

BAYSIDE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 304, Belfast, Maine 04915

Winter 2003 Newsletter

Greetings from the frigid shores of Penobscot Bay! Although Ruggles Park looks like the construction zone that it is this January, the promise of summer and Bayside activity is imaginable despite the sea smoke.



Members of the Historical Society were busy with many successful events during the Summer of 2002. We shared with the Overseers and the Yacht Club a successful Fourth of July celebration. Earle Shettlesworth spoke to an enthusiastic group at the annual meeting on the Society on July 13 presenting a historical and architectural slide show. The opening day sale of the third set of postcards and the 'annual' postcard show were also held that day in Community Hall.

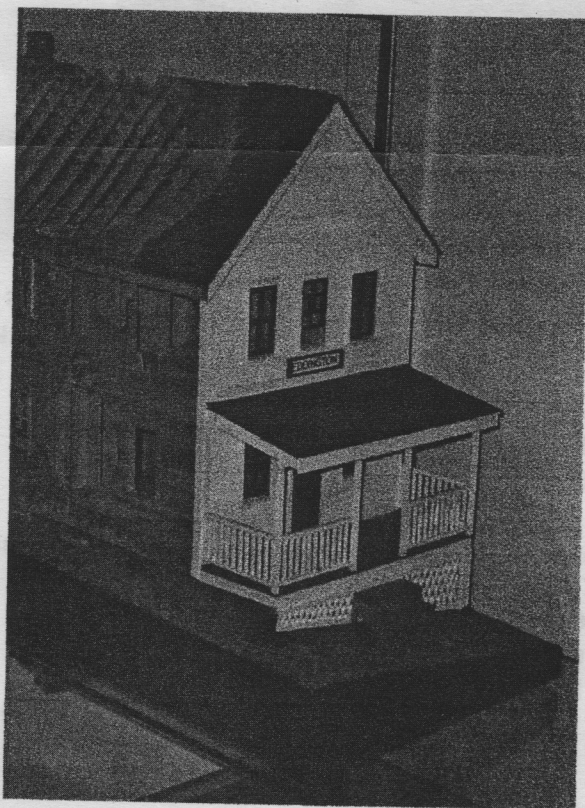
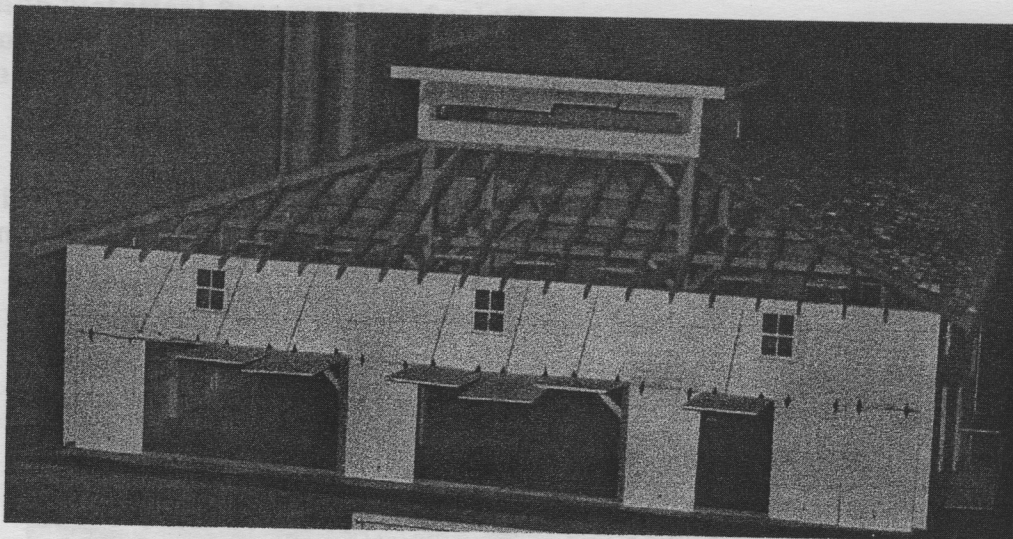
Bayside's first-ever House Tour took place on August 11 and was a roaring success; the Directors only regret that several sailors were unable to attend. However the view of the race from the porch of Bohemia was spectacular and we thank you for that! The Tour brochure is reprinted here for those who haven't seen it.

