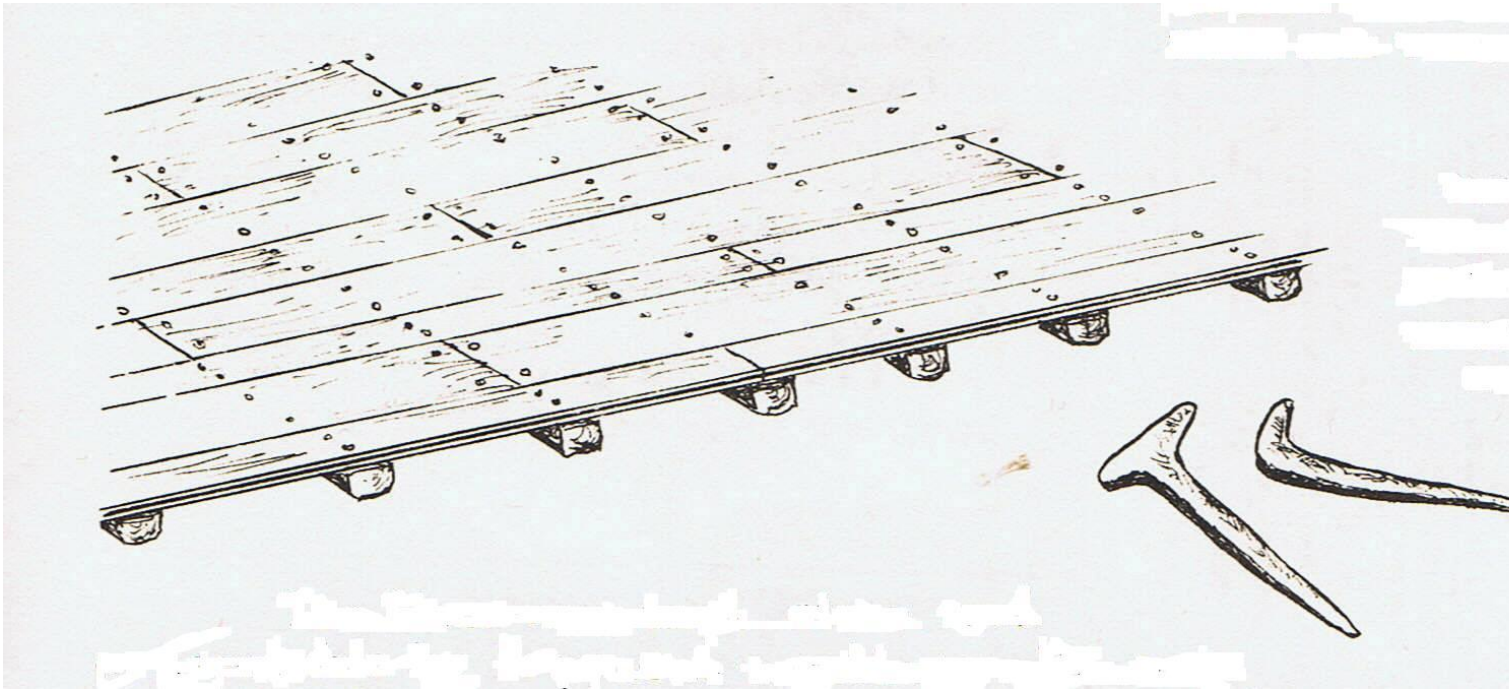
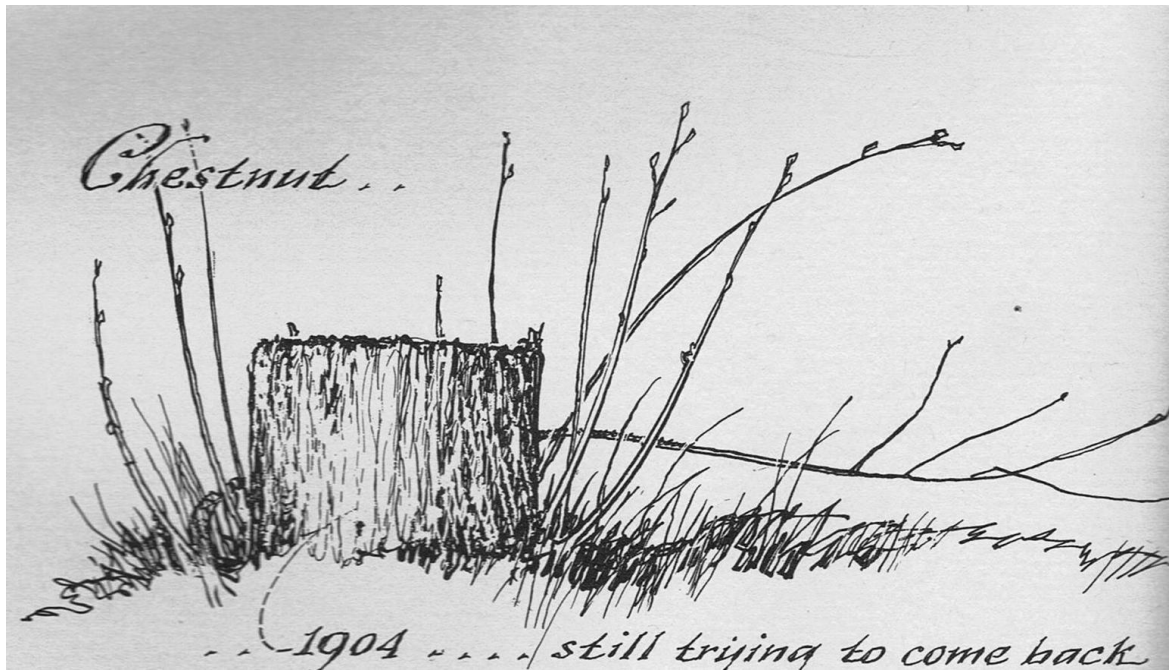


