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## Akin House: Standard-Times Article, October 26, 2006

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October 26, 2006

WHALE to present session on Akin House

NEW BEDFORD &

Behind the Scenes at the Akin House is the Waterfront Historical Area League's third session in its 2006 Members Lecture Series to be held tonight at 7 at the Wamsutta Club, 427 County St.

Anne W. "Pete" Baker, the consultant for the Elihu Akin House in Dartmouth, will explore and explain the stabilization of this "little house with a big history."

Ms. Baker will take everyone behind the scenes for a step-by-step look at how this important piece of Dartmouth history has been conserved and how the house will be used in the future to tell its own story. Amazing before, during and current photographs of the interior and exterior will be presented. Some 85 percent of the exterior of the house and 65 percent of the interior have been preserved during WHALE's stabilization of the 1762 house.

Ms. Baker, of Baker Restoration, is a restoration contractor, building archeologist and consultant. During the past 40 years, she has worked with owners, agencies and historians in the documentation and preservation of more than 300, primarily first- and second-period structures in Rhode Island, southern Massachusetts and Connecticut. She is the author of "Collecting Houses, 17th Century House &

20th Century Adventure."

In 1976, Pete Baker was recruited by the legendary Sarah Delano, then WHALE's president, to save the Macomber-Sylvia Building on Union Street at the foot of Johnny Cake Hill. Working with Doug Keffer and a team that included young people from a summer jobs project, the house was restored to its 1870 Italianate appearance.

On Jan. 18, 1977, hours before a WHALE board meeting to sell the meticulously conserved building, it exploded and was the first casualty in the gas explosions that rocked what was then the Bedford Landing Waterfront Historic District.

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