desire any changes or additions to their houses; however, 19 wished to enlarge their living rooms, bathrooms, dining rooms, and hobby areas. Spaciousness was one aspect of housing that almost a fourth of the women liked most about their houses or apartments. Four women felt that an area or room in their homes was unimportant. The houses of 20 women had basements. This area was used by most of them for laundry, heating equipment, and storage.
Twenty-seven women had gardens. 68.8% of the respondents had definite opinions about gardens and gardening. 36.4% commented that the garden was too large or not too important, though 63.6% felt their gardens were very important.

All of these women entertained in their homes in some way. All but one had enough space for overnight guests. Each woman had a hobby or a collection or several of each. Most felt their houses were large enough to accommodate their activities. Four of 13 would have liked to enlarge their hobby or collection space but they said that even if their houses were larger, they might not entertain more.

Satisfaction with Housing, Retirement, and Income

65.6% of the women were satisfied with their housing. When the answers concerning housing satisfaction were analyzed, it was found that these women were most satisfied with their living rooms and least satisfied with their bathrooms. Even women who were not satisfied with their house or apartment could find things they liked about their homes. Most of them indicated that they were satisfied with what they had.

These women were also quite satisfied with retirement. However, many women did not think of themselves as retired. They were most satisfied with the way they used their time. Slightly over
a third of the women felt that they could not adjust easily to new housing.

When the questions related to income were analyzed together, it was found that the women were satisfied with the amount of income they had and with the adjustments they had made to the amount available. They felt that their provisions for illnesses were very good. They were least satisfied with the income they had for traveling to visit relatives.

It was found that those women who were satisfied with their housing were also satisfied with retirement. These same women were also satisfied with their income. The reverse of this was also true. Those women who were dissatisfied with their housing were generally dissatisfied with retirement and income.

**Conclusions**

65.6% of the women interviewed were satisfied with their housing. They were very satisfied with the location of the housing in the community, the physical characteristics such as room arrangement, the spaciousness, the circulation or traffic patterns within the house, and the view. Aspects of their housing that they were not as satisfied with were high taxes, yards that were too large, and living too far from their families.

No rooms in their houses were described as "too large,"
although many were considered "too small." Spaciousness was an aspect of housing that they appreciated in their present housing. "Enlarge" is a change that was mentioned at least once for every room. None of these women had less than two rooms and several were in very large houses, so the person-per-room ratio was low.

These women were found to be satisfied with retirement and income which corresponds to the findings in the study by Crabtree. A positive relationship was found for their satisfaction with their housing, retirement, and income.

Slightly over three-fourths of the women interviewed had lived in their present housing for 20 years or more. These women were living independently and were satisfied with the arrangement. 94.1% of them wanted to continue living in independent housing, and 94.1% of them planned to do so.

**Implications**

The results of this study have several possible uses. The sections dealing with the amounts of space and special items enjoyed by the women in their present housing could be helpful to architects and builders who are planning and building retirement housing. These sections might provide ideas about the size and types of areas desired by retired single women. This information would also be of interest to people who will be selecting retirement housing for
an older person. The relationship between the resources of income, retirement time, and housing could provide concrete bases from which people in social work or counseling could make recommendations. Teachers of family living courses might find the area of "satisfaction" useful in teaching an awareness of these areas.

**Limitations**

Although the study has been done as completely as possible, all biases and limitations could not be avoided. However, with an awareness of these, the reader can evaluate for himself the importance of the findings and conclusions.

Difficulty in obtaining a complete list of the sample desired, influenced to some extent the boundaries chosen for the study. The sample was small and specific, not random; hence, predictions from this study can only be made for a small number of retired single women. The study can, however, indicate possible trends.

Time for developing the instrument and for collecting the data were limited. A larger sample would have been desirable had time and availability permitted.

In general the instrument and method of gathering data were very satisfactory. However, improvements can and should be made if the interview schedule is used again.

The ratings of importance and satisfaction have been those
expressed by the respondents. Differences in interpretation and ability to communicate accurately affect the amount of reliability of the final tabulations of satisfaction and importance.

Other factors which would affect the results of this study are the health of the respondents, the education level, and the amount of income available.

