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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































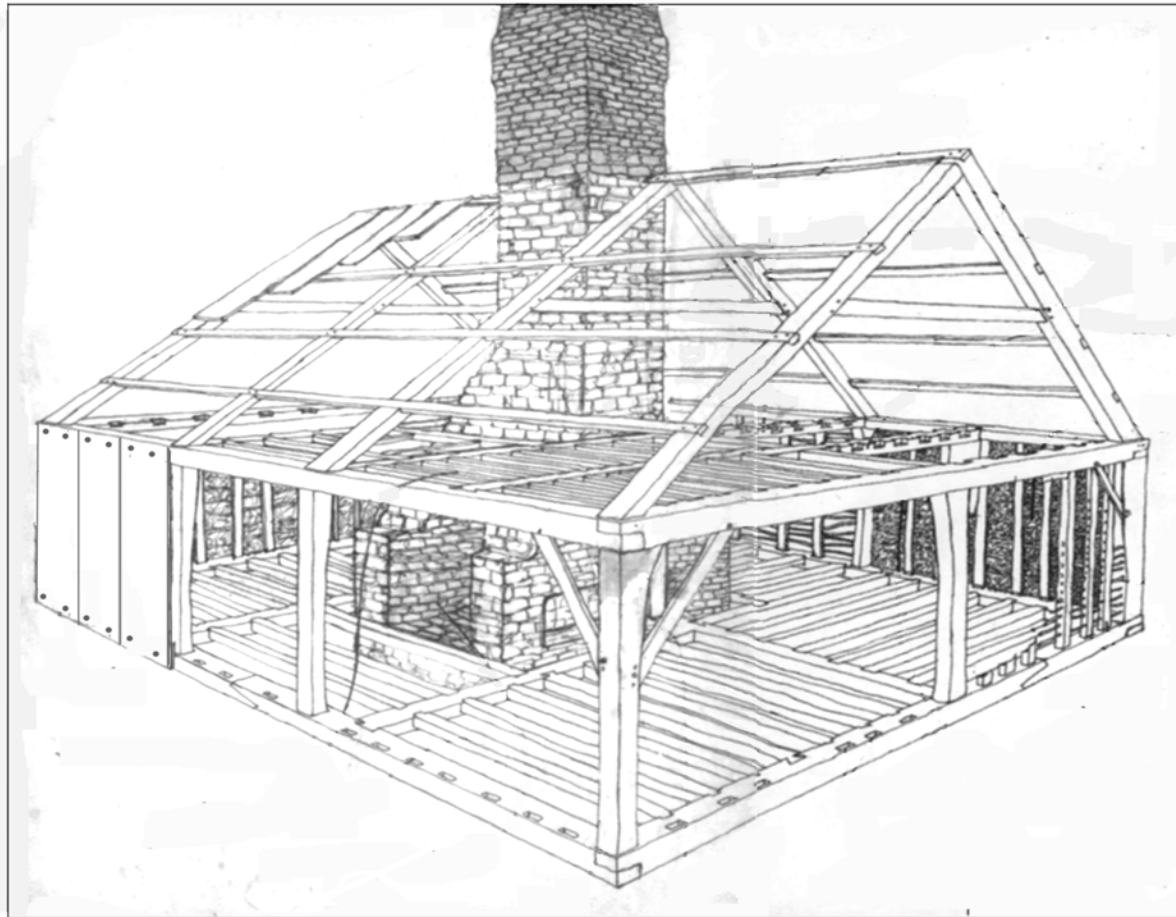




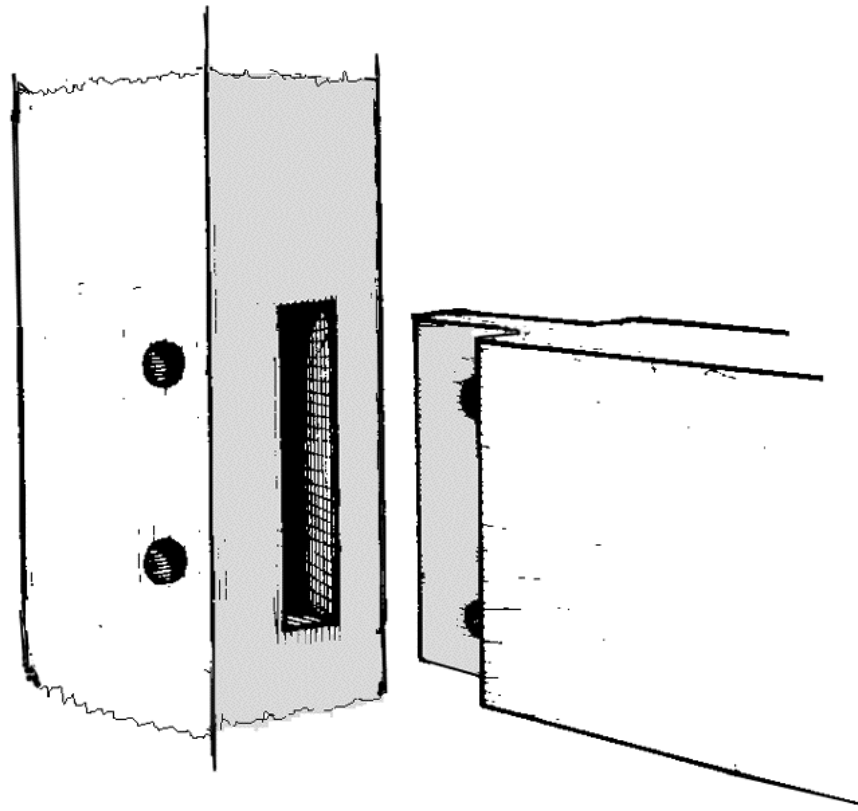




This was a typical 18th century Cape Cod building type.  
