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Auburn Heights' Old Kitchen (1897–1934) and the “New”: In the original kitchen with its wood stove, now Ruth's and my resting place and office, there must have been some sort of ice box, although it may have been in the cellar below. There was a dumbwaiter going from a small pantry between that kitchen and the dining room, which opened below into a small room off the laundry room. To get the ice box closer at hand, a small room was added before my time (1924) that is immediately behind the dining room and entered from the aforementioned pantry, with an exterior door as well with steps to the ground. Two small exterior windows in the dining room were lost with the addition of this refrigeration room. My first recollection of this ice box was in the late 1920s. The exterior of its six doors was varnished natural wood, but the two top doors, smaller than the other four, had beveled mirrors attached. Presumably this is where the large cakes of ice were installed almost daily. My father converted this old ice box into an electric refrigerator, with coils replacing the cakes of ice and a compressor using sulfur dioxide just below in the cellar. A leak in the system would smell like rotten eggs. This room housed the old “electric ice box” until 1934, when the new kitchen addition was attached to the rear of the house, and a new, white, four-door refrigerator was purchased. The old ice box had many years' service ahead of it, however. It was moved to the Yorklyn Gun Club, where it served as a “second refrigerator” until after World War II. The original refrigerator room became my mother's flower room, and Ruth used it that way as well, still furnished in mid-1930s décor with mono-tile panels on the walls and a black Bakelite countertop.

The “new kitchen” was a 1933–34 addition. William H. Worrall, a contractor in Kennett Square, built it. In the fall of '33, workmen and machines arrived and dug and poured the footers. Then, and very fascinating to a nine-year-old, the stone masons began their wall work. The stone was quarried from a hillside just off Route 82 about 4/10 of a mile from Auburn Heights, barely in Pennsylvania. The original house, carriage house, and tiny pump house had all used stone from this quarry. Then the scaffolding was erected, with ramps for the wheelbarrows and strong workmen. By the time they got to the top of the kitchen walls, they were 15 to 20 feet above the ground, and these ramps were great fun to run up and down. When December came, the walls were finished, and the roof was on. I remember walking through the unfinished room with its partition studding on daily evening inspections with my parents and my 19-year-old cousin who was staying with us that winter while attending Beacom College. When spring came in 1934, the project was about finished and consisted of a pantry extended through the old wall from the original small one, a breakfast nook, and the kitchen itself. Below was a recreation room, later my computer room, among other things. Electricity was used for cooking; the wood stove was gone forever.