BHPS Officers:

**Beverly Crofoot, President; Margaret Brockway, Vice-President;
Katie Hall, Secretary; Jo Huntoon, Treasurer.**

BHPS Directors:

Martha Borgeson, Bill Cressey, Jackie Facey, Sue Fleming, Zelma Huntoon, Amos Kimball, Joe Krulis, Joe Reilly.



Richard Brockway has donated a model of the Auditorium which he built after extensive research. The model is in the basement of the Community Hall for viewing by all. The photo above gives an idea of the beauty of the original building and the talent of the model-maker.

Also shown is the model he made of Eddington Cottage and donated to BHPS.

COTTAGE GIVEN TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Future plans for the BHPS took an unexpected and exciting turn in September with the donation of a cottage to BHPS by Kim Shelley and Burt Sturup.



Given this unique opportunity to prevent the demolition of what we believe to be an original campground cottage, BHPS restoration of the cottage will be a focus of funding-raising and summer activity for society members. The cottage dimensions correspond to those of the tent platforms on which the first campground cottages were built and we have postcards and photos showing the cottage from as early as 1907. We plan to further research its history.

Kim and Burt started life in Bayside with the restoration of the cottage at #7 Griffin Street. More recently Burt restored the cottage at #8 now owned by the Haehls. And his project for this winter is a new Bayside-style cottage at #6 Griffin. Initially he intended to restore the original cottage but found the tower and porch in poor repair. The Directors inquired about its donation to the society. Burt and Kim were pleased to do so. Burt was of invaluable help in making the arrangements for this original tent-lot cottage move.

So please participate with a donation and volunteer to help Richard Brockway and Rob Sherman with the actual work.

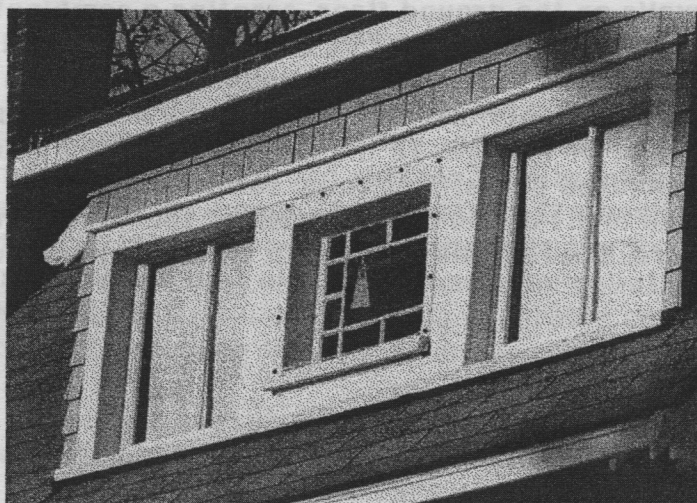
The NUC Board of Overseers has agreed to allow us to locate the cottage on Village property off Pleasant Street. For this winter, the cottage rests on I-beams adjacent to Scribner Park. A coat of primer paint has been applied to the cottage to improve its appearance and to protect it over the winter. We hope to begin the serious restoration work in the Spring.



Claire Alley 7 Auditorium

Park: The Orrington Cottage is one of eleven remaining Society cottages that were once part of the Wesleyan campgrounds of the 1880's. During that time, Claire's grandmother, Della Badershall, came to Bayside for two weeks each summer by horse and buggy from Orrington, a distance of more than 50 miles, to attend religious services. Initially, the people stayed in tents that were pitched directly on bare ground and then on tent platforms which later evolved into the Society cottages.

In the 1930's, Claire's grandparents acquired the Orrington Cottage by purchasing the majority of the staterooms (bedrooms). The cottage has been modified over the years. Upstairs there were, originally, 12 staterooms, which were reduced to 8 by removing four partitions. One of the stateroom doors was used as a camp log with entries dating back to 1907. In two of the staterooms Cracker boxes, which were originally used as kitchen cupboards, now serve as night stands. The only other significant change made to the second floor was the removal of the old fashioned pull-chain flush which was originally built into the stairs. As a result, the stairs to the second floor are now very steep. This cottage has been enjoyed by five generations of the Badershall family and they all eagerly await the summer months and their time at Bayside as the generations before them have.