**It had to be saved.**



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.















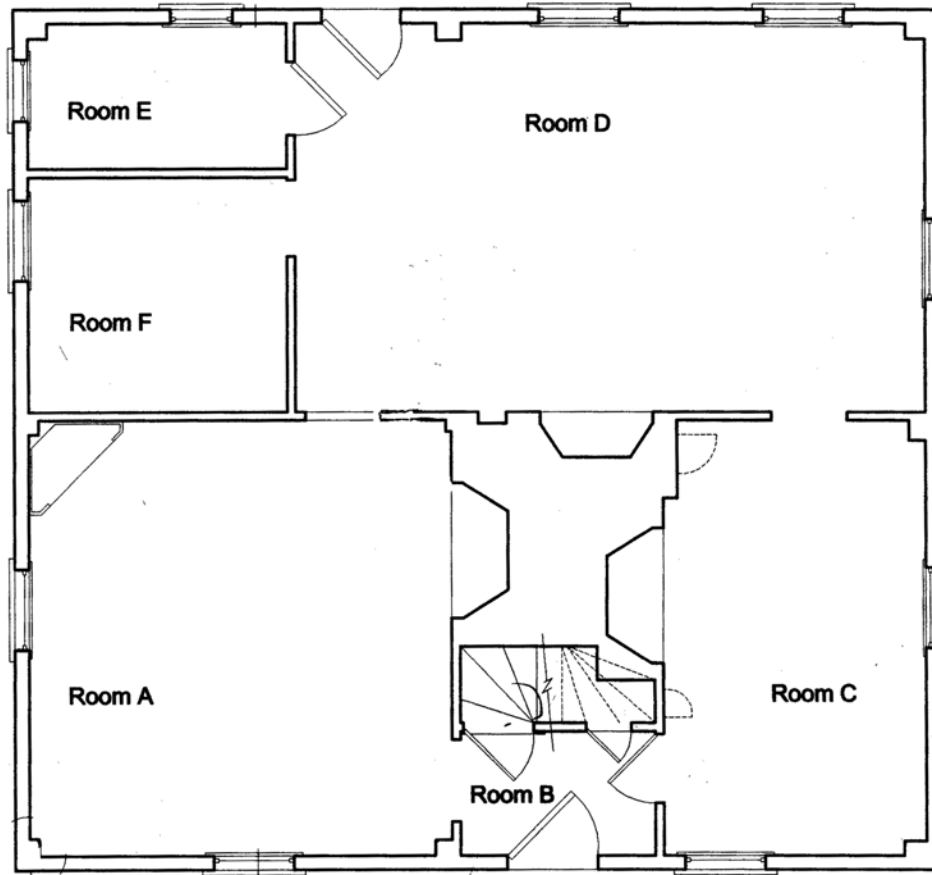






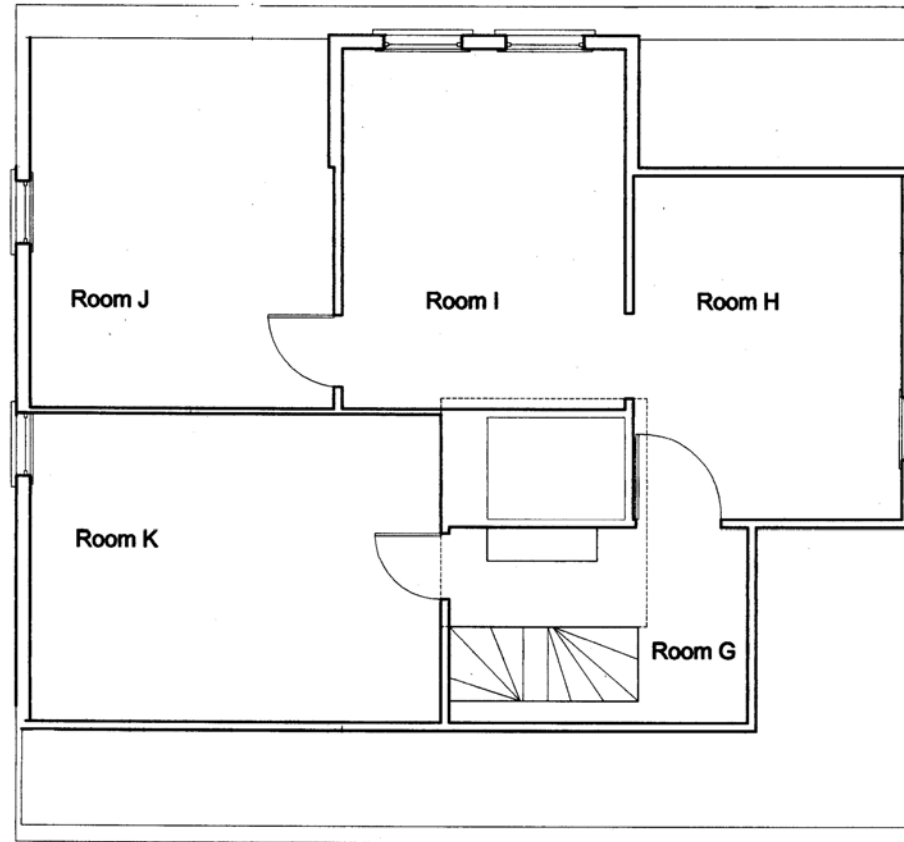
After the clean-up, the house was  
documented with measured  
drawings.

