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Akin House: Lecture, October 2006

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# The Akin House

## 1762 to 2006

In 1762 **Jacob Russell**, yeoman, sells 18 acres of land to **Job Mosher** house carpenter.

In 1767 **Job Mosher**, sells the 18 acres referring to it as “My homestead farm where I now dwell with all my buildings and fences.” to **Jonathan Delano, Jr**,

In 1769, **Jonathan Delano Jr.** dies at sea. His estate sells **Delano's** homestead farm to **Elihu Akin** of Dartmouth.

# Elihu Akin's House 1905



In 1922 the house is used in the movie “Down To The Sea In Ships”







1925



# 2002. For Sale



# 2003. Whale to the Rescue

















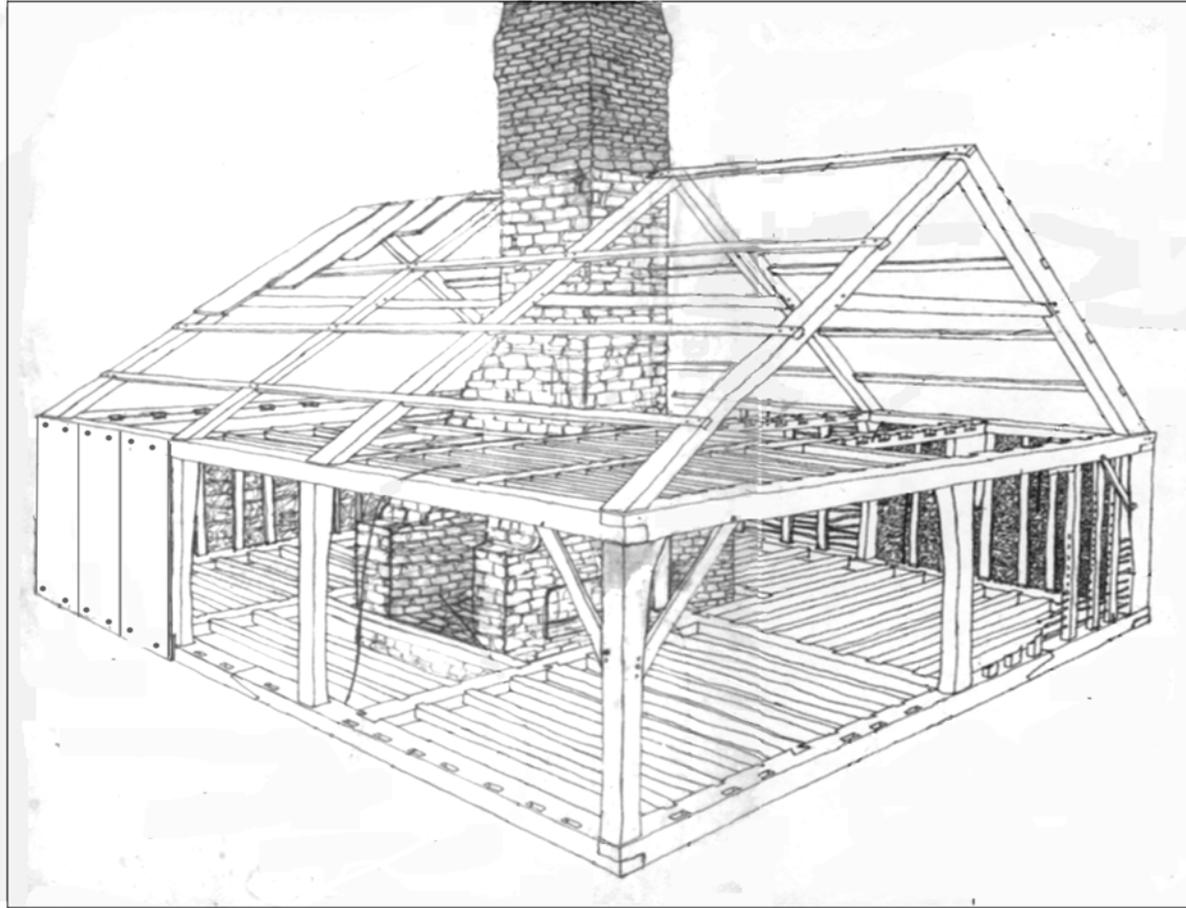




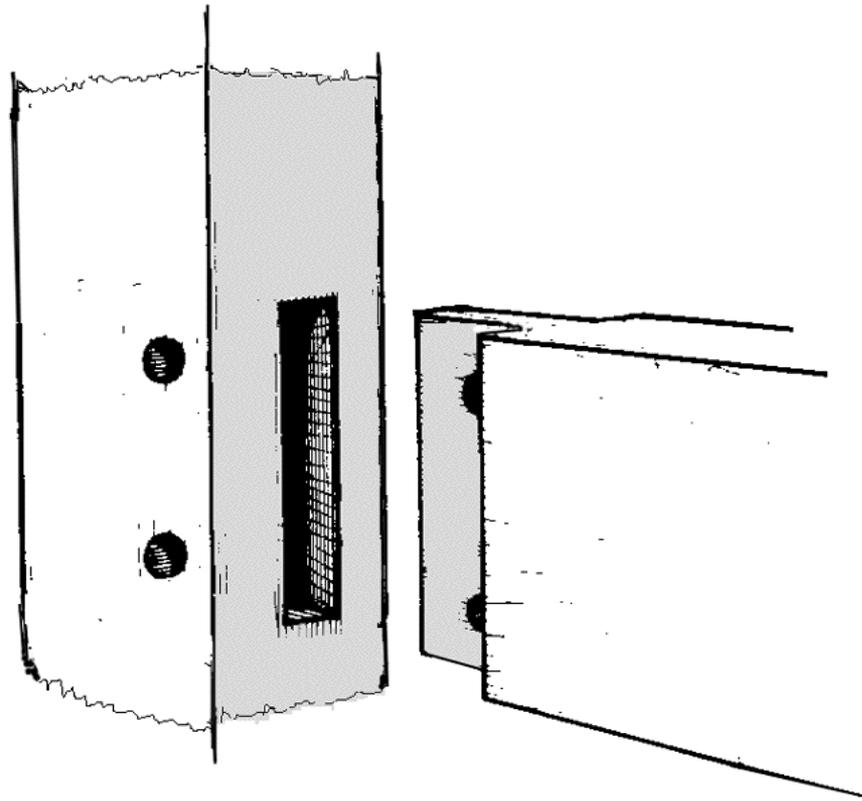




This was a typical 18th century Cape Cod building type.  
**It had to be saved.**



Built in the ancient post and beam tradition  
mortise and tenon joints held all the beams  
together.







But first a massive clean-up was  
in order.