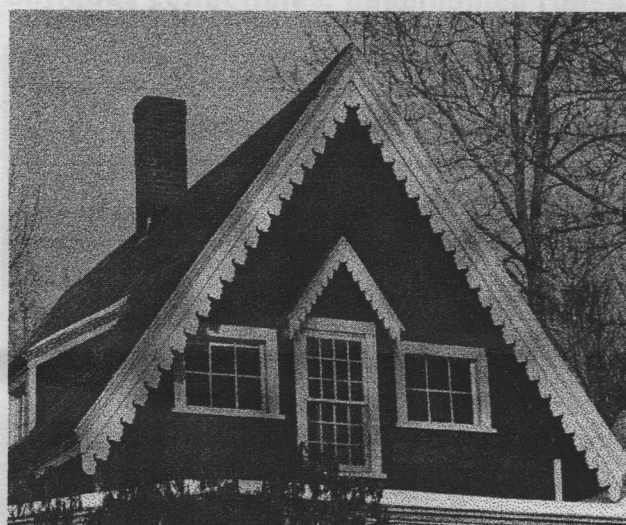


Carl Mattesen 21 Broadway:

Hillcrest was one of 44 cottages built in the campground 1869 and 1884. The cottage was first sold in 1884, and it is likely that the Association built the cottage since the 1884 deed lists the Association as a former owner. An early photo of Hillcrest shows the magnificent front porch.

From that it appears that the width of the cottage for the living room and dining

areas was established in its first years. It is clear that there was an addition built - from the south side it is apparent that the second story is narrower than the first floor. Changes were also made in the back of the cottage. Originally there was a woodshed and an attached outhouse (even though that is an oxymoron). The door opening behind the refrigerator was the door to that facility. At some point the kitchen was widened, with an addition to the north. Later in the last century, the present bathroom and first floor bedroom were added. Mr. Mattesen, the present (and sixteenth) owner of the cottage installed a stained glass window on the south side of his bedroom. It has views and a lighthouse as its theme. But more importantly, it came from a Methodist Campground at Willimantic, CT. which remains an active Methodist campground. The porch, with Mr. Mattesen presiding, is now a fixture in Bayside.

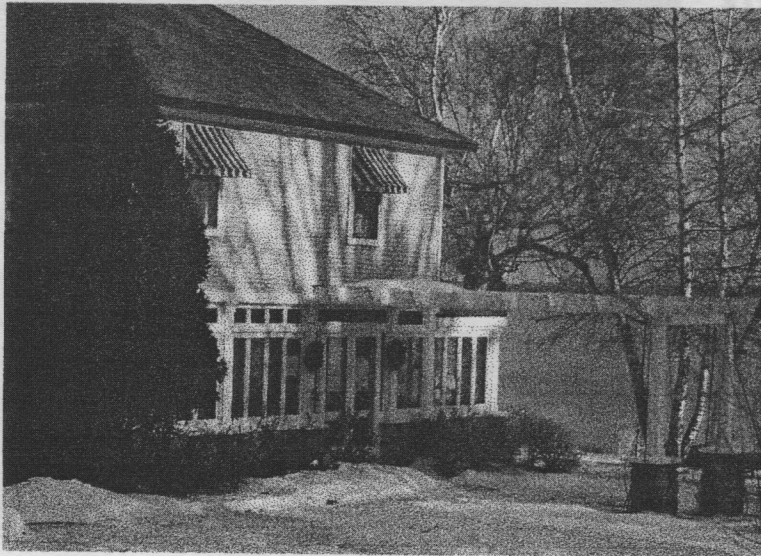


The Lovejoys, 21 Park Row:

Peg and Ed Lovejoy's cottage was built in 1876 for Morris Bragg, a relative of Peg's. There used to be a cottage next door to it on the corner which was owned by the Swans from Bangor. Sometime in the late 1920's it was purchased by Roland E. Bragg, Peg's father, who used it to house visitors. In the spring of 1937, Peg's parents picked her up at college in Boston and brought her home to Bayside.