Greg Jones volunteered his  
services.



**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

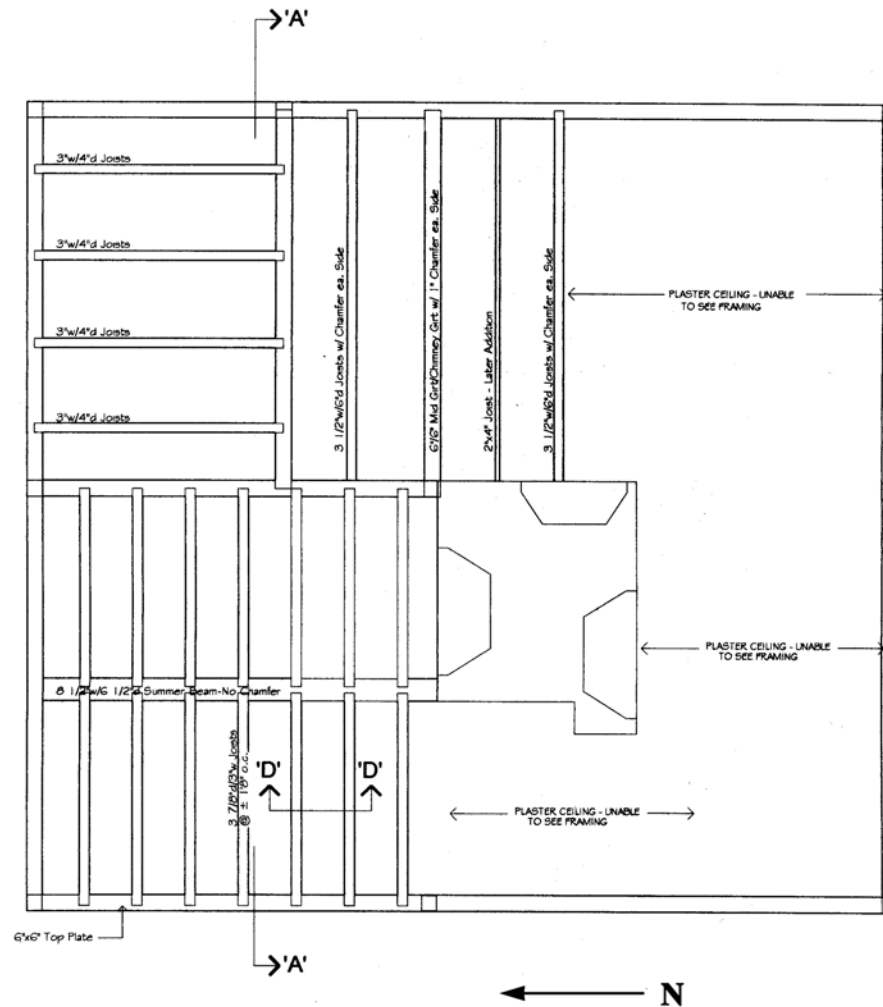
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

