



CHATHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
*Chatham, Massachusetts 02633*



*Town of Chatham*  
*Historic Business District Commission*



The  
Chatham  
Historical  
Society, Inc.

# 2007 Chatham Preservation Awards



151 Main Street • Andrew Harding Store  
Owners: Bill & Bonnie Daggett

The Andrew Harding Store, 1865, was put together by Andrew Harding and his brother from part of his brother's store, which was washing away on the beach, and his own store which he operated from his home on Water Street. The resulting general store became a Cape Cod landmark. Andrew had long benches in front, called "anxious seats," and then added a porch where the old-timers sat to spin yarns. The story goes that Joseph C. Lincoln, the famous Cape Cod writer, got much of his material from here. The Store was small but had everything: nail kegs, bananas hanging overhead, candy, cartons, boat gear, kerosene – a true small town general store. People helped themselves and left money for Andrew to collect at the end of the day. On stormy days, villagers sat around the pot-bellied stove that heated the place, whittling and making lobster plugs. In 1912, the stock was bought by Abiel Smith. In the 1930's it was run as a tearoom by Katherine Doane and Dorothy Allen. In 1941 the building was moved back from the road, turned sideways and became a residence. A fenced in deck to the south side of the house was built in 1977-1978. The house is a half-Cape style building. The Daggetts' goal was to restore the original Cape and add a small amount of living space, while maintaining the traditional look and feel of the house, preserving as much of the significant historic materials and original features of the building as possible. The fenced deck was removed and replaced with a stone patio made of fieldstone, opening into the dining room and creating outdoor living space. A dormer was added to the street elevation to provide increased headroom in a small second-floor bedroom. The new dormer was detailed in a way appropriate to the original building. New materials consisted of wood and stone products similar to those used in the original construction. Careful attention was paid to the scale and proportions of the existing additions. Great care was taken to ensure that revisions were in keeping with what might have been done during the time of its original construction. This is a good example of an Old Village commercial building which was later turned into a home and continues to contribute to the beauty and historic character of the area.



*Architect & Contractor: Polhemus Savery DaSilva, Chatham, MA*