

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

27

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Town Chilmark

Street address 10 Worthen Street

Name Samuel Davis/Russell House

Use: original & present residence + farm

Present owner Evelyn Russell

Open to public definitely not

Date ca 1790 Style Federal

Source of date owner

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is this building historically significant to:  
Town Commonwealth Nation

Building has historical connection with the following themes: (see also reverse side)

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Scholar            | Commerce/industry        |
| <u>Agriculture</u> | Science/invention        |
| Art/Sculpture      | Travel/communication     |
| Education          | <u>Military Affairs</u>  |
| Government         | Religion/philosophy      |
| Literature         | Indians                  |
| Music              | Other <u>Sea Captain</u> |
- Development of town/city \_\_\_\_\_

Architectural reason for inventorying:

See attached sheet Exterior Interior OR part of Area # \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added 12 room, all added in 1872

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material fieldstone - cement cap

WALL COVER: Wood fruit Brick Stone Other brick ends

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard Truncated  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 main house Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate at corners

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed all built 1872 (chimney)

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 \_\_\_\_\_ PORTICO \_\_\_\_\_ Balcony \_\_\_\_\_

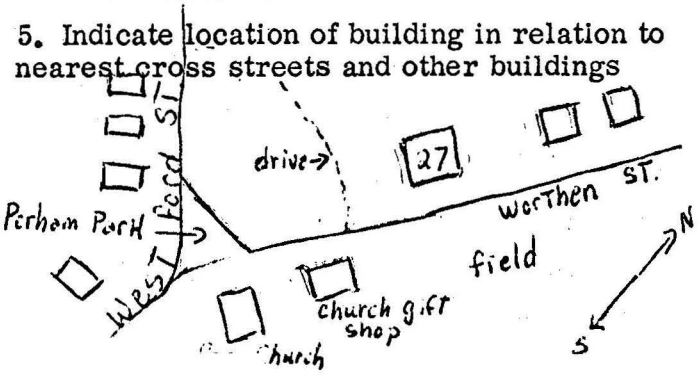
FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament 4 ionic pilasters, triangular pediment in relief above door

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: fan shaped ornament above front door 2 pilasters, separate 3 lights of glass over setts of base

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6 over 6 panes. See attached sheet.

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards \_\_\_\_\_

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings



6. Footage of structure from street ca. 60'  
Property has ca 230 feet frontage on street

Recorder Jane Lombard (copy by Jane Drury)

For Chilmark Historical Commission

Photo # 6-6A Date 6/4/73

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings 12 room ell & shed connected by alley to ell. (Barn purposely burnt down in 1967)
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal  
 Predominant features steeping front lawn with huge trees, drywall around border  
 Landscape architect old orchard in back of house.
3. Neighboring Structures  
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.  
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern 1800's  
 Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

The builder of this house was either Samuel Davis, a sea captain who was probably connected with the nearby Pitts family, or by Samuel Price, a nephew of Samuel Pitts (a son of Liberty who came to Chelmsford after taking part in the Boston Tea Party, and lived in luxury in a nearby house - #29).

At one time the house belonged to the estate of David Perkins, who owned all the land between it and the home built on Littleton Rd (Rt. 110). He gave to the Town the small triangular piece of ground at the junction of Wetherox & Wistford Streets now called Perkins Park.

The street in front of the house in early days was called Trygobro Rd., but its name has been changed to Wetherox St. in honor of the house owners of the late 1800's.

In the past, when the property was larger, it was used to raise cattle and as a fruit farm and later, Fred Russell kept bees there.

Although young, Sam. Davis was a private in Capt. Jno. Mott's Co., Lt. Baldwin's Regt. at Cambridge in Jan. 1776 and later received a pension for his military services.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Waters, "History of Chelmsford."  
 1831 map  
 Mrs Evelyn Russell, owner  
 1875 Burd Atlas

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: Samuel Davis or Samuel Price  
 Deed Information: Book Number 68 Page 425, Middlesex North Registry of Deeds  
Samuel S. Davis to David Perkins 1869

Oct. 1974  
Corrections & add'ns  
to inventory form of  
6/4/1973

10 Worthen Street (27, inventory #0)

This house was apparently built by Capt. Samuel Prince about 1799. He bought the land (which already contained a dwelling and barn) for \$500 from Abijah Davis, a housewright, on October 14, 1798. Little is known about Capt. Prince, except that he was a merchant in Boston,\* and, according to Mrs. Luther Faulkner of Billerica (who was Mrs. Martha Prescott Merriam of Chelmsford, and lived in what had been Col. Stoddard's house - where the Central Baptist Church is located in 1974), he was a nephew of Samuel Pitts (a Son of Liberty who came to Chelmsford after taking part in the Boston Tea Party and lived in luxury in a nearby house - #29). On January 2, 1802 Samuel Prince sold the property for \$2400 to Daniel Sigourney, another Boston merchant.

