



CHATHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633



Town of Chatham
Historic Business District Commission



The
Chatham
Historical
Society, Inc.

2007 Chatham Preservation Awards



85 Main Street • Stephen Hammond House
Owners: Pope & Christiane Fabrizio

The original house was built for Stephen Hammond and his wife Betsey Ryder in 1820 as a full Cape with five bays. It stayed in the Hammond family until the beginning of the 21st century. When Stephen died in 1871, the children agreed that their brother Seth would take care of their mother for the rest of her life and the house would eventually go to him. Various members of succeeding generations of Hammonds served as teacher and principal of the Chatham school, Justice of the Peace, Captain of the oceangoing tug “Nemasket”, licensed pilot for Chatham Harbor, Cape Cod Canal and the U.S. east coast, and President of the Chatham Trust Co. When the current owners, the Fabrizios bought the house, they wanted to maintain the character of the old house, while making it light, open and livable. They also hoped to improve views of the water and make the exterior spaces more pleasant, accessible, and attractive to the many pedestrians that use the adjacent sidewalk on their way to and from the Lighthouse and Lighthouse Beach. One of the most challenging aspects of the project was to maintain the historic integrity of the house. Special care was taken to restore the original historic Cape. Renovation work was done on the existing additions at the rear of the property, using materials that were consistent with those used in the original house. The interior space was opened up by adding windows to the existing newer additions towards the rear and side of the property, putting in half-height walls, providing long, diagonal views throughout the first floor. A large family room open to the kitchen, with views of the dining room, was created in a space that used to be a



small dark kitchen with an adjoining master bedroom. The master bedroom and bath were relocated to the second floor into an unused attic space. Dormers were added to this space to provide natural light and views of the water and lighthouse. The result is a house that continues to fit well into the historic fabric of the Old Village.

Architect & Contractor: Polhemus Savery DaSilva, Chatham, MA