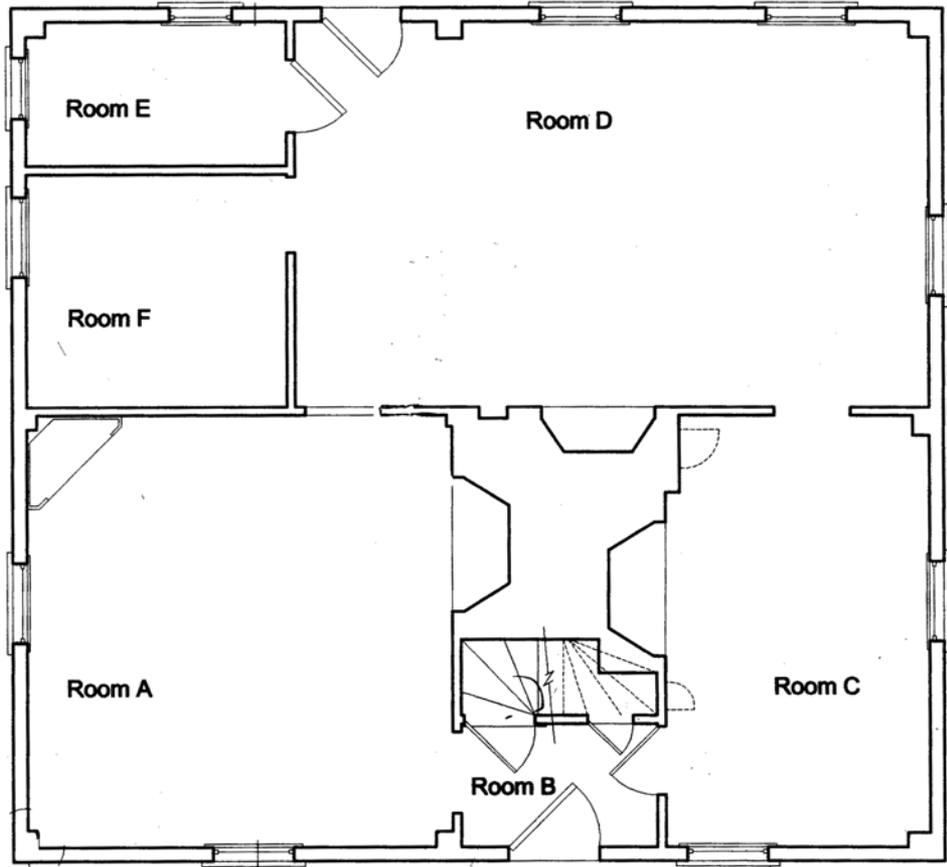




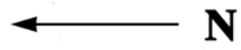
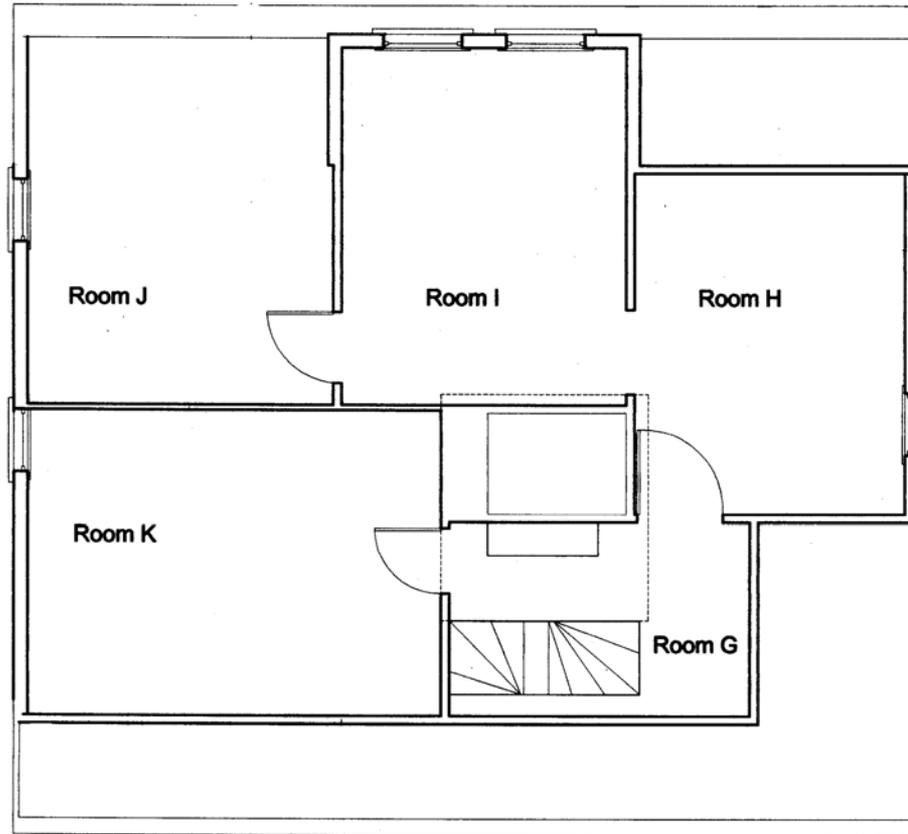
**MOBILE STORAGE**  
Containers • Trailers • Offices  
**RENT (800) 662-8810**  
**BUY** [www.mobilestorage.com](http://www.mobilestorage.com)