Splendid Uncommon Flooring Species
New assorted available species particulars are coming!



Coming Soon: uncommon wood and wood flooring

- Chestnut** regular and Wormy
- Catalpa** very like Chestnut but lighter in color
- Hickory** hard as nails-interesting brown spots
- Cypress** grows in swamps
- Elm** Hackberry Red or American
- Basswood**
- Accoya**
- Salvaged Ipe**



The Myth of Wide Boards

The myth: The wider they are, the older they are.

Customs and Periods:

Yes, indeed, wider boards *are* generally older. They often came from attic or second floor areas where, frankly, the flooring of less desirable quality was of less importance for public view.

On the first floor, especially in the good parlor, boards of *less* width were frequently prized. This tendency became especially pronounced during the Federal Period, from about 1780 to 1820, although it was already a highly recognized décor value well before that.

A narrower floor was more costly and in that respect, more valuable. If you think of it, taking virgin planks in a wide 22" width took two passes of the saw to create both of its long edges. To take that same board and make three 7" wide floorboards took at least 4 passes of the saw or more to create 8 long edges. It's more expensive. The most beautiful specimens of timber could be highlighted by selecting a more narrow surface/narrower board.. The labor to make such artful cuts would necessarily cost more money. The sport of creating more narrow floorboards bespoke refinement and wealth.

Vernacular often dictates width of a board

The age of a board can't always be judged from its width. The Vernacular growth patterns and local species of trees dictate local tree widths and therefore local custom. In the South, Walked-Up flooring can often be 5" wide and still be as old as the hills. In New England and the Upper Mid Atlantic, it can be from 8" – 22" wide, but not necessarily so. A more narrow width might just as old; it's just that a narrower board may be pure Federal period.

The tree stock that produced these boards came from Old Growth Timbers native to the area and each geography produces different species with different growth characteristics and total trunk diameters. The growth patterns of trees in the area and also the years the trees were harvested are what lend themselves to the widths and grain available in any particular region.

The National "Go To Source"

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