It was then owned by various Boston and local people until it was purchased for \$500 on March 30, 1822 by Samuel Davis, who was born in 1765. Although young, he had served as a private in Capt. Jonathan Minott's Co., Col. Baldwin's Regt. at Cambridge in January 1776 and later received a pension for his military services (1840 census of pensioners, age 75 years). In 1798 he married his first wife, Phebe, who died in 1828, age 52 years. He married second, the widow Mary Cogswell of Lowell in 1830. On deeds his occupation is listed as yeoman or, later, Esquire, but according to Waters' "History" he was called Capt. Samuel Davis and was said to have commanded a vessel in the coasting trade. He served as a selectman for Chelmsford in 1831 and 1832. He had two children, Samuel S., who lived in Arlington, and Lucy. Samuel Sr. died in Chelmsford on August 14, 1855 at the age of 90 years, 4 months. His widow and son sold the homestead (which he had increased from 3 to 11 acres) in 1869 to David Perham.

At one time David Perham owned all the land between 10 Worthen Street and the lime quarry on Littleton Road (Rt. 110). He gave to the Town the small triangular piece of ground at the junction of Worthen and Westford Streets now called Perham Park.

The street in front of the house is one of the oldest in town and was called "the road to Tyngsboro", but its name has been changed to Worthen Street in honor of the house owners of the late 1800's.

In the past, when the property was large, it was used to raise cattle and fruit, and, later, Frederick Russell kept bees there.

#### Bibliography:

Waters, "History of Chelmsford"

1831 map

1875 Beers Atlas

Mrs. Evalyn Russell, owner

Deeds

Will: Samuel Davis, Midd. Probate Court, docket #30488 (1855)

Original owner: Samuel Prince

Deed information: Middlesex Northern Registry

Bk. 10, pg. 34 Abijah Davis to Samuel Prince

Bk. 11, pg. 182 Ireland et al to Samuel Davis

\* In 1836 a Samuel Prince of Boston, sailmaker, gave a mortgage on some buildings in Lowell (Lowell, Bk. 26, pg. 557)

Samuel Davis/Russell House  
10 Westford Street

Compiled by Jane Drury

Information from the Chelmsford Assessor's Office:

1972 Evalyn Russell, owner. House & barn. 5 acres.  
2/5/65 Probate docket #395922 Frederick Russell estate.  
12/19/1890 Sarah Worthen to Sarah Eva Russell of Chelmsford. \$5000  
Book 220, page 504.  
2/11/1855 Henry S. Perham to Sarah Worthen.  
Book 172, page 95 to 98.

Middlesex North District Registry:

Book 220, pg. 504	12/19/1890	Sarah Worthen to S. Eva Russell	\$5000
		18 acres	
Book 172, pg. 95	2/11/1885	Henry S. Perham to Sarah Worthen	\$3500
		18 acres	
Book 172, pg. 95	2/11/1885	Ezekiel B. Worthen to Henry S. Perham	
		18 acres	\$35000
Book 94, pg. 419	6/17/1873	David Perham to Ezekiel B. Worthen	
		4 acres	\$1645
Book 68, pg. 425	6/17/1869	Samuel Davis & Mary C. Davis to David Perham	
		11 acres	\$1500

Middlesex Probate Court:

Docket #30488	10/ 9/1855	Samuel Davis estate to	
Will		Mary Davis, wid. & Samuel S. Davis, son	
		Homestead: house & land	

Middlesex North District Registry:

North	Book 11, pg. 182	3/30/1822	Jonathan Ireland, chaisemaker, Boston &
South	Book 241, pg. 527		John Ireland; yeoman, Charlestown to
			Samuel Davis, yeoman
			3 acres & dwelling house
			\$800
North	Book 8, pg. 89	6/25/1808	Daniel Sigourney, merchant, Boston to
South	Book 176, pg. 312		Jonathan Ireland, chaisemaker; Boston &
			Nathaniel Ireland, blacksmith, Boston
			3 acres dwelling house & shed
			\$4000
North:	Book 8, pg. 107	11/ 8/1807	Jonathan Williams, trader, to
South	177, pg. 170		Daniel Sigourney, merchant, Boston
			3 acres dwelling house
			\$2830

North: Book 9; pg. 12 South: Book 155, pg. 9	9/24/1803	Daniel Sigourney, merchant, Boston to Jonathan Williams, trader 3 acres dwelling house \$2700
North: Book 9; pg. 12 South: Book 144, pg. 311	1/ 2/1802	Samuel Prince, merchant, Boston to Daniel Sigourney, merchant, Boston 3 acres dwelling house \$2400
North: Book 10; pg. 34 South: Book 132, pg. 390	10/14/1798	Abijah Davis, housewright to Samuel Prince, merchant, Boston 3 acres orcharding & plowland \$500
North: Book 10; pg. 32 South: Book 132, pg. 389	5/15/1795	Samuel Lancey, cordwainer to Abijah Davis, housewright 2 acres orcharding & plowland, excepting the barn set off to Katherine Davis as dower.