After the clean-up, the house was documented with measured drawings.

Greg Jones volunteered his services.



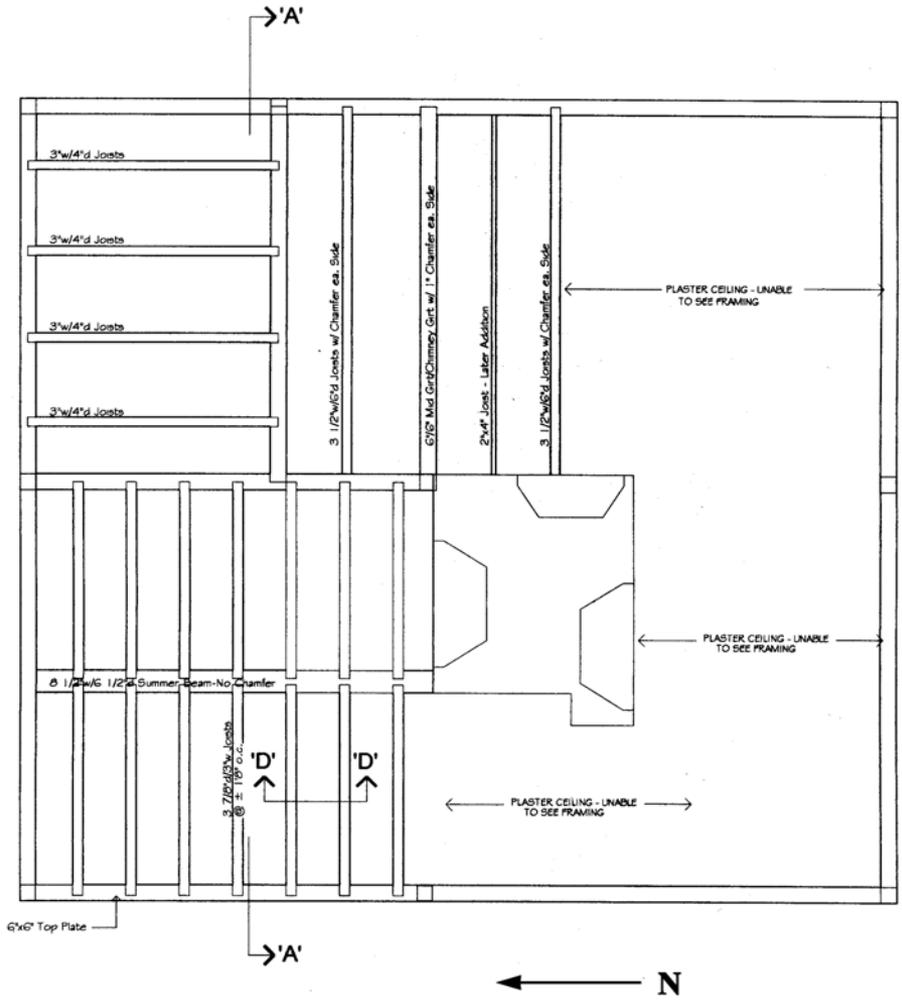
**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