Suggestions for Future Research

People like to have things that are representative of past life. The importance of things to older people could well be studied. It has been mentioned that most people move from a house to an apartment before moving into special retirement housing. This and other mobility patterns could constitute another study. The manner in which various areas of the house are used and a study of their usefulness could be undertaken. How and which furniture or articles are disposed of when one moves into special retirement housing would be interesting. Another question would be: If remodeling changes in homes of older people have been planned and made with retirement in mind. Another study could be a comparison of housing satisfactions between houses built before the depression and those built after World War II. Or a study could be done comparing housing satisfactions of those with separate dining rooms and those without separate dining rooms. The amount of garden considered enough
for retired people is another area for study. And of course to repeat this study with a different sample could uncover more complete information about housing satisfaction.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


APPENDIX A

Introductory Letter Sent to Respondents
Dear

Because of changes in family composition, activities and advances in technical knowledge, adequate housing is of growing concern to all of us. With your help I would like to gather more information about features you find most satisfying in your home. It is important that this study include single or widowed women over sixty-five years of age who live independently in single-family homes or in apartments. Information for this study will be gathered by an interview-questionnaire that takes approximately an hour. Results of this interview will be included as part of a thesis leading to a master's degree in Home Management.

Within the next few weeks I will contact you and if you will participate we will find a time that will be convenient for this interview. I realize that this may be imposing on you, but any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Information gained in this interview will be kept confidential. The data will be analyzed collectively and no individual names will be used.

Your cooperation will be very much appreciated. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely yours,

Marilyn Eichelberg

Marilyn Eichelberg is an authorized interviewer gathering information for a research project under the auspices of Oregon State University. Oregon State will appreciate your willingness to answer some questions for this interviewer. What you say will not be connected with your name in any way and your answers will be held in strictest confidence.

Betty E. Hawthorne
Dean, School of Home Economics
APPENDIX B

Interview Schedule

Included directly under or beside the coding scale for each scaled question are the number of responses for the corresponding answer. The lower number indicates the greatest satisfaction; zero was used to indicate no answer. All other answers have been indicated near the question. Those questions which have been written into a table are indicated.
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
School of Home Economics
Department of Home Management
Research Questionnaire

The following questions are about your house and your opinions about it. After reading the question I will also read the answers for you to use.

1. How long have you lived in this house?

2. Do you:
   - rent
     - furnished
     - unfurnished
   - own
     - completely
     - still making payments
   - rent-free or as part of your job
   - other (explain):

3. What have you done most?
   - rented
   - owned
   - had housing as part of your job
   - other

4. How satisfied would you say you are with your whole house? 1) very satisfied
   2) satisfied 3) not too satisfied 4) not at all satisfied

5. Would you like to remain in your present house? 1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no
   4) definite no

6. Are you planning to stay in this house? 1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no
   4) definite no

7. Which of these rooms does your house have? If there are more than one indicate how many.
   - combination living-dining room
   - living room
   - dining room
   - kitchen
   - bedroom(s)
   - bathroom(s)
   - basement
   - pantry
   - utility room
   - workshop
   - laundry room
   - entry hall
   - family room
   - den
   - office
   - other (specify):
8. What are two or three things you like most about your house?

Table in Text

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
```

9. Does your house have any of the following problems?

- inconvenient location in town
- undesirable neighborhood
- maintenance too costly
- stairways too steep
- yard too large
- lighting inadequate
- no private entrance
- inadequate closet space
- house on two floors
- no bedroom on first floor
- no bathroom on first floor
- house too large
- house too small
- too near your family
- too far from your family
- too far from friends
- too far from shopping
- too far from church
- too near schools
- taxes too expensive
- utilities too expensive
- not enough privacy
- too noisy
- other (specify):

10. What size is your dining room?
    If you do not know would you mind if I paced it off?

