



CHATHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633



Town of Chatham
Historic Business District Commission



2015 Chatham Preservation Awards



459 Old Harbor Road • The Theophilis Rich House
Owner: Timothy R. Smith and Lori Fanning Smith

When the Cape style house at 459 Old Harbor Road was built on Pilgrim Spring Road in South Wellfleet about 1740 by Theophilis Rich, it featured a bow roof with red cedar shingles. The house stayed in the Rich family for several generations, who made a number of additions. When it was sold in 1934, the new owner moved the house to Chatham and its present location. From time to time, more changes were made to the house by various owners in Chatham.

The present owners purchased the property in 2012 and decided to renovate it by removing the non-historic additions and building a large addition with a new full foundation. This addition was designed to match the lines of the old house, including the bowed roof. All the mechanicals were updated, and the central fireplace, three mantels, the wainscoting, the beams, and the wide plank floors were painstakingly restored. The second story allows views of the Cow Yard, Tern Island, North Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. 459 Old Harbor Road is a fine example of a 275 year old Cape house restored to preserve its original integrity and character.

Architect: Mark Williams Designs
Contractor: Minglewood Homes, Inc., Chatham
Landscaping: Bill Kwaak, Harwich