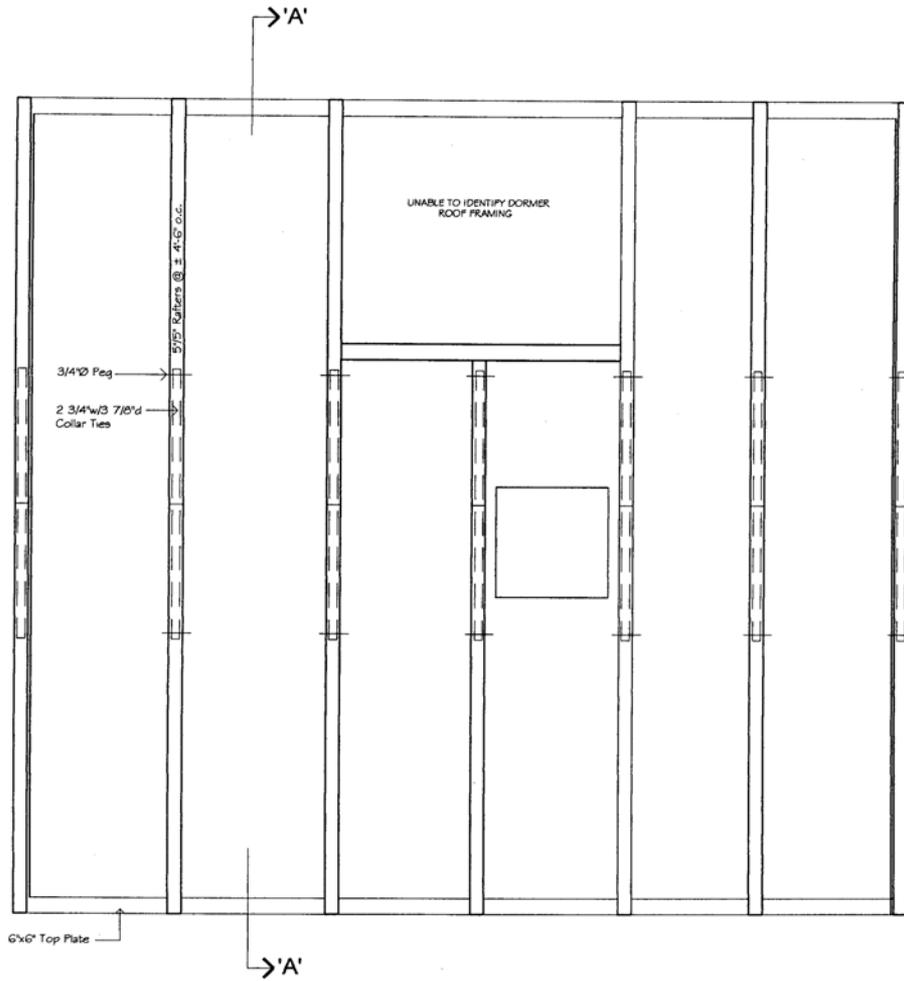
**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

