



CHATHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633



Town of Chatham
Historic Business District Commission



The
Chatham
Historical
Society, Inc.

2007 Chatham Preservation Awards



96 Silverleaf Avenue • Abel Reynolds, Jr. House
Owners: Jack & Greta Curry

The Abel Reynolds, Jr. House is believed to have been built by a sea captain, Abel Reynolds, around 1850. It appears on the 1858 town map. Abel was born in 1826 and went to sea at an early age, rising to the rank of Captain. He married Margaret A. Gould. In 1869 George G. Nickerson acquired the house from Reynolds and lived there with his wife, the former Clara Gould, until his death. In 1885 Clara sold to Curtis A. Wing, another sea captain. In 1910, Wing sold to Ernest Gould, who left it to his son Alton Gould. Jack and Greta Curry acquired it on the death of Mr. Gould and decided to upgrade and modernize the house, while at the same time preserving its original character. The house is a Greek Revival style building, with a wing extending to the right and a rear ell extending back from the wing. The ell portion structure was severely deteriorated and the first phase of the project was to demolish the ell, and put in a new foundation in exactly the same place. Unfortunately, there were numerous cases of rotted framing and walls in the building from infiltration of water. The foundation of the main house was one width of brick between brick piers. The bricks were backed up with concrete foundation walls, section by section. A concrete dust cover was installed throughout the resulting crawl space to prevent further infiltration of moisture from the underlying earth. On the exterior, existing trim was preserved, with new materials inserted only where the wood had deteriorated. New windows matching the existing were installed and a new shingle roof was provided. The new ell was constructed to fit in its subordinate role with the existing main house in height and with matching architectural detail. Dormers were added to provide window space for light and air for the second floor rooms. Additional work inside the house involved relocating the stair to a



more central position to improve circulation. A master bedroom suite was added above the ell. A new kitchen was installed roughly where the former kitchen had been. All new finishes of plaster and pine board floors were also provided on the inside. The result is a house which retains its original role in the Old Village streetscape and meets the needs of modern usage.

Architect : Streibert Associates, Chatham, MA
Contractor: The Jodice Corporation, Chatham, MA