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

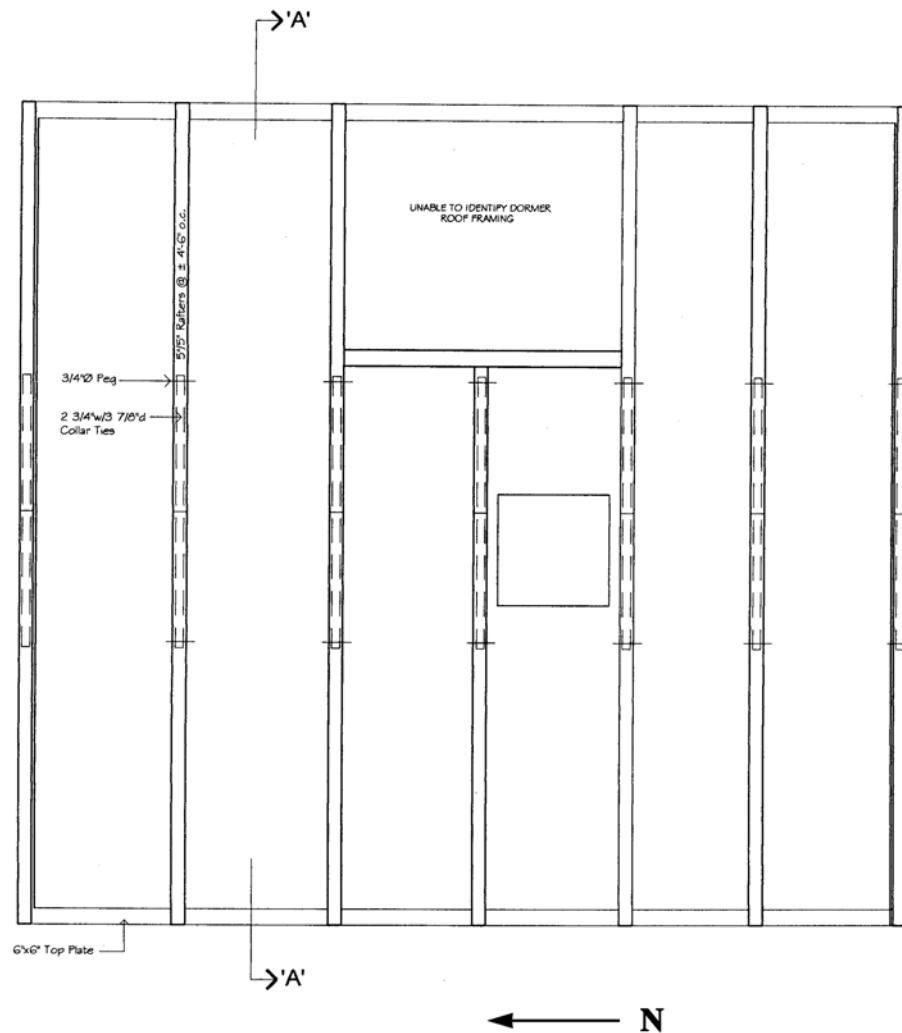




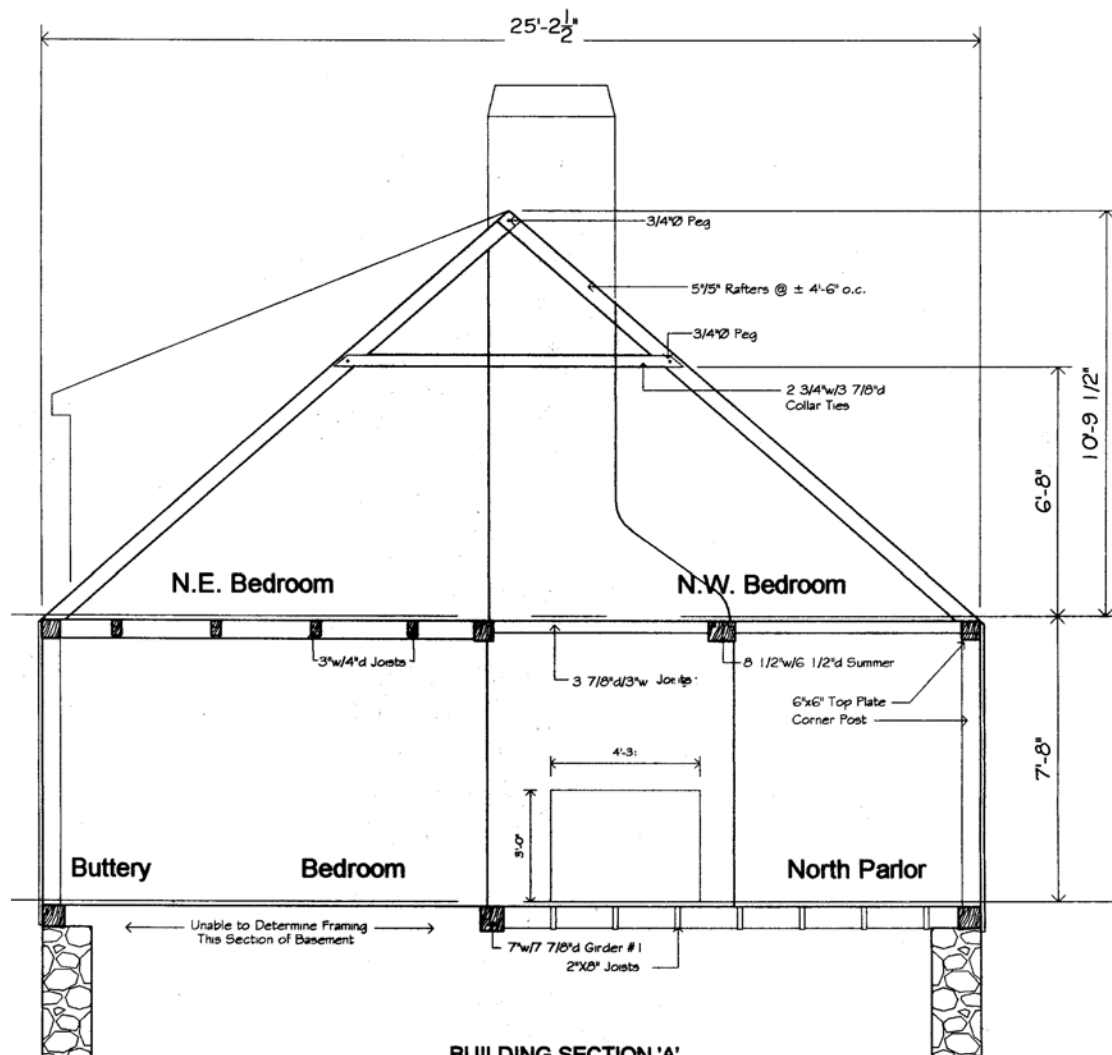
# **SECOND FLOOR FRAMING PLAN**

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