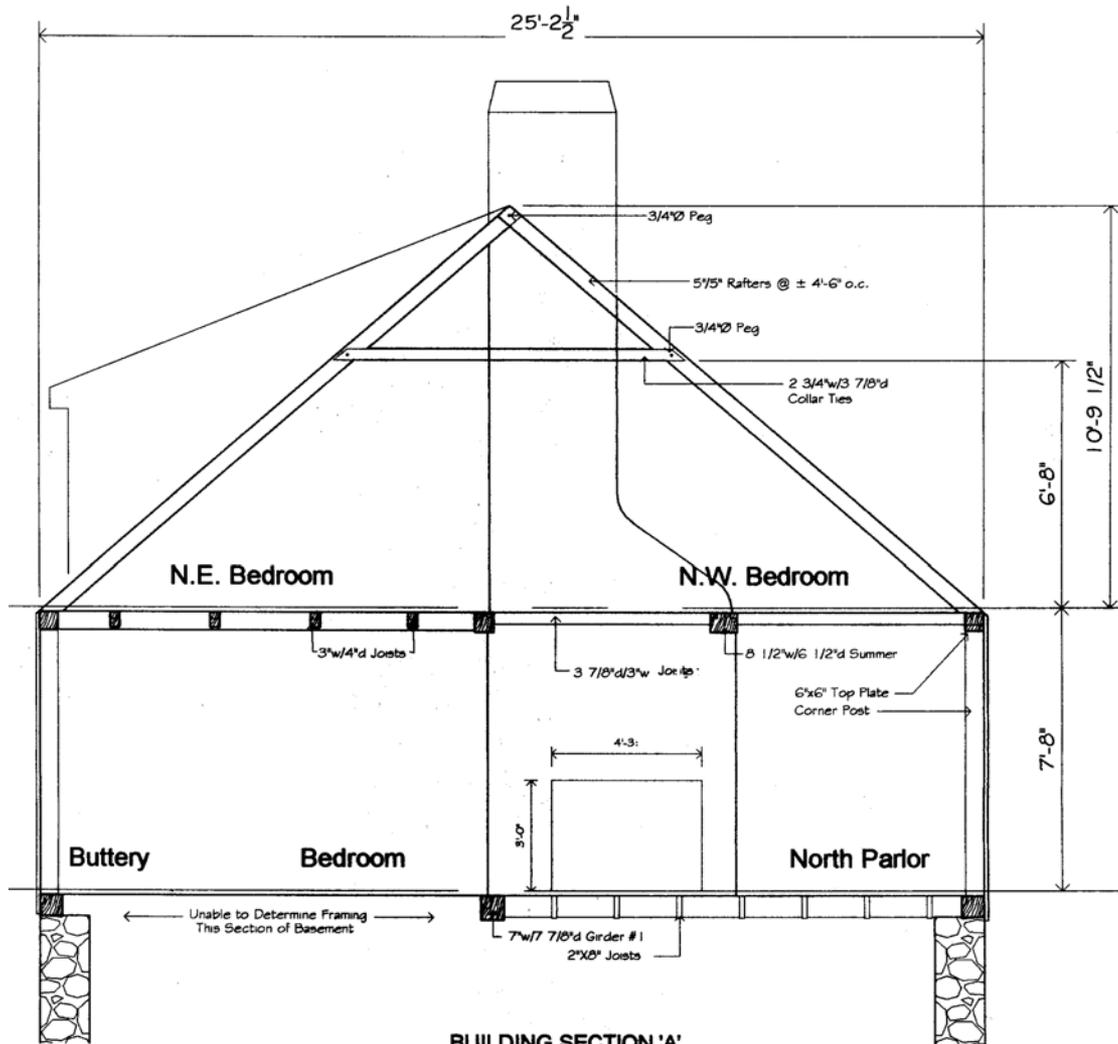




**SECOND FLOOR FRAMING PLAN**  
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



**ROOF FRAMING PLAN**  
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



**BUILDING SECTION 'A'**  
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Finally the house was ready for its broken arms and legs to mended, but by whom?

.

The Architectural Preservation Group—a company I had worked with and knew they knew how to give life back to a house—came to the rescue.

Their comment after looking—“The worst we’ve ever seen, but we can save it ”

Now the question — where and how to begin.

# The Architectural Preservation Group



# Jacks



# Bracing



bracing



# Come-a-longs



















With the back secured and the crew still smiling on to the front repair.



















WEST  
9

WEST  
10

WEST  
11

WEST  
12

WEST  
13

WEST  
14

WE





As work progressed the past  
unfolded

“Shingled 1941”



















# Elihu Akin's Will 1794

I give and bequeath to my daughter, Ruth Akin, the use and improvements of the guest room in my dwelling house with the privilege of passing and repassing from the same — also the kitchen to the oven and well — both of which I give her the privilege of using as much as she shall need and the use of the chamber over the guest room with the privilege of passing and re-passing to and from the same.











At last the shingling can begin.







