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## Captain Thomas Paine House: Baker's Report on Cajacet House

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In 1948 John H. Cady was employed by the Collins to restore the 17<sup>th</sup> century Captian Thomas Paine House (Cajacet) 850 East Shore Rd., Jamestown, RI.

Cady was hired to undo the 1881 "restoration" by Seth M. Vose. who had added a third story to the original 2 story house.

(The Thomas Paine house was Originally 2 stories. PHOTO.

Cady had great respect for the building but was lacking the information about 17<sup>th</sup> century construction that is available to us today. He recorded very carefully, in photos and notes - all that he did see.

In 1978 and in 2003 AW Baker Restorations was hired to evaluate the building. This report is presented in the hope of adding to Cady's vision and the future of a structure which has continually been tampered with, but always with respect for its ancient parts.

### 17th Century Thomas Paine House

History – Capt Paine etc.

#### **First Floor.**

##### **Room A.**

The Joists on the west side of the transverse summer are tusk tenon and pegged. For reasons unknown the west end of these joists had been removed and reinstalled. Evidence of this were patches on each joist – west end. where a section of wood had been cut out to free the joists for removal.

The joist on the east side are tusk tenon and pegged at the summer. The opposite ends of these joists lay on top of the first floor girt to frame the 1' 6" overhang. The 1' 6" exterior section of these joists are weathered suggesting that they were originally exposed under the jetty over-hang. A remnant of an old clapboard was found directly underneath one section of the over-hang. The spaces between the joists, where they lay on top of the girt, are stuffed with plaster, brick and shale.

##### **Studs.**

East wall. Studs are pit-sawn.

Clapboards were originally attached to the studs. There are white plaster lines on the outer edges of the studs where they met the original clapboards. This suggests that plaster had been applied to the interior side of the original clapboards.

The present sheathing on east wall is recycled wood, i. e. ceiling boards ( boards are hand planed and white washed).

South wall.

The studs on this wall appear to be joists reused from the original south section after it was removed. All joists have remnants of whitewash.

West wall.

Studs removed. Wall now opened into lean-to.

### **General**

Transversal summer has prick post.

Splayed posts head

Weather braces - down

### **Room B. Stairway and hall**

Scarf joint in east girt 3' from north end of hall.. See AWB drawing.

After removing later boards in stairwell and found that the stairwell was horizontally sheathed with white pine boards. The area on underside of stairs has a layer of pink white wash between layers of white.

### **Room C. Library**

Framing exposed and cased.

## **Second Floor**

### **Room E.**

The south east corner post is a section of the plate from the original south end before the 9' section was removed.

See AWB drawing. Note A.

The present south end, end girt has a scarf joint. This type scarf might help to determine when the original 9' section was removed. ( see drawings) AWB.

The four existing posts are splayed.

### **General**

Transversal summer has story post.

Original posts splayed.

Weather braces - down

**Room F. stairway hall**

Scarf joint on plate at same location as first floor.-  
Chamfer with stop applied up to scarf.

Wall board at top of stairs has images of boats scratched into surface. This area is directly opposite a window that looks out on the Bay.

**Roof Framing**

Clear indication that the east side of the roof originally had a gable façade. This was determined by measurements taken from empty mortices in top of original plate. see drawings AWB.

Cady's isometric plan of original roof framing shows common rafters only. The rafters were principal and common. (see drawing. AWB Note C.)