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Beriah Brown House: Anne Baker's Journal - Typescript Version of Original Manuscript

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(Numbers in [] are page numbers from original manuscript in filing cabinet)

[1.]Beriah Brown House, Rt. 2, North Kingston, R.I.

Purchased by Mr. And Mrs. George Waterman, Forge Rd., Warwick. May 1, 1972.

To be dismantled and recorded by A.W. Baker Restoration. Measured and drawn by R.H. Baker.

Crew:

Don Forrest. Massachusetts.

Edward Howe. Maine

Tom . Maine

David Sulllivan. Conn.

Steve Tyson. R.I.

Rodger Bennett. R.I.

This dwelling was formerly owned by David Hedson of Warwick. Mr. Hedson's intentions with the land site were to develop same hence the need for removal of the house in stead of restoration on the site. The owner previous to Hedison was Charles Tongue, Rt. 3 Exeter. Mr. Tongue had lived there for 19 years.

[2.]Original Survey. To May 24, 1972

Our preliminary inspection of the house showed it to be a 2 story gambrel, center chimney house circa 1740 - 1760 with late 19th century clapboarding.

The inspection of the interior showed that at a very early date it had been a story and one half either an exposed or enclosed end chimney house. In the attic what appears to be the original chimney can still be seen. It is stone and the rain table or shed is viable at what is now the floor level of the attic. On top of what appears to be the top of the original chimney is an extension of bricks to accommodate the gamble roof line(before it was a 2 story gambrel is an addition of bricks measuring) to accommodate the enlarging of the house to a full 2 story. The gambrel 2 story house.

[2.]The walls of the attic (partitions) are a combination of plaster and boards. The boards are pine with a shadow box type of molding cut into them.

These boards are placed a random stops in partitioning and indicate to me that they came from some much earlier part of the house and later found their way to the attic partitioning when they had become obsolete from what was perhaps the earlier part of the house. A door in this partition wall is

board and batten- very plain- no a bead but with a queen ann H hinge.
Where did it or the hinges come from?

The stone part of the chimney were the rain table shows had this ledge on both the east and west side indicating that this chimney was never [3.] exposed at the end towards the west which at this point appears to be the end that would have been away from the Great Room. (If this house was in fact an end chimney house - exposed or not.) Also could be seen in the attic, next to the chimney at the floor level, the east end chimney girt (double at this point) cut into the chimney girt closest to the chimney an empty dove tail pocket. (Drawing)

A further discovery was some lengths of wood used to chock the top of the rafters (reason unknown at this point) which are either oak or chestnut with a shadow box type molding and bead on the edge plus a series of [5.] evenly spaced holes. These timbers are maybe 3 by 4 but split so until we get them out we will not know what their original size and purpose might be. They appear to be only 4' long.

Hopefully "later" ! We will have this all figured out. RHB [Robert "Bob" Baker] thinks part of a stair way. *Turns out they were pieces from a bed frame.*

The second floor has one hell of a leak and rotten spot in the south east room. The framing which is cased appears to be larger than that in the south west room. Also the girts are exposed and the summer in the S.E. Room but not in the S.W. Room. The fireplace wall has a fire place with brick back and sides but a facade of stone. This appears to be 20th century. (The stone)

[6.] In looking up the chimney the flue appears to look larger than the present opening - larger towards the left of the opening. One initial probing behind the wall at this point has only shown more brick for the front of the flue and some pieces of finish wood painted, bright, horrible, green. Serving as supports for what is a later or more recent plastered wall. Door to right of fire place is 2 panel. Doors leading to other rooms - 4 panel with H hinges.

The outside walls here are not studded but the plaster and lath is directly on the sheathing.

The S.W. Room has a very lovely and simple fire place mantle - the fireplace being brick and its flue can be seen in the attic added to the stone chimney later. This same flue carries another fireplace (very small and sweet) in the attic. The fireplace surround in the SW room 2nd floor is simply bolection molding [7.] around the opening (very good bolection - strong but not heavy) and above this is a simple cupboard with door opening in the middle - 2 panels on each side. Next to the fire place is a small closet

with a bit later 2 panel door - bit later than our earlier doors of this type. The girts and summer are not exposed. The joists are sawn timber not dressed under the plastered ceiling and the summer which is under the plaster and always has been is hewn. The cased post to the left of the fireplace appears to be double as it is very deep away from this fireplace wall. The corner post to the right of the fireplace is cased and appears normal in size. The doors otherwise are 4 panel with good H hinges.

