

# Building a House in Upper Canada

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Obtaining Land: Land was granted if the settler cleared a minimum number of acres, opened and maintained a road in front of their dwelling, and built a house with certain specifications ; all within 12-18 months

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Clearing the Land: This was the number one priority. Land needed to be cleared to create space for crop farming, and to supply lumber to construct the buildings.

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Building the Home Part 1: Once land was cleared and a flat piece of land was chosen, it was time to build! Settlers needed to get logs that were straight, and then they would strip the bark to prepare. Houses were usually six meters long, five meters wide, and two meters high.

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Building the Home Part 2: Four solid logs were chosen to make the base of the home. A pair of deep notches were chopped into the sides and then they were fitted together to make a rectangular base. Each log that was added was measured, sawn to the right length, notched at the two points where it would rest on the logs already in position.

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Building the Home Part 3: Once the walls were built, settlers would have to saw openings for doorways and windows. The roof was added by cutting smaller logs and fastening them to the top log. Finally, logs had to be chinked, meaning, material had to be placed between the logs of the home to seal the exterior. This could be done with mixtures of sand and clay, moss, limestone, etc. depending on the resources near the home's location. The floor would be bare earth until sawmills allowed for trunks of trees to be cut into planks for a wood floor.

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Interior of the Home: The early settler log house might only have one room! In the room, the family would cook, eat, sleep, entertain, and do chores. The room would have a fireplace because that would provide them with warmth, light, and a means to cook their food.

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