They drove through the campground and past the store across the park (now the Blair Agency) which afforded a full view of their cottage. The corner cottage was gone! Mr. Bragg had moved it behind the house and turned it into a two-story garage. In its place was a nicely landscaped area with evergreens and a flagpole surrounded by a white picket fence. The family's house, last seen by Peg in old red paint, sported a fresh coat of brown paint and crisp white trim. After seeing all the astounding changes, Peg teased her father by remarking in an offhand way, "Oh, you've had the house painted!" The cottage originally had a large back porch which Mr. Bragg partially enclosed to make a shed. Visitors to this cottage will see that the owners have kept intact the spirit of an earlier era while making small changes to add some of today's comforts. Peg and Ed Lovejoy are talented artists and needleworkers. The cottage contains many examples of their fine handiwork.

Beverly Crofoot added the sunroom on the south side of the house. Otherwise the house appears as it was built, 100 years ago.



Todd Merolla & Joe Krulis, 650 Shore Road: Shortly after the turn of the century James D. Mortimer, an engineer hailing from New York City, and his wife started construction on their summer home on the South Shore. Throughout the coming years, many additions were made to accommodate a steady flow of guests from around the world. The "bones" of the original section of the house were provided by Sears and Roebuck. Structurally, mechanically and electrically the home utilized the latest technology for that period. This included steel beams, a dumb-waiter with summer kitchen, a service bell system, many heating zones and several multi-fueled boilers, an automated car wash and oiling pit in the garage, several types of refrigeration with cold cellar rooms in the basement for, according to the house plans, storage of "potatoes, apples and canned foods" and a special climate-controlled room for growing mushrooms. In 1927, Mr. Mortimer constructed a large addition, which doubled the size of the residence. This included staff quarters with an additional kitchen for the housekeeper and three maids. By this time, the house had acquired ten bedrooms and seven bathrooms. All told there are thirty-nine rooms including basement and third floor. Substantial architectural details including moldings, doors and hardware survived a "whole house" renovation in the late 1920's. The Mortimers summered here until the mid-fifties. Five subsequent owners were: Caswell, MacLeod, Milos, Pardoe and currently Merolla-Krulis.

ORAL HISTORY - NEW CHAIR NEEDED

The chair of the Oral History Project of the BHPS tries to generate and maintain interest in the process of tape recording the stories of Baysiders. She/he recruits and trains people to perform interviews and solicits the names of people who might be willing to be interviewed. The chair matches likely interviewers and interviewees and supplies the interviewer with tape recorder and tape. She helps them find a suitable location to get together, possibly the BHPS office. She buys tapes and filing supplies as needed and asks the treasurer for reimbursement. She maintains files in the BHPS office.

Oral history records and training materials are kept in the BHPS office at Community Hall. Training, in small groups or individually emphasizes that the interview is about the subject's experiences and memories, and that the role of the interviewer is to ask questions and say what is necessary to elicit information and move the conversation along. The interviewer should be careful not to interrupt the speaker, since it's hard for the transcriber to hear individual words when they overlap.

And that brings us to the subject of transcribing. It's not an easy job. Ellie Lagner, Sandie Hall and Lindsay Huntoon has helped with this aspect of the project. George Scholhamer is working on the tapes this winter. If this project interests you, please note this on the membership form or contact one of the directors.

Gina Cressey has ably headed this project from its inception 6-7 years ago and has now retired. Her shoes will be hard to fill but one of you can do that - please volunteer.

Bayside Historical Preservation Society
PO Box 304
Belfast, Maine 04915

BAYSIDE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Membership Application
2003-2004

Name:

Winter Address:

Telephone:

Summer Address:

Telephone:

Dues and Donations - All dues and donations are tax exempt.

First member of Household \$10.

Other household members \$ 5. each

Children under 18 free

Please list other household members:

Total membership Dues _____

Donation _____

TOTAL _____

Please make check payable to B.H.P.S. and mail this form to

Bayside Historical Preservation Society

PO Box 304

Belfast, Maine 04915.

Please indicate on the reverse any area of interest you may have for the society to consider.