There are 3 rooms across the back - north side of the house.

[8.] The room directly opposite the front hall has a fire place - brick - plain. (G.H.W. Has crane out of this fireplace.) Its flue and itself is brick and can be seen connecting into the stone chimney in the attic. Right behind this connection in the attic is a little hole like a hiding place in the chimney about 1' x 2' wood slab for its bottom. Probably just a nook left from the connection to be used for WHAT??? Next to this fireplace on the second floor is a small closet with 2 panel door and hinges. Beginning to think that this room is the 2nd floor of a lean to built off the North side of the house before it became a full center chimney house. N. and E of this room are two small rooms N and S of each other - partitioned this way later.

[Written in Margin: Corner post on north wall of this north room are double at one point. Also an exposed girt running north and south in line with posts in sw room (fireplace post)] .The N WE corner room is now a bathroom and has nothing to [9] say to me yet except it smells. The NW room is at present an extension of the middle north room (with the fireplace) and perhaps there was a partition at this girt line mentioned in the margin previous page.

Second floor: The front hallway is blurry! Except there is an extended piece of wall at the stairway level with second floor facing west. Is it a piece of the old wall which was the wall (end) of the enclosed stone chimney, story and half 17th century house????? Think so. Having just seen that in writing I now really think so. Sounds good. But we will see!!

The first floor - WOW!

So much.

Come into it through the ell (date don't know yet) Go into the N side of the house. Fantastic cased beams, girts, everything. Much too big. Cased very recently - what is under that casing?

[10] Drawing. I hope no historians ever try to figure that picture out.

Can't possibly draw it - get too excited thinking about it.

Climbed up inside - huge flue- stone chimney by the way here. Two santa clauses could fit down it together. Some wainscoting at NW end of which bits of look like pieces of raised panel shutters.

The room to the right and front (SW) of this above room has a very handsome fire place wall, the fireplace surrounded by excellent proportioned bollection molding. I feel right now that the c. Wall dates on the early side of raised panelling - maybe 1740.

[Written in margin: The two corner posts on either end of the chimney wall are 7" away from the corners. Most unusual and perhaps these were the end and corner posts for the enclosed end chimney. Previous to this present room.]

The girts are hidden in this room by a studded wall on top of the original wall and the summer is also hidden by an assoustical tiled ceiling. One 4 paneled door in this room, the other [11] missing. Opening in the wall here on west end into what is now an enclosed porch and recent addition. A lovely white prize winning cat also shares this room which is now being used as a bedroom of the tenants (more on that later) from this room and going east on the south side of the chimney next comes the front hall. Changed from what it had been but can not say yet exactly what from. The front door is nice although dates of the type late 18th century. 6 panels, narrow door - nice strap hinges. Under the stairs is the entrance to the cellar. A 2 panel door. This cellar is under see SE end and the decent is down stone steps. At this point it is very apparent that the front hall has been rebuilt as the middle of the steps comes under [12] the front hall stair wall partition land therefore is impossible now to walk down the middle of this stairway but is apparent by the ware in the middle of the stone steps that this was now always so. Also can be seen half way down the stairs the top of a foundation wall forming the side of the stairway and it is about 10" lower then the present hall floor which other wise without a change would be resting on it. The cellar has a gravel floor. 2 niches are built in to the foundation wall. One in the south wall SE corner and one in the north wall a bit NW of the middle. The summer down here is extreamly large (Runs E toW horizontal to chimney) and the joists on the north side are around 3 x 4 and sawn - neat where as the joist on the south side of this summer are large half timbers, crude with bark still on.

[13.] The north side of the cellar has been used for domestic reasons - storage of canned goods. Very nice shelf suspended from the ceiling by wooden braces and dowel. (Drawing)

The chimney foundation is very prevalent in this cellar and forms the north wall of the stairway going up. At one time the north side of the cellar (under the more finished joists) had a plaster partition wall running the length of the summer.

A few lath still to be seen are hand split. On the floor was found a 4 panel door with H hinges - very rusty) We made a few digs in the cellar and found the ground to be so damp that hope of finding anything was minus. Did find a vein of clean clay about 2 inches under the floor level and some plaster chunks presumably from [14.] the plastered wall. Cold cellar!