Eagle  
Lumber  
737-5

Lumber  
737-0400

Eagle  
Lumber  
737-04

TYPAR

TYPAR

TYPAR

TYPAR













Weather Tight





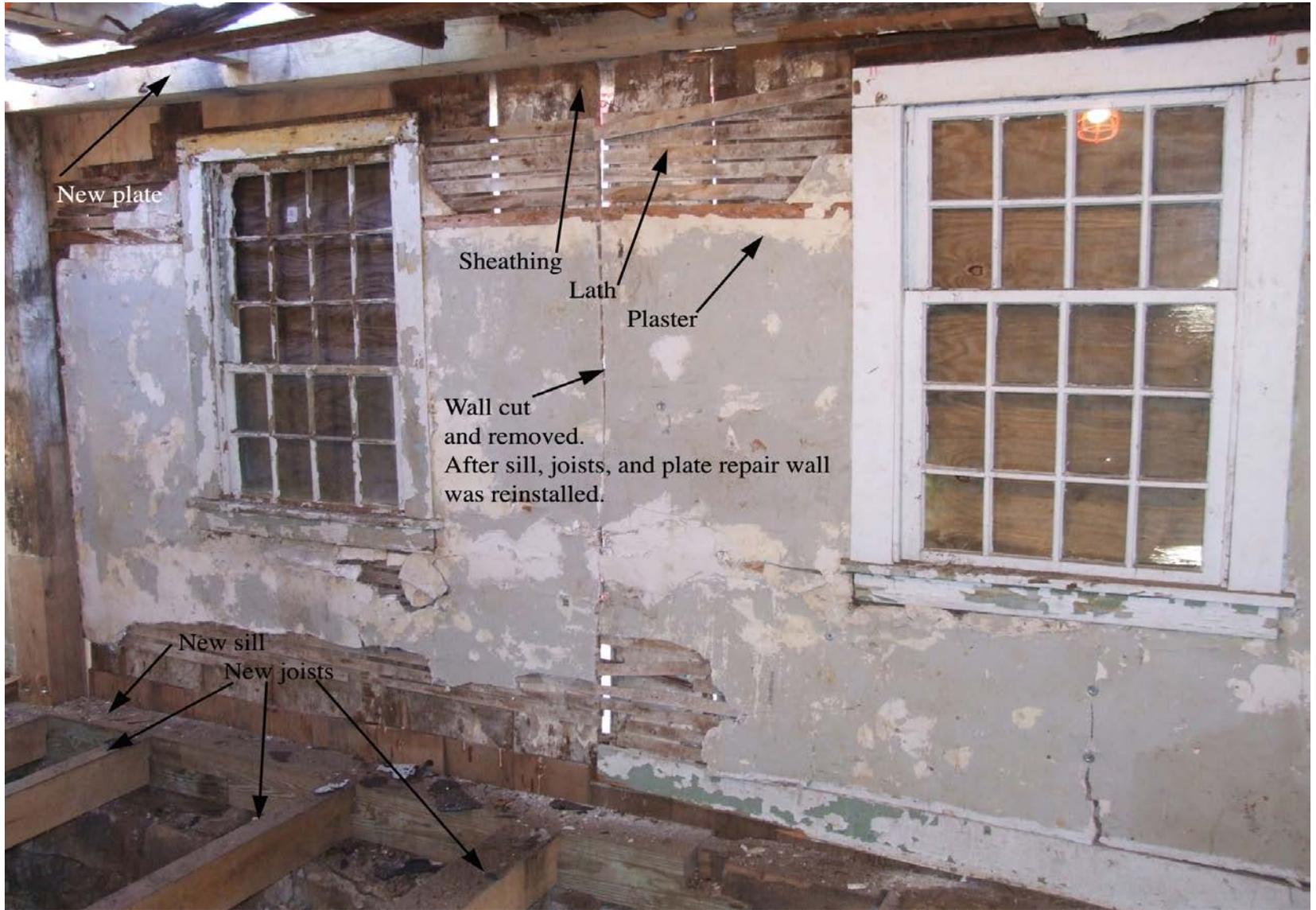
# A Cultural Resource Center











New plate

Sheathing

Lath

Plaster

Wall cut

and removed.

After sill, joists, and plate repair wall  
was reinstalled.

New sill

New joists









PORTSMOUTH PRIVATEERS IN THE  
WAR OF 1812

Privateers were authorized by the United States government to attack and capture enemy ships and cargo during the War of 1812. They were often used to disrupt the British supply lines and to capture valuable cargo. The privateers were often based in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and were active in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. They were often successful in capturing enemy ships and cargo, and were a significant part of the United States' naval strategy during the war.

Three framed documents or letters are displayed below the main panel.

JAMES  
CLINTON

James Clinton was a prominent figure in the history of New York. He was a statesman, a military leader, and a diplomat. He played a significant role in the American Revolution and the early years of the United States. He was a member of the Continental Congress and served as the first Governor of New York. He was also a member of the Board of Regents and the Board of Education. He was a strong advocate for the rights of the people and for the development of the state. He was a member of the Albany Institute and the New York Historical Society. He was a member of the New York State Bar Association and the New York State Historical Association. He was a member of the New York State Historical Society and the New York State Historical Association.

Another informational panel is visible on the right wall, featuring a small photograph and text.



