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Isaac Collins House/Farm: Correspondence, December 13, 1994

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A.W.Baker  
29 Drift Rd.  
Westport, MA 02790  
December, 13, 1994

My first thoughts are WOW! It's fantastic. And those are my second and third thoughts also. It is a huge project but will take you to a place that you never imagined. Lots of trial and error but none-the-less, and in the long run very exciting and rewarding.

There was so much to see and giving it a lot of thought I realize that I didn't get some questions answered. I spent no time in the ell you wish to demolish. It is going to be important to have some good reason as it is dated in the report as 1817. Old enough [if true] to cause some problems. Therefore I am enclosing a separate sheet of questions to give to Rex. He is very knowledgeable about old structures as he has had a great deal of experience. He has a good eye and is well worth your while to involve him. As a matter of fact you are fortunate to have him there.

With the work that you have done already and the work that you are planning I wondered about the local building inspector. Is he involved and will he have to be with the amount of work you are planning for the main house. In this case the National Registry status might be a blessing. I'm curious about what your contractor has to say concerning this. I think one of the main problems will be insulation and egress. I don't see either as being serious as code egress can be established through the new ell and insulation installed on the exterior so as not to lose the framing details on the interior. I find each building inspector is a world unto himself so therefore it is a good to have some idea what to expect from yours if he has to get involved.

Some book titles:

A Small House in the Sun. by Samuel Chamberlain.

Probably library only.  
Beyond New England Thresholds. By S. Chamberlain

Six New England Villages. By S. Chamberlain.

Open Houses in N.E. By S. Chamberline.

[All of his books probably can only be found in the library. The photography is wonderful and most of the pictures were taken before people started changing things.]

Early Domestic Architecture of Conn. By Frederick Kelly. Get a copy of this from Dover. Good details and construction drawings. Well worth owning.

Old Houses in S. County of R.I. Produced by the Colonial Dames in the 30's.

Library only - I think Peace Dale Library.

Early History of R.I. By Editors of Early Am. Society. Lots of pictures. Photo prints could be clearer but O.K.

The New England Colonial. By Anne Elizabeth Powell. Bantam Book, 1988.

Very pretty "coffee table book" You probably can get your book store to order it if they don't have it.

Lots of luck and happy studying.

My e-mail address is [bmazur@umassd.edu](mailto:bmazur@umassd.edu). In case you have any sudden questions.

Great to meet you and your husband and all your buildings. I didn't tell you that I have 9.

Merry Christmas.