Back up stairs - to the room above this cellar ie. SE first floor. This we believe to be the original room. Girts seem small tho. The summer runs crosswise to the chimney wall (bridging) east west and is also small. All framing is cased but the bead on this casing is the largest in the house. The walls have been studded over the old plastered walls. There are 4 windows and the summer rests on the end girt between 2 windows instead of over one window placed in the center - more often seen. The summer right now is being held up by a lally column. This is where the leak from the attic is coming through. Don't know if the sag is old age or rot. The chimney wall has a piece of paneling (hor. Panel with shelf over) that was made from something else - some [15.] other paneling as at the bottom edge can be felt the groove used to let in another panel. In removing the plaster on the wall we exposed a very large area of new brick, 2 flue pipe holes and what appears to be the smooth stone edge of a fireplace. It seems as though this might be the very earliest fireplace and very large. The new brick is definitely a filler as one can see, looking through the flue pie opening, the back of a fire place (two and a half feet back) The summer, where it meets the chimney girt is now resting on a post. The post would come in the middle of the fireplace opening ??? (Turned out to be recent support)

The posts on the fireplace wall corners are backed up by another pair of posts on hall side and another chimney girt??? Which makes this room look like it was added later??? Lots to find out [16] yet. There is a small room in back NE of this SE room with very light framing???

This brings up to date what can be seen at this time in this house - there are many wonderings in our minds. It appears to have gone through so many changes.

Having made this survey the decision was made to dismantle the house in order to preserve it on a permanent location. There are definitely some problems as to its condition. Due to a serious leak on the front roof SE the 2nd and first floor SE rooms now have some rotten areas in both the ceiling

and floors. In addition to this the siding in the front here does not look too good. There is also a small leak [17th century.] coming down through the 2nd and first floor SW rooms due to a leak in the roof over same. The back NE area of the house has quite a pitch down - bad sill I suspect.

G.H.W. Took possession of the B.Brown house May 1, 1972. For \$3,000. Purchase price.

30. Demo permit

30. For disconnection house and connecting electricity to a trailer.

We have rented a trailer to have on the site for a watchman. As when we start to dismantle this house the vultures will arrive. Roger Bennett is inhabiting the trailer.

[18.] Plan for dismantling:

Measure

Remove plaster through out

Measure

number woodwork

measure

remove woodwork

measure

remove unwanted exterior additions

remove floors

measure

remove partitions

measure

remove shingles

start dismantling frame from roof down. Along with the chimney.

[19.] June 6th. Work started.

Took Bricks off the chimney top down to roof level. 7 flues appeared to the top of the brick chimney. The wythes were made of brick, laid flat. Took one truck load of brick to GHW.

Removed the plaster from First floor SE room. The ceiling land joist had originally been exposed and there was still much evidence of white wash on all. This room had been studded on the exterior walls of top of probably the original plaster sometime in the early 20th century. The laths on the fireplace wall were split and had nice forged nails. The laths were extremely thin. The interior wall on the N side of this room had milled laths in the middle section of the wall where a doorway had [20.] previously been.

Next we removed the plaster from the First floor NE corner room which had been broken up into a small room plus closet and bathroom. On removing these partitions there was revealed marks of a stairway running up from N to S and against the west wall of this room. The stairway are planed pine boards laid in a semi-horizontal position. (Drawing)

We then removed the plaster from the ceiling and walls of the 2nd floor SE room. The lath on the ceiling was sawn but put on with very large headed forged nails - much like a shingle nail. The walls had split lath of normal size.

Bob Foley took more pictures. We decided to concentrate on slides aimed at a future lecture series.

[21.] Visitors

Steve Delano

Abby Doolittle

Harriet Doolittle

Dick Benjamin

Owners (Helen and George Waterman)

Had big discussion (brought on by Steve Delano) about saving the chimney as is!!! How to do it and why.

Why? Because it could never be put back exactly the same being something built with great patience and necessity under conditions unlike we can truly imagine today in the 20th century. Integrity, boldness, sheer will, determination. Something gone from this society. I feel humble in front of this stone chimney. It's a good feeling. Very basic. How can we save it? Is it possible to 'wrap it up' and move it in one piece. Checked with Metropolitan Movers. They say they will think this process over and let me know. We can also remove the chimney - stone by stone - marking each one and put same back. I'll wait to hear what movers have to say.

[22.] June 7th.