.

























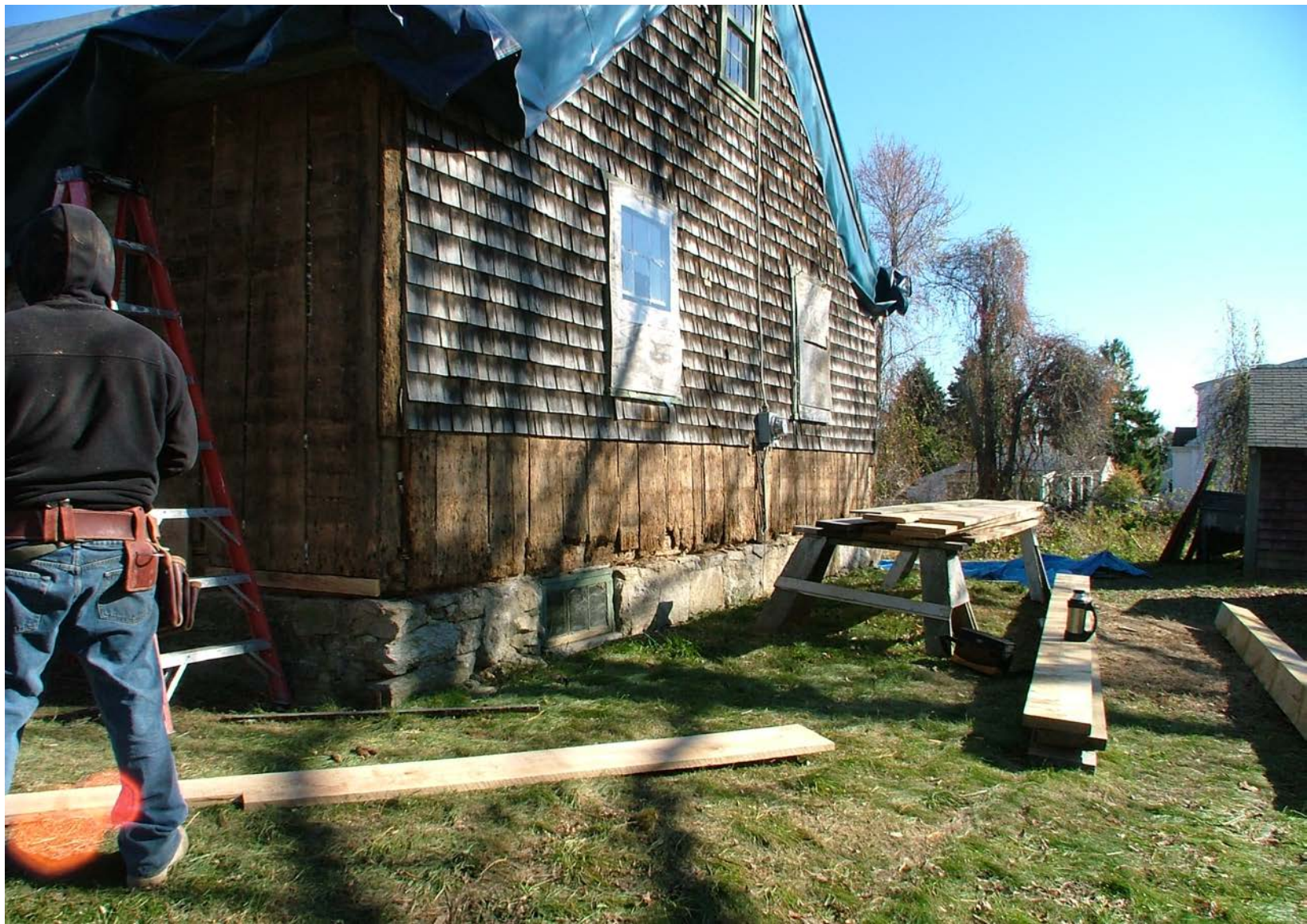


















As work progressed the past  
unfolded

“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.





