```
0 1 2 3 4
```

11. Are you satisfied with your dining room? 1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no
12. Would you describe your dining room as
   4 □ unused  7 □ no answer
   2 □ too small
   0 □ too large
   2 □ adequate
   4 □ perfect
   5 □ other

   0 1 2 3 4
   6 13 11 2 2

13. Would you say that having a dining room is important to you? 1) definite yes
    2) yes  3) no  4) definite no

14. If you were to make any changes or additions in your dining room what would
    they be?
    Table in Text

15. What size is your living room?
    If you do not know would you mind if I paced it off?

   0 1 2 3 4
   0 20 11 3 0

16. Are you satisfied with your living room? 1) definite yes 2) yes  3) no
    4) definite no

17. Would you describe your living room as
   1 □ unused  7 □ no answer
   3 □ too small
   2 □ adequate
   0 □ too large
   7 □ perfect
   6 □ other

   0 1 2 3 4
   0 30 4 0 0

18. Would you say that having a living room is important to you? 1) definite yes
    2) yes  3) no  4) definite no

19. If you were to make any changes or additions in your living room what would
    they be?
    Table in Text

20. What size is your kitchen?
    If you do not know would you mind if I paced it off?

   0 1 2 3 4
   0 19 11 4 1

21. Are you satisfied with your kitchen? 1) definite yes  2) yes  3) no
    4) definite no

22. Would you describe your kitchen as
   1 □ poorly arranged  10 □ other
   1 □ too small
   0 □ too large
   1 □ adequate
   6 □ perfect
   2 □ too dark
   2 □ too hot
23. If you were to make any changes or additions to your kitchen what would they be?

Table in Text

24. What size is your main bathroom?

If you do not know would you mind if I paced it off?

0 1 2 3 4
0 10 17 5 2

25. Are you satisfied with your bathroom? 1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no

4) definite no

26. Would you describe your bathroom as

- - needing modernizing
- - poorly arranged
- - inadequate
- - too small
- - too large
- - adequate
- - perfect
- - other (specify):

27. If you were to make any changes or additions in your bathroom, what would they be?

Table in Text

28. Do you have a basement?

Yes  No
20 13

29. What size is it?

- - full
- - three-quarter
- - half
- - small cellar

0 1 2 3 4
1 1 6 2 0

30. Would you say that your basement is very important to you? 1) definite yes

2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

31. How is your basement used? Table in Text

0 1 2 3 4
2 7 6 3 1

32. Are you satisfied with your basement? 1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no

4) definite no

33. Would you describe your basement as

- - dark
- - damp
- - used occasionally
- - used often
34. If there were any additions or changes in your basement what would they be?  
Table in Text

0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4

35. How important is having room for overnight guests? 1) very important  
2) important  3) not too important  4) not at all important

0 1 2 3 4 5
0 1 2 3 4 5
0 1 2 3 4 5
0 1 2 3 4 5
0 1 2 3 4 5

36. How often do you have overnight guests? 1) quite often  2) often  3) occasionally 
4) rarely  5) never

0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4

37. Are you satisfied with the amount of room you have for overnight guests?  
1) definite yes  2) yes  3) no  4) definite no

Yes  No
27  7

38. Do you have a garden for either flowers or vegetables?

0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4

39. How important is your garden? 1) very important  2) important  
3) not too important  4) a burden

40. How large is your garden?  answers too vague to use

0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4
0 1 2 3 4

41. How satisfied are you with the amount of garden space you have?  
1) very satisfied  2) satisfied  3) not too satisfied  4) not at all satisfied

Yes  No
8  26

42. What are your hobbies?  Table in Text

43. Do you have a special area or room just for it (them)?

44. What size is this area or room?  not used

45. Are you satisfied with the amount of room you have for hobbies?  
1) definite yes  2) yes  3) no  4) definite no

46. Are there any additions or changes you would like to make in this hobby area?  
In Text:

47. Do you have any special collections?  
If you do what are they?  Table in Text

Yes  No
8  26

48. Do you need special space to store or display them?

49. What size is this space?  answers too vague to use

50. Is this amount of space satisfactory? 1) definite yes  2) yes  3) no 
4) definite no

51. If you were to make any changes or additions in your storage space, what 
would it be?  
answers too vague to use
52. Entertaining can include a wide range of activities. Do you have people come
   13 □ to play bridge
   14 □ to watch TV
   32 □ to visit
   29 □ to dinner
   17 □ other (specify):

53. Do you entertain any of the following groups?
   29 □ family
   27 □ neighbors
   35 □ friends
   23 □ clubs or organizational groups
   5 □ business associates
   5 □ other (specify):

54. Is the amount you entertain 1) more 2) about the same 3) less than before
   you retired?
   0 1 2 3 4
   1 3 7 2 0

55. How large is the largest group you entertain?
   0 1 2 3 4
   0 7 6 5 2

56. How satisfied are you with the amount of entertaining you do? 1) very satisfied
   2) satisfied 3) not too satisfied 4) not at all satisfied
   0 1 2 3 4
   0 2 1 7 2

57. Would you entertain more if you had more room? 1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no
   4) definite no
   0 1 2 3 4
   0 2 1 7 2

The following questions ask you to express your feelings toward your retirement.

1. Do you find retirement to be a satisfying way of life?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no