ING A HOUSE

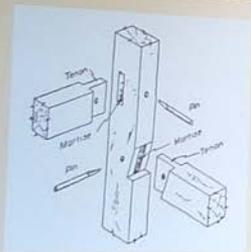
END GIRT

FRONT PLATE

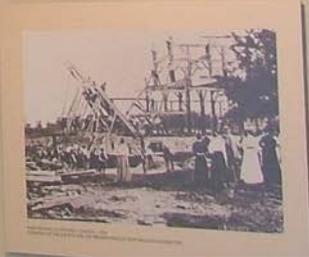
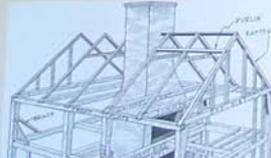
CORNER POST

BRICK NOG GING

WIND BRACE



Small text caption for the mortise and tenon diagram.



Small text caption for the construction photograph.

## DOOR CONSTRUCTION

THE FRONT ENTRANCE, as the natural focus of a house, received the most elaborate treatment.

Even in the earliest batten doors, the nail heads were arranged in decorative, geometric patterns.

Front doors in the Georgian period were heavily paneled, a transom window and a triangular or curved pediment above the door was typical, and doors were often framed with plaster and other decorative moldings.



# WINDOW CONSTRUCTION



WINDOW SASH c. 1750

WINDOWS were among the features in determining the character of an early American or correctly restored, windows good indication of the approach house.

The windows of 17th-century were hinged casement window-shaped panes held in place by "comes." The need for interior placement of the windows, and the building often presented a asymmetrical appearance.

In the early 18th century, large sash windows replaced casement windows. They featured larger rectangular panes held in place by wooden muntins. Over the course of the century, the size of the panes gradually decreased and the number of panes increased as window muntins became more prominent. fenestration, or window placement, became more balanced and symmetrical, a key feature of the Georgian architectural style.

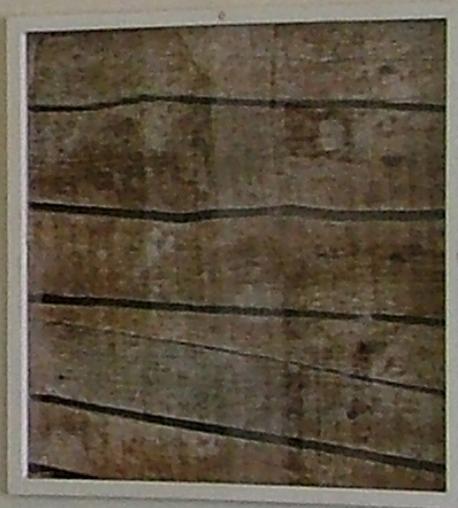
These trends continued to develop after the Revolution. In addition, 18th-century architecture placed added emphasis on decorative elements and fanlights, at the sides of doors, and on other decorative

# WOODEN LATH

RIVEN LATH

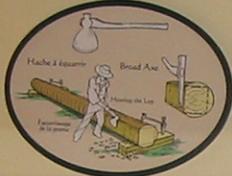


PLASTER HAS BEEN CUT AWAY TO REVEAL SPLIT BOARD LATH

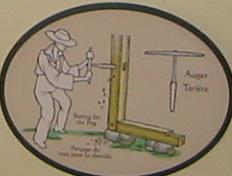


SAWN LATH





OUTILS  
 Construction d'une charpente en bois  
 1700 \* 1800  
 Timber Frame Construction  
 TOOLS



## 1800

- The first "grammar school" is established in Amqui. **1811** Ouverture de la première école primaire à Amqui. **1812** Début de la guerre de 1812 entre l'Angleterre et les États-Unis.
- Napoleon Bonaparte is defeated in the Battle of Waterloo by the Duke of Wellington. **1815** Le duc de Wellington défait Napoléon Bonaparte à la bataille de Waterloo.
- Amos Guvava, an immigrant from Chuvp, Italy, acquires the Sinclair Inn.** **1818** **Amos Guvava, un immigrant originaire de Chuvp en Italie, achète l'auberge Sinclair.**
- Chap-Beaucourt is incorporated in Nova Scotia. **1830** La Chap-Beaucourt est incorporée à la Nouvelle-Écosse.
- The Old Government House, on the site of LightHouse Park, burns to the ground. **1833** Un incendie sévère en candleuse la résidence du gouvernement. Cette dernière (maintenant située où se trouve aujourd'hui le parc du phare).
- The courthouse is opened in Amqui. It is now known as the oldest operating courthouse in Canada. **1837** Ouverture du palais de justice à Amqui. C'est le plus ancien palais de justice encore utilisé au Canada.
- Rose Fortune, a Black Loyalist who transported baggage for patriots at the Sinclair Inn, dies.** **1864** **Décès de Rose Fortune, une Loyaliste de race noire, qui transportait les bagages des patriotes à l'auberge Sinclair.**
- Central Law succeeds in Apprentices Court House ending the U.S. Civil War. **1865** Le tribunal Law se rend à Apprentices Court House et est une fin à la guerre civile aux États-Unis.
- Amqui's first newspaper, The Nova Scotia Farmer and Amqui County Times, is published. **1865** Publication de premier journal d'Amqui. Le Nova Scotia Farmer and Amqui County Times.
- New North, New Brunswick, and the ridings of Canada. (Ontario and Quebec) unite to form the Dominion of Canada. **1867** La Nouvelle-Écosse, le Nouveau-Brunswick et le ridings du Canada (l'Ontario et le Québec) s'unissent pour former le Dominion du Canada.
- Amqui's first newspaper, The Nova Scotia Farmer and Amqui County Times, is published. **1869** Amqui devient le terminus du chemin de fer entre Windsor et Amqui. C'est le début d'une ère de prospérité pour la ville et la région.
- Economic activity peaks in the port of Amqui. It is a ship building and international trade flourish. **1870-1890** La construction navale et le commerce international sont en plein essor et l'activité économique atteint son maximum dans le port d'Amqui.
- The Amqui Road Lighthouse is constructed. **1890** Construction du phare d'Amqui.
- Amqui Road is incorporated as a town. **1893** Amqui Road est constituée en ville.