Weather Tight











A Cultural Resource Center





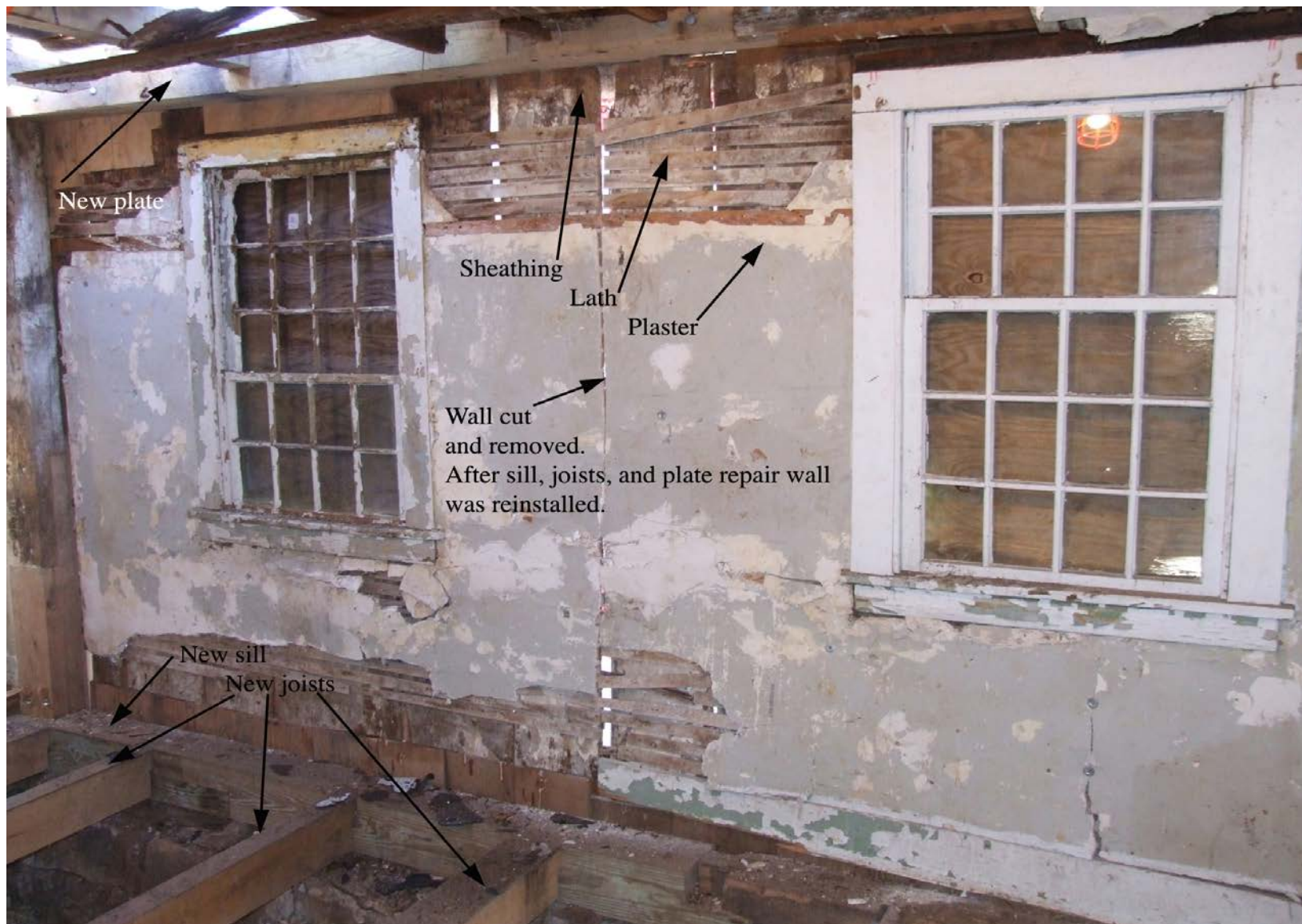




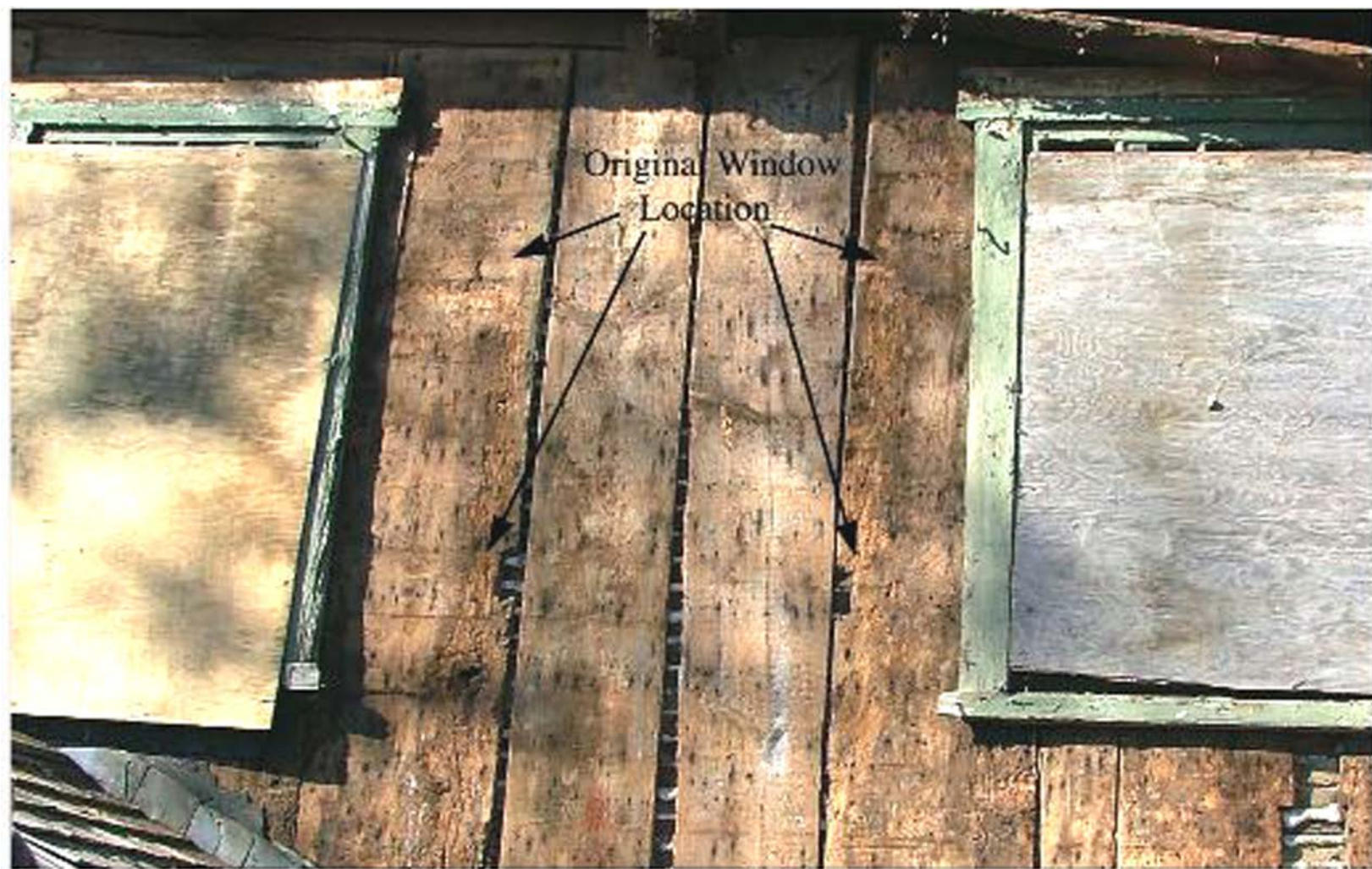


























## DOOR CONSTRUCTION

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  
pilasters and other  
decorative moldings.





# WINDOW CONSTRUCTION



WINDOW SASH c. 1750

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

The windows of 17th-century houses were hinged casement windows, shaped panes held in place by "comes." The need for interior placement of the windows and the building often presented an 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 years, the size of the panes gradually decreased as the number of panes increased. window muntins became noticeable, fenestration, or window placement, became balanced and symmetrical, a Georgian architectural style.

These trends continued to develop after the Revolution. In addition, architecture placed added emphasis on and finlights, at the sides of windows, and on other decorative