   0 1 2 3 4
   1 1 6 1 2 3 2

2. Do you have enough income for your current needs?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no
   0 1 2 3 4
   0 2 1 0 3 0

3. Do you use your time in a manner agreeable to you?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no
   0 1 2 3 4
   0 2 1 9 0 0

4. Do you associate often enough with friends whose company you enjoy?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no
   0 1 2 3 4
   0 2 1 0 3 0

5. Do you have adequate provision made in case of extended illness?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no
   0 1 2 3 4
   1 2 5 7 1 0

6. Do you find demands for your time and energy to be too great?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no
   0 1 2 3 4
   0 2 1 3 6 1 3

7. Do you have enough income to visit children and relatives as often as you'd
   like?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no
   0 1 2 3 4
   2 1 8 7 4 3
63-96

8. Do you live near enough to your preretirement standard of living to please you?
   1) definite yes  2) yes  3) no  4) definite no

9. If the need arose for you to move to a different kind of housing, could you
   adjust easily?
   1) definite yes  2) yes  3) no  4) definite no

The following questions are general information that is needed for analyzing the information.

1. Would you tell me your age?
   Yes  No
   34  0

2. Have you graduated from High School?
   Yes  No
   32  2

3. Have you had any formal training beyond high school?
   If so what was it?

4. What is your marital status?
   7 □ single
   0 □ married
   25 □ widowed
   □ divorced
   0 □ other (explain):

5. How many years ago did
   ___ you retire
   ___ your husband retire

6. How many of the following relatives live within:
   In Text
   son(s)  a block  walking distance  a day's travel
   daughter(s)  
   sister(s)  
   brother(s)  
   niece(s)  
   nephew(s)  
   mother  
   father  

7. Who is most concerned with your welfare?
   answers too vague to use

8. How is your present health compared to your health before retirement?
   1) better  2) about the same  3) worse

9. Would you judge your health to be
   1) above average  2) about average  3) below average  4) very poor

Are there any comments you would like to make or questions you would like to ask about this study?

Thank you.
APPENDIX C

Revised Interview Schedule
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
School of Home Economics
Department of Home Management
Research Questionnaire

The following questions are about your house or apartment and your opinions about it. After reading the question I will also read the answers for you to use.

1. ☐ apartment  
   ☐ house

2. ☐ all on one floor  
   ☐ on more than one floor

3. How long have you lived in this house (apt.)?

4. Do you:
   ☐ rent  
     ☐ furnished  
     ☐ unfurnished  
   ☐ own  
     ☐ still making payments  
     ☐ completely  
   ☐ rent-free or as part of your job  
   ☐ other (explain):

5. What have you done most?
   ☐ rented  
   ☐ owned  
   ☐ had housing as part of your job

6. How satisfied would you say you are with your whole house (apt.)?  
   1) very satisfied  
   2) satisfied  
   3) not too satisfied  
   4) not at all satisfied

7. Would you like to remain in your present house (apt.)?  
   1) definite yes  
   2) yes  
   3) no  
   4) definite no

8. Are you planning to stay in this house (apt.)?  
   1) definite yes  
   2) yes  
   3) no  
   4) definite no

9. Which of these rooms does your house (apt.) have? If there are more than one indicate how many.
   ___ combination living–dining room  
   ___ living room  
   ___ dining room  
   ___ kitchen  
   ___ bedroom(s)  
   ___ bathroom(s)  
   ___ basement  
   ___ pantry  
   ___ utility room  
   ___ workshop  
   ___ laundry room  
   ___ entry hall  
   ___ family room  
   ___ den  
   ___ office  
   ___ other (specify):
10. What are two or three things you like most about your house (apt.)?

11. Do you drive a car?

12. Do you have any of the following problems with your house (apt.)?
   - inconvenient location in town
   - yard too large
   - too far from your family
   - taxes too expensive
   - other (specify):

13. What size is your living room (living-dining room)?
   If you do not know would you mind if I paced it off?

14. Are you satisfied with your living room (living-dining room)?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

15. Would you say that having a living room (dining room) is important to you?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no
   If a living-dining room, would you say having a separate dining room is important to you?

16. Would you describe your living room (living-dining room) as
   - unused
   - too small
   - too large
   - adequate
   - perfect
   - all right

17. If you were to make any changes or additions in your living room (living-dining room) what would they be?

18. What size is your dining room?
   If you do not know would you mind if I paced it off?

19. Are you satisfied with your dining room?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

20. Would you say that having a dining room is important to you?
    1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

21. Would you describe your dining room as
    - unused
    - too small
    - adequate
    - too large
    - perfect
    - all right
22. If you were to make any changes or additions in your dining room what would they be?

23. What size is your kitchen?
If you do not know would you mind if I paced it off?

24. Are you satisfied with your kitchen? 1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