## 1900

- Cheville and Wilbur Wright successfully fly a powered airplane. **1903** Les frères Cheville et Wilbur Wright réussissent à prendre vol motorisé.
- States of Pierre Duquesne, Mar of Mass arrived on the grounds of Fort Amos commemorating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Fort Beaulieu. **1904** Établissement d'un monument à Pierre Duquesne, mar de Mass, au Fort-Amos pour commémorer le 300<sup>th</sup> anniversaire de la fondation de Fort-Beaulieu.
- U.S. Trade with after a collision with an iceberg off Newfoundland, 1901 from now. **1912** Handel du Traité après une collision avec un iceberg au large de Terre-Neuve. La prise de vue est prise à 1905.
- First World War **1914-1918** Première Guerre mondiale.
- Fort Amos becomes Canada's first National Historic Site. Amos has been the site of fortifications from the time of the New's Fort built in 1628. **1917** Désignation de Fort-Amos comme site historique national du Canada. Le fort, dont les premières fortifications furent érigées par les Français en 1628, est le premier endroit à voir désigné une histoire nationale au pays.
- Bridge between Gouville Ferry and Amqui Road opens. **1920** Ouverture du pont entre Gouville Ferry et Amqui Road.
- Two major fires demolish much of downtown Amqui. **1920 & 1921** Deux incendies importants détruisent une bonne partie du centre-ville d'Amqui.
- Fort Royal Habitation is reconstructed based on Champlain's original 1607 plan. **1939** Reconstruction de l'Habitation selon les plans originaux de Champlain établis en 1607.
- Second World War **1939-1945** Deuxième Guerre mondiale.
- Bridge between Gouville Ferry and Amqui Road collapses. **1960** Chute du pont entre Gouville Ferry et Amqui Road.
- The Red Maple Leaf becomes Canada's official flag. **1965** Adoption de l'érable comme drapeau officiel du Canada.
- The Amqui Road Development Commission spearheads a major rehabilitation in the Town of Amqui. **1983** La commission d'aménagement d'Amqui Road entreprend une importante rénovation de la ville d'Amqui.
- Dorcas Lewis, descendant of Rose Fortune, is elected as the first Black woman in Maine in Canada. **1981** Élection de Dorcas Lewis au poste de maire d'Amqui Road. Une descendante de Rose Fortune, Dorcas Lewis, fut la première femme de race noire à être élue maire au Canada.
- Sinclair Inn designated as a National Historic Site.** **1983** **L'auberge Sinclair est désignée site historique national.**
- The only Tidal Power Plant in the Western Hemisphere begins production in Amqui. **1984** Ouverture à Amqui Road de la seule usine motrice-turbine dans l'Hémisphère Ouest.
- Sinclair Inn acquired by the Historic Restoration Society of Amqui County.** **1992** **Acquisition de l'auberge Sinclair par la Société de Restauration Historique d'Amqui.**
- Most of the Town of Amqui Road is designated as a National Historic District. **1994** Désignation d'une grande partie de la ville d'Amqui Road comme zone patrimoniale historique nationale.

## **THE AKIN HOUSE**

### **A Little House with a big story to tell**

From a forested landscape to Russell's Garrison to protect against the Indians. From farming, fishing and ship building to a village burned by the British, and kerosene lamps in middle-class kitchens — our vernacular architecture shapes everyday life. Buildings, towns and landscapes charged with dense cultural meanings that speak to both makers and users — their behavior, identity, ritual, and social changes.