# WOODEN LATH

RIVEN LATH



PLASTER HAS BEEN CUT AWAY TO REVEAL SPLIT BOARD LATH



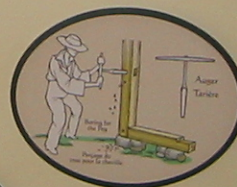
SAWN LATH







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





# 1800

- The first "grammar school" is established in Annapolis Royal.
- War of 1812 begins between England and the United States.
- Napoleon Bonaparte is defeated at the Battle of Waterloo by the Duke of Wellington.
- Antonio Garsia, an immigrant from Chora, Italy, acquires the Sinclair Inn.**
- Cape Breton is re-named to Nova Scotia.
- The Old Government House, on the site of Lighthouse Park, burns to the ground.
- The courthouse is opened in Annapolis Royal (now known as the oldest operating courthouse in Canada).
- Rose Fortune, a Black Loyalist who transported baggage for porters of the Sinclair Inn, dies.**
- Central Law succeeds as Apprentices Court House ending the U.S. Civil War.
- Annapolis Royal's first newspaper, The Nova Scotia Farmer and Annapolis County Times, is published.
- New Scotia, New Brunswick, and the island of Canada (Ontario and Quebec) unite to form the Dominion of Canada.
- Annapolis Royal becomes the terminus of the Windsor to Annapolis Railway, thus initiating a major era of growth in the town and area.
- Economic activity peaks in the port of Annapolis Royal as ship building and international trade flourish.
- The Annapolis Royal Lighthouse is constructed.
- Annapolis Royal is incorporated as a town.
- 1811 Ouverture de la première école primaire à Annapolis Royal.
- 1812 Début de la guerre de 1812 entre l'Angleterre et les États-Unis.
- 1815 Le duc de Wellington défait Napoléon Bonaparte à la bataille de Waterloo.
- 1818 **Antonio Garsia, un immigrant originaire de Chora en Italie, achète l'auberge Sinclair.**
- 1830 La Cap-Breton est renommé à la Nouvelle-Écosse.
- 1833 Un incendie réduit en cendres la résidence du gouverneur. Cette dernière était située où se trouve aujourd'hui le parc du phare.
- 1837 Ouverture du palais de justice à Annapolis Royal. C'est le plus ancien palais de justice encore utilisé au Canada.
- 1864 **Décès de Rose Fortune, une Loyaliste de race noire, qui transportait les bagages des visiteurs à l'auberge Sinclair.**
- 1865 Le grand Loi se rend à Apprentices Court House, ce qui met fin à la guerre civile aux États-Unis.
- 1865 Publication du premier journal d'Annapolis Royal (The Nova Scotia Farmer and Annapolis County Times).
- 1867 La Nouvelle-Écosse, le Nouveau-Brunswick et la colonie du Canada (l'Ontario et le Québec) s'unissent pour former le Dominion du Canada.
- 1869 Annapolis devient le terminus du chemin de fer entre Windsor et Annapolis. C'est le début d'une ère de prospérité pour la ville et la région.
- 1870 La construction navale et la commerce international sont en plein essor et l'activité économique atteint un sommet dans le port d'Annapolis Royal.
- 1890 Construction du phare d'Annapolis Royal.
- 1893 Annapolis Royal est constituée en ville.

# 1900

- O'Neill and Wilbur Wright successfully fly a powered airplane.
- State of Pierre Duquesne, Son of Mass moved on the grounds of Fort Anne commemorating the 300th anniversary of the founding of Fort Royal.
- U.S. Treaty with after a conflict with an Indian of a Newfoundland. 1891 from now.
- First World War.
- Fort Anne becomes Canada's first National Historic Site. Fort Anne has been the site of fortifications from the time of the First Fort built in 1629.
- Bridge between Gouville Ferry and Annapolis Royal opens.
- Two major fire demolishes much of Annapolis Royal.
- Fort Royal Habitation is reconstructed based on Champlain's original 1607 plan.
- Second World War.
- Bridge between Gouville Ferry and Annapolis Royal collapses.
- The Red Maple Leaf becomes Canada's official flag.
- The Annapolis Royal Development Commission spearheads a major rehabilitation in the town of Annapolis Royal.
- Doreen Lewis, descendant of Rose Fortune, is elected as the first Black woman in Maine in Canada.
- Sinclair Inn designated as a National Historic Site.**
- The only Tidal Power Plant in the Western Hemisphere begins production in Annapolis Royal.
- Sinclair Inn acquired by the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County.**
- Most of the Town of Annapolis is designated as a National Historic District.
- 1903 Les frères O'Neill et Wilbur Wright réussissent à faire voler un avion.
- 1904 Érection d'un monument à Pierre Duquesne, fils de Mass, au Fort Anne pour commémorer le 300<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la fondation de Fort-Royal.
- 1912 Traité de l'après une guerre avec un indien au large de Terre-Neuve. Les peuples de cet événement à 1891.
- 1914-1918 Première Guerre mondiale.
- 1917 Désignation de Fort-Anne comme Site historique national du Canada. Le fort, avec les fortifications, furent originaires par les Français en 1629, et le premier réduit à l'ère d'après une guerre mondiale au pays.
- 1920 Ouverture du pont entre Gouville Ferry et Annapolis Royal.
- 1920 & 1921 Deux incendies importants détruisent une bonne partie du centre-ville d'Annapolis Royal.
- 1939 Reconstitution de l'Habitation selon les plans originaux de Champlain établis en 1607.
- 1939-1945 Deuxième Guerre mondiale.
- 1940 Chute du pont entre Gouville Ferry et Annapolis Royal.
- 1965 Adoption de l'érable comme arbre officiel du Canada.
- 1967 La commission d'aménagement d'Annapolis Royal entreprend une importante restauration de la ville d'Annapolis Royal.
- 1981 Élection de Doreen Lewis au poste de maire d'Annapolis Royal. Une descendante de Rose Fortune, Doreen Lewis fut la première femme de race noire à être élue maire au Canada.
- 1983 **L'auberge Sinclair est désignée Site historique national.**
- 1984 Ouverture à Annapolis Royal de la seule usine, actuellement dans l'Amérique du Nord.
- 1992 Acquisition de l'auberge Sinclair par la Historic Restoration Society d'Annapolis Royal.
- 1994 Désignation d'une grande partie de la ville d'Annapolis Royal comme patrimoine historique national.



## **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.