Today we removed more plaster. Completed up stairs SW and SE rooms. Then started on NE corner - 2nd floor. The west partition wall of the NE corner room had the the tread mark of the continuation of the stairway from First floor NE corner. This wall was plain hand planed boards on the stair side and feather edged on the opposite side. Behind the plaster was a doorway opening that at sometime went under these stairs (storage) on the 2nd floor. The door of this opening had been hacked apart and used for studding for secondary plaster in these NE corner. Think we can put it all

back together as original door to show as example of pieces of wood scattered about that all were something else first.

[23.] Removed casing from First floor N center room. Exposed more of fireplace - can see ends of old lintel (cut in middle) and hearth of upstairs.- N. Center. The beams under casing were all messed up. Much hoax poxey . Joists had been cut and removed. Beams had been exposed - heavy white washed areas. Crude - hewn work. White washing stops about 2 to 3" from ceiling indicating a lower ceiling at some point.

I feel at this point that this houses has under gone many more changes then I had first suspected - major changes - done well and still keeping the flavor.

John Ward - from the Providence. Journal came around. Wants to do a story on this house and what GHW is trying to do. Okay as long as he writes this with full intrigued of what we are all feeling.

[24.] Bob Fowley came to take more pictures. Seems to understand what we are trying to say by our saving of the basic architecture and architectural influences of an uninhibited 17th and 18th century human being. A social study of man during that period is reflected in his physical and practical needs. Abby brought us some lovely homemade bread for tea time!!!

June 8th

First casualty. Eddie stepped on a nail!! Right into his foot. Hurt like hell and to make it worse it wasn't even an antique nail.

Today we made great strides in removing the major parts of remaining plaster. Almost all out on First and 2nd floor.

Completely finished exposing First floor N center room. Fantastically nice, warm friendly primitive area. Much is [25.] missing but can be replaced and repaired. Reveling more question all the time on just what has happened in this house over the years. Did discover that the ell to this house (which I believe I have not mentioned before) had a much smaller roof line on it. The old rafters are still up there.

The First floor SW (room with raised paneled chimney breast) has a very large fire place behind the present one. So far it appears that the First floor has 3 huge fireplace - Wow- doesn't make any sense.

Bob continued to do his fantastic measuring - so precise - so beautiful to see him work. If nothing else everything will be an exact measurement and beautiful measurements.

Bob opened up the first and smallest fireplace in the First floor SE room. Brick and I guess built into the larger one (which we have not gotten [26.] around to yet.) mid to late 18th century. Hearth gone.

Upstairs - NE corner Roger finished exposing the back side of the one stairway wall. Feather boards - nice - average width .

I finished numbering and recording all finished woodwork and hope to start taking same out tomorrow.

Dave and Steve are working well and intensely. I hope everyone's interest remains high. Such a pleasure to work under genuine conditions. Abby brought us some tea - in a wine bottle no less!! Just as well it was tea I guess.

George and Helen came by and like their house. I think they have a deep good feeling and beautiful with-it-ness - so rare today. B. Brown is speaking to us all and I think is glad we care.

[27.] June 10th

Today we felt we must get more woodwork out as the weekend was about to be on us land there is always those vultures.

Removed a good part of the woodwork - loaded on Dave's truck to find we couldn't get out the driveway due to construction on the main highway!

20Th century!

Foley came and took more pictures - if we can keep this up we will have something good to help people in the future starving for know on how to do it.

What I meant to say yesterday but forgot - each room so far seems to have its hare of early lath and sawn lathe also many of the partitions and ceiling boards are bits and pieces from other parts of the house ie. Feather boarding, shadow box molding on planed boards. Much disruption and moving, reusing over the years.

[28.]

The upstairs Se room never had beam casing originally. Could see this after removing present casing as the plaster and lath went all the way to the top of the frame instead of stopping at the casing line which would be the way if the had originally been cased and plastered.

Bob Baker dug more in the fireplace in the SE First floor room exposing the stone fire place, in great dimension, behind the later brick one. He also was very difficult when asked by me to have his picture taken! Lovely Prima -dona!! He then worked on the First floor N center chimney getting rid of the surface facia stone in order to expose the fire place in its entirety. Slow job but what he did expose is beautiful.

Roger had removed the plaster from the hall going up [29.] and the partition boards here only went to the First floor girt.???

The removal of the post casing in the 2nd floor SE room revealed no scarf as expected - if the house had been a story and half - so now I look at the partition board in the hall, ending at the First floor girt - and the post from the 2nd floor not being scarfedwas this house then a story high??? We will find out for sure soon.

June 12 - Monday

Don and Roger worked over the weekend and did fantastic things - porch removed - plaster out of attic. Today we completed the removal of every last bit of plaster. Find the ell to have a very [30.] handsome frame - white washed at one time. Chestnut attic floor boards in ell.