25. Would you describe your kitchen as
☐ poorly arranged
☐ too small
☐ too large
☐ adequate
☐ perfect
☐ too dark
☐ too hot
☐ all right

26. If you were to make any changes or additions to your kitchen what would they be?

27. What size is your main bathroom?
If you do not know would you mind if I paced it off?

28. Are you satisfied with your bathroom? 1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

29. Would you describe your bathroom as
☐ needing modernizing
☐ poorly arranged
☐ inadequate
☐ too small
☐ too large
☐ adequate
☐ perfect
☐ all right
☐ other (specify):

30. If you were to make any changes or additions in your bathroom, what would they be?

Yes  No  31. Do you have a basement? (indicate if apt. or house)

32. What size is it?
☐ full  ☐ three-quarter  ☐ half  ☐ small cellar
33. Would you say that your basement is very important to you?  1) definite yes  
   2) yes  3) no  4) definite no
34. How is your basement used? 
   □ laundry 
   □ storage 
   □ heating system 
   □ other (specify):
35. Are you satisfied with your basement?  1) definite yes  2) yes  3) no  
   4) definite no
36. Would you describe your basement as 
   □ dark 
   □ damp 
   □ used occasionally 
   □ used often
37. If there were any additions or changes in your basement what would they be?
38. How important is having room for overnight guests?  1) very important 
   2) important  3) not too important  4) not at all important
39. How often do you have overnight guests?  1) about once/mo.  2) 6-11 times/yr. 
   3) 2-5 times/yr.  4) 1 or less/yr.
40. Are you satisfied with the amount of room you have for overnight guests? 
   1) definite yes  2) yes  3) no  4) definite no
Yes  No 
41. Do you have a garden for either flowers or vegetables? 
42. How important is your garden?  1) very important  2) important 
   3) not too important  4) a burden
43. How satisfied are you with the amount of garden space you have? 
   1) very satisfied  2) satisfied  3) not too satisfied  4) not at all satisfied
44. What are your hobbies and activities?
   ________________________________
Yes  No 
45. Do you have a special area or room just for it (them)? 
46. What size is this area or room?
47. Are you satisfied with the amount of room you have for hobbies? 
   1) definite yes  2) yes  3) no  4) definite no
48. Are there any additions or changes you would like to make in this hobby area?
49. Do you have any special collections?
   If you do what are they?

50. Do you need special space to store or display them?

51. Is this amount of space satisfactory? 1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no
   4) definite no

52. If you were to make any changes or additions in your storage space for
   collections, what would it be?

53a. Entertaining in the home can include a wide range of activities. Do you have
   people come
   □ to play bridge
   □ to watch TV
   □ to visit
   □ to dinners
   □ other (specify):

53b. Do you entertain guests outside your home such as dinners at a restaurant?

54. Do you entertain any of the following groups?
   □ family
   □ neighbors
   □ friends
   □ club or organizational groups
   □ business associates
   □ other (specify):

55. Is the amount you entertain 1) more 2) about the same 3) less than before
   you retired?

56. How large is the largest group you entertain?

57. How satisfied are you with the amount of entertaining you do? 1) very satisfied
   2) satisfied 3) not too satisfied 4) not at all satisfied

58. Would you entertain more if you had more room? 1) definite yes 2) yes
   3) no 4) definite no

The following questions ask you to express your feelings toward retirement.

1. Do you find retirement to be a satisfying way of life?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

2. Do you have enough income for your current needs?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

3. Do you use your time in a manner agreeable to you?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no
0 1 2 3 4 4. Do you associate often enough with friends whose company you enjoy?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

0 1 2 3 4 5. Do you have adequate provision made in case of extended illness?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

0 1 2 3 4 6. Do you have enough income to visit children and relatives as often as you'd like?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

0 1 2 3 4 7. Do you live near enough to your preretirement standard of living to please you?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

0 1 2 3 4 8. If the need arose for you to move to a different kind of housing, could you adjust easily?
   1) definite yes 2) yes 3) no 4) definite no

The following questions are general information that is needed for analyzing the information.

1. Would you tell me your age?
   Yes  No

2. Have you graduated from High School?
   Yes  No

3. Have you had any formal training beyond high school?
   If so what was it?

4. What is your marital status?
   □ single
   □ married
   □ widowed
   □ divorced
   □ other (explain):

5. How many years ago did
   ____ you retire
   ____ your husband retire

6. How many of the following relatives live:

   within a block
   walking distance
   a day's travel
   by car (land)
   by plane
   in this town

   sister  brother  son  daughter  grandchildren  niece  nephew  mother  father
7. How is your present health compared to your health before retirement?
   1) better  2) about the same  3) worse

8. Would you judge your health to be
   1) above average  2) about average  
   3) below average  4) very poor

Are there any comments you would like to make or questions you would like to ask about this study?

Thank you