Sam Davis/Russell House  
10 Worthen St.

181: Chelmsford Eagle, Dec. 12, 1877

E.B. Worthen has also made improvements on his house (known as the Davis House) - now 1900 occupied by the Russells.

154: Worthen vs. Russell

1890 - Dec. 19

Mrs. Sarah Worthen deeded all her property to her daughter, S. Eva Russell and son Charles F. Worthen, with the exception of \$1000 given to Frank W. Worthen.

Frank brought an injunction to prevent Eva from disposing of any of the property conveyed to her, which included the homestead occupied by herself and Frank.

It was ruled that an administrator be appointed, both parties agreeing on Edwin H. Warren, and Frank W. Worthen to enter suit against the administrator for personal services on the estate for the past six or eight years. Also to pay costs of the suit and rent at the rate of \$15 a month for his occupancy since the property came into possession of his sister, and so long as he shall continue to live there.

From notebook of Miss Frances Andrews

Lowell Weekly Journal

Nov. 1885

Our respected townsman, E.B. Worthen, who has long been in failing health, passed away Wednesday evening at 11 o'clock. Two years ago Mr. Worthen was prostrated by an attack of illness from which it seemed improbably that he could recover, but he so far rallied that during the past summer he was able to take frequent carriage rides in pleasant weather, but the improvement proved but temporary, and about three weeks ago he again took his bed, from which he never rose. Mr. Worthen was born in Bridgewater, N.H., and had his life been prolonged one hour he would have been 69 years old. For over 40 years he was engaged in the grocery trade in Lowell on Merrimack St., where by thrift, industry and marked business sagacity he acquired a competence. Some eight years since he purchased the homestead in this village known as "the Davis place," where he resided until his death, retaining his business interests in the city until declining health compelled him to abandon active labor. Mr. Worthen was long a member of the Baptist denomination, and was most exemplary in all the relations of life. He was twice married and a widow and five children, four sons and a daughter, survive.

## Lowell Weekly Journal

Dec. 19, 1890 - Mrs. Sarah Worthen, who has long been ill, is quite feeble at her home in this village.

Feb. 12, 1891 - After an illness of nearly a year's duration, borne with much patience and fortitude, Mrs. Sarah Worthen, widow of the late Ezekiel B. Worthen, died at her home in this village Sunday morning at 7:30 o'clock, aged 60 years. Deceased was a woman of much force of character, exemplary in all the relations of life, and enjoyed the respect and esteem of a wide circle of acquaintances. She was a devoted member of the Baptist church in Chelmsford, and prior to her removal from Lowell, where the family resided for many years, she was a member of the Worthen street Baptist church. Her husband, formerly a prominent merchant of Lowell, died several years ago. Mrs. Worthen leaves three children to mourn her departure: Charles F., a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio; Frank W., and Mrs. Fred A. Russell, both of Chelmsford; also a grandson, Harry L. Merrill, who has been an inmate of her home since the death of his parents.

July 17, 1891 - On the 8th of Feb. last Mrs. Worthen of Chelmsford died without a will. On the 19th of December, 1890, she conveyed all her property, valued at about \$12,000, to her son, Charles F. Worthen, and her daughter, Mrs. Eva Russell, to the exclusion of her son Frank, who was disinherited. The latter has begun proceedings in the supreme court to determine his rights, and Judge Lathrop has issued an injunction restraining the defendants from disposing of the property. The case will be strongly contested in the courts when it comes to trial.

### Lowell Courier-Citizen

Jan. 30, 1911 - No damage about town was reported from the high wind on Saturday, but the gale this afternoon blew down a chimney from the main part of the Central block.....The windows at the town hall were said to have suffered from the force of the wind.

About 6 o'clock, with the wind still blowing, a telephone alarm was sent in for a chimney fire at the home of F.A. Russell in Worthen street. Prompt response was made and the blaze controlled without serious damage.

Sept. 6, 1911 - The value of spraying trees and thereby increasing the crop to an astonishing extent, both in quality and quantity was conclusively demonstrated by F.A. Russell this season. Mr. Russell had 4 cherry trees, which because of their poor bearing qualities he had about decided to cut down. Their shade, however, was desirable, so this year they were carefully sprayed with a resultant yield of about 4 bushels of particularly fine cherries, where in previous years there had been gathered but a few quarts of indifferent quality.