RHB took more bricks out of SE First floor fireplace exposing more of the original stone one - so far no sign of an oven in back and we are down low enough so it seems it should have shown up.

An observation - all the plastered wall (except SE First floor) had plaster running down behind base board and in most rooms was painted black _ area behind present base board) or had bits of leftover wall pater. Therefore I feel it safe to say that a good portion of this house never did have base boards.

Also want to note that the plaster in the front hall was on split lath - forged nails - still feel that the front hall was rebuilt around 1850. Laths are earlier then that !!??

[31.] Today we removed the paneling from the fire place wall in the SW First floor room. Came off very nicely. Most excited to see a very fine much earlier fireplace behind the present brick one and all in tact - lintel - an oak stick perfect sample and laying next to the opening against the stones was a forged iron bread paddle (peel) and very handsome bellows. Did they fall down from upstairs or put there on purpose?? Oh! Beriah speak to us!!

The framing in this same room does not go with the fireplace - circa 1700 framing. Framing - circa 1790 - rough sawn 2x5. Summer never exposed.

Made contact today with a house mover. Thinking now of moving in tact the 3 fireplaces on First floor. He is coming tomorrow to give me a price.

[32.] June 13th.

Started off cold and gray. Today we completely cleaned out interior of ell, removed the newer roof and very recent addition on the west side of the ell. Much better looking building. Where the end of the ell meets the house there is a space of 3 to 4" from rafters, down through posts - indicating that the ell was moved to and hitched on to main house.

Note: June 15th - Ell probably built on - not moved to house. Reason - connecting pegs showed up in posts.

Cleaned out more of First floor N fire place. Still no definite indication of an over. Lifted up brick hearth from above to be boxed.

Started to remove shingles and clapboards from front. Medium size snakes - alive - found between shingles and clapboards. So far on SE front all siding is jointed at First floor girt.

Grant Kettelle came around about moving 11st floor part of chimney. Felt it could not be done as the mortar is "dead" and in trying to put some beams through to carry on - the center would collapse.

[33.] June 14

Finally found the oven in 1N First floor fireplace. The front is gone but good deal of beehive remains in side. Brick. Thought further about what to do about fire places on First floor - how can we move them intact??

June 15th

Things are moving very fast. Beautiful crew!!! House all deshingled except back..Ell roof down. Ell will be dismantled tomorrow.

The older floor under N First floor room exposed to day ... Boards not very wide. Appears to be built in 3 distinct sections perhaps indicating where one or more partition walls might have been. In the NW area of this floor a trap door about 3' x 4' was revealed. Double boarded with nice old nails. The hinges are most handsome - (Drawing)- wrought iron.

Steve and Eddie cleaned out [34.] First floor west fireplace. Wow. This is the most beautiful straight forward good proportioned humble handsome thing. The oven is just at the corner in back at right. Brick with ledge of stone running across back of fire place even with base of oven. The whole thing seems to be in excellent shape. Must find a way to move it intact.

J. Ott and the director of RHODE ISLAND Historical Society came by. AS little late I might add. We had an interesting discussion about the stairway. J. Ott feels that the turnings are early -0 1720 or earlier. I will have to do some more research on this! The manor by which the balusters are cut is very strange. The block ends are long on some and short on others and nailed up in no apparent order. I am wondering if the stairway was

rebuilt from some other house to fit this one or the balusters [35.] were taken from some other place and randomly stuck in place.

Dave found a piece of wood with 2 rows of fluting - was this part of the original or earlier front door frame? Another piece found in the ell.

June 16th

Started taking down the ell completely Lovely building. Removed a good deal over to GHW house. Removed three quarters of the partitions out of attic completely exposing chimney. B. Fowley can now take a beautiful picture of this chimney top. He came and he did!

Abby arrived and helped take nails out - nails everywhere.

Don't know ho to rebuild this house and keep the shape - due to the fact that the best fireplace is in the room that has an uninteresting frame and the room that has a good frame - right type [36.] for the fireplace does not have a good early frame.??

Monday June 19th

Pouring rain. Our beautiful crew where on the job despite the rain and this day had the chimney down to the mid section of the 2nd floor.

I went to see Charles Tongue who had lived in the house from 1946 to 1964

He said

June 20. Tuesday

Removed roofing boards. Removed the top rafters and end walls in the attic.

