

# Mamie to Pick Wallpaper in Redoing Ike Birthplace

Special to The News

DENISON, Texas.—Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower is going to have a hand in the restoration of the birthplace of her husband, President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Samples of wallpaper have been sent to the nation's First Lady for her selection of patterns to be used in the restoration of the birthplace. The atmosphere of bygone years will be maintained as much as possible and the Eisenhowers have promised to provide some family furniture for the restored house, which incidentally, will have no plumbing or heat.

Restoration of the birthplace is well under way with the cost to return the house to its original de-

sign expected to run as high as \$15,000. But economy can't be considered by the Eisenhower Birthplace Foundation, which is carrying out the project with funds gleaned from over the entire state.

The principal purpose is to restore the structure to its appearance at the time of the President's birth, plus special strengthening at all possible points.

The work is under the supervision of Donald L. Mayes, local architect, while the general plans for the project were prepared by Joseph R. Pellich of Fort Worth.

In dismantling the house to the base skeleton before starting, more has been learned about its history than was gleaned from all of the

exhaustive research that prefaced the project.

The contractor has learned the dwelling originally was of box construction. Several thicknesses of old paper were left on the old single wall when the framing and an inner wall were added years ago. From all indications, this job may well have been one of Denison's early "do-it-yourself" projects.

The outside Western boarding was added during the conversion to frame design. This means that the current contractor had to order a special old style siding which is now being installed.

Special doors and windows of a style that has not been in use in years were ordered.

Among the house's secrets bared is the fact that there have been four remodeling projects of varying types and extents.

The stairway originally landed at the rear instead of the front and will be so restored. Two shed-type rooms added on the north have been removed. The front porch roof was a flat deck enclosed with a railing. This is being restored.

And while the house had developed a "middle aged spread," bulging as much as eight inches outward at foundation level, it still had something few houses its age or half its age could claim—there still was no sign in any of the wood of any termite damage.