Contents

List of Tables and Charts ix
Acknowledgments xi

INTRODUCTION The Need for the Artisanal Voice 3
ONE The Preindustrial Joiner in Western Connecticut, 1760–1820 13
TWO The Social Economy of the Preindustrial Joiner 33
THREE The Joiners of Newtown and Woodbury 49
FOUR Socioeconomic Structure in Newtown and Woodbury 69
FIVE Consumer Behavior in Newtown and Woodbury 91
SIX Workmanship of Habit: The Furniture of Newtown 118
SEVEN Workmanship of Competition: The Furniture of Woodbury 151
CONCLUSION The Response to Market Capitalism 190

APPENDIX A Biographies of Newtown Joiners, 1760–1820 201
APPENDIX B Biographies of Woodbury Joiners, 1760–1820 217
Notes 233
Glossary of Furniture Terms 273
Note on Sources and Methods 277
Index 285