The chimney is now down to the 2nd floor and finished moving all bricks over the GHW.

Tomorrow we will take down the rest of roof, rafters, collars and purlins. Apparently the reason for the purlins sagging so badly is that the lower a rafters of the gambrel were nailed to the side of the purlins instead of partly under same. There were only 3 posts under purlin of either side and in a length of 43' (one in middle and one at either end) perhaps at one time there had been partition boards that would have served to help hold up curb

Charles Tongue, wife and daughter [38.] came by to see out beautiful mess. I'm not so sure they were too happy but they were interested. Helen W. Finally got a chance to see fireplace. We've got to save it!

June 21 - 23

The last 3 days of this week we had terrible rain - never seemed to stop any of our crew but it sure did slow us down. By Friday night the roof and attic floor was all down and neatly stored away at GHW's .. In addition the side wall sheathing is off and second floor partitions are out.

At this point the framing of the house is beautifully exposed. From the chimney east the frame is a good deal earlier. I believe this entire frame was made to be exposed. The joists on First and [39.] second floor are planed (no dressing). Interesting to notice the lath nails in this end are hand forged as they are in the other end but these heads are a good deal bigger. The two corner posts (of this piece of framing that are in the SW and NW corners have a pocket cut into their west side about 18" above the second floor. We know that originally this house was a storey or a story and a half high because of the chimney but none of this framing is left. I suspect a fire might be the reason,. Because of the very obvious lack o this older timber being used in the newer construction and it certainly would have bee.

(Drawing)

[40.] Comments on Stair balusters June 27th

John Kirk - late 17th century to early 18th century.

A. Downing - mid 18th century.

Spent some time in the Wickford library - South County Room. Trying to find out more about Beriah Brown - who lived in the house in the 18th century. The do have a "Day Book" belong to Beriah but it must be the son as this book was dated 1817 and the B.B. I'm after was dead by then. Also their card catalog mentions some papers of Sheriff Brown but they were no where to be found.

The early girts on east end have an interesting system for making the overhang. Instead of the joists continuing out there is a separate piece of wood.(drawing). The NE post is scarfed 2' above floor.

The SE post is scarfed at ceiling level

Margin : Under casing was found brackets for shelf that must have run across the north wall of this rooms.

[41.] June 27

The first really hot day. We have been most lucky.

We completed removing 5 of the long 2nd floor girts. This took a long time but every minute was accounted for either by physical action or mental calculating. Decided that for the 4 remaining girts up there we would get a

crane. Just too dangerous - otherwise Foley took more pictures.[42.] June 28.

Crane came on the dot of 8:00. We arrived early - 6:00 - in order to make sure everything that it could possibly left would be ready. We were and what a beautiful way to lift timbers. Removed about 10 timbers in 3 hours.

Spent rest of the day getting ready for the removal of the remaining frame on Thursday. All that's left are post and First floor girts.

Removed flooring 2nd floor - SE and in good shape - wide boards plus the flooring under which was original to this room is beautiful. The underside being white washed for the ceiling of the room below. This floor nailed down with T headed nails. The sub flooring in the SW 2nd floor consists of very nice rough boards used previous elsewhere. [43.] Quite a lot of roseheaded nails still in them where they had been used before.

A great deal of wood found in the W end of this house either was nailed with rose headed nails or there were left over rose headed nails where it had been used before.

Thursday

Very successfully removed all the frame from W end and all about 3 posts - 2 girts from east end. Lowered some of the frame the way it had been put up originally (Drawing) and some had to be lowered individually. Absolutely nothing broke.. Excellent thinking crew

Removed the First floor stairway and behind it - in the chimney was a definite sign of a patch in the stone work where the beehive oven from [44.] the SW fireplace had stuck into the cellar way.

Removed flooring from SEW First floor - 5 inch wide boards set with T head type of forged nails. - very large - look like horse shoes nails. The sub flooring under this is beautiful wide pine flooring. Near the entrance area to the front hall from this room where we removed the flooring we exposed a chimney girt that had a chamfer on one corner. Suspect this might be a piece of the original frame.

Lloyd Hyde came by. He things the stairway is 1740.

The Watermans kept the house in storage for a few years because they got busy with 2 other houses. - Oneco and Mott. Then decided to sell it to the Newport Restoration foundation and it has since been put back up by them on Mill St between spring and Thames.

The NRF took the chimney with a bull dozer. The rebuilt chimney stinks!

A deed research follows. Have not copied it.