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GEORGE AND FRIENDS THIS PAGE: Formal furniture is played against a rustic background in this dining room. The finely carved side chairs needed only new upholstery to spruce them up, but the shield-back chairs—found in bad shape at a tag sale—required several coats of cream paint to bring them back to life. Above an early 1900s Sheraton-style sideboard, silver-plated sconces, circa 1910, flank simply framed engravings—all portraits of George Washington edged in modern frames. OPPOSITE: Revival pieces from many eras combine easily thanks to stylistic similarities. The stool with its ball-and-claw feet is a centennial piece from the 1880s, while the graceful painted tea table is a recent reproduction. The 1940s shield-back chair is covered in oversized Colonial crewelwork. The wingback chair and the camelback sofa are furniture standards that could have been made any time in the last eighty years. The contemporary silhouette portraits are by Brooklyn artist Elliott Puckette.