May 28, 1912 - Millard F. Wood and family of Lowell are once more welcomed as summer residents of the village, taking up their residence in the Russell house in Worthen street.

May 19, 1914 - Miss Mabel Hill, dean of post-graduates at Dana Hall, Wellesley, with her sister, Miss Annie Hill, have taken a part of the F.A. Russell house in Worthen street for the summer.

Sept. 26, 1916 - Miss Annie Hill, who, with her sister, Miss Mabel Hill, has been occupying an apartment at the Russell house in Worthen street during the summer months, returns to Boston this week.

Sam Davis/Russell House  
10 Worthen Street

Notes compiled by J. Drury  
11/29/72

Newsweekly (1955):

"During the Georgian period (1750 - 1825) there was a tendency toward building more elegant houses, such as that the Rev. Hezekiah Packard built in 1793, on Westford St., and Samuel Prince built three years earlier on Worthen St. These houses have a new roof treatment: the gable roof has become a truncated hip roof and the central chimney again gives way to side chimneys. There is much ornamentation, inside and out, and elaborate fan-shaped ornaments are set over the door ..... all indications of their construction in a period of prosperity."

Waters, pg. 396:

"The stately Colonial residence on Worthen Street, known as the Worthen or Russell house, was built after the Revolution. Capt. Samuel Davis, who lived there, is said to have commanded a vessel in the coasting trade. Like the Fiske house (1 Billerica) it is built with brick ends, through which rise the chimneys, two in each end, with the frame front supported by handsomely carved pilasters, and an elaborate fan-shaped ornament over the front door. This house at one time belonged to the estate of David Perham, who owned all the intervening land between there and the lime kiln on Littleton Street. He gave to the Town the small triangular piece of ground at the junction of Worthen and Westford Streets, just as a similar plot at Central Square came from the Fiske estate."

Waters, pg. 299:

"Samuel Prince, a nephew of Samuel Pitts, built what is known as the 'Sam Davis House' in Worthen Street, which, it has been generally supposed, was built by Davis, who probably was connected with the Pitts family, and followed the sea." This information was given by Mrs. Luther Faulkner of Billerica. A good deal of Pitts family information is also on this page.



Samuel Davis

Notes compiled by  
Jane Drury 2/18/72

Waters, pg. 284:

From The Sixth Census of The United States.

Names of Pensioners for Rev. or Military Services.	Age.	Names of Heads of Families with whom Pensioners resided.
Chelmsford.		June 1, 1840.
Josiah Fletcher	81	Josiah Fletcher
Samuel Davis	75	Samuel Davis
Samuel Brown	75	Samuel Brown
Samuel Parkhurst	81	Samuel Parkhurst
Levi Proctor	73	Levi Proctor
John Crosby	80	John Crosby
Hezekiah Thorndike	86	Hezekiah Thorndike
William Adams	78	William Adams
Martha Merrill	68	Charles A. Frost
Amy Wibber	89	Hugh Pettingill
Polly Pierce	83	-----
Rachel Dunn	80	

Waters, pg. 299:

"According to the statement of Mrs. Luther Faulkner of Billerica (who was Martha Prescott Merriam of Chelmsford, and lived in what had been Colonel Stoddard's house), Samuel Price, a nephew of Samuel Pitts, built what is known as the 'Sam Davis house' in Worthen St., which, it has been generally supposed, was built by Davis, who was probably connected with the Pitts family, and followed the sea."

Waters, pg. 314,

"Records of Chelmsford Men in the Revolution  
Davis, Samuel. Private, Capt. Jonathan Minott's Co., Col. Baldwin's Regt.;  
pay abstract for traveling allowance from home and return dated  
Cambridge, Jan. 12, 1776; 106 miles traveling allowed."

Waters, pg. 396:

"The ~~estate~~ stately Colonial residence in Worthen St., known as the Worthen or Russell house, was built after the Revolution. Capt. Samuel Davis, who lived there, is said to have commanded a vessel in the coasting trade. Like the Fiske house it is built with brick ends, through which rise the chimneys, two in each end, with the frame front supported by handsomely carved pilasters, and an elaborate fan-shaped ornament over the front door. This house at one time belonged to the estate of David Perham, who owned all the intervening land between there and the lime kiln on Littleton street. He gave to the Town the small triangular piece of ground at the junction of Worthen and Westford streets."

Waters, pg. 719:

List of "Soldiers of the Revolution Buried in Chelmsford Cemeteries. Forefathers' Burying Ground" includes Davis, Samuel.

Samuel Davis/Russell House  
10 Worthen Street

Notes compiled by  
J. Drury 12/4/72

Beers Atlas (1875): E.B. Worthen, owner

1831 map

Arnold Perham (2/4/67):

"The triangle of land at Worthen and Westford Streets was a part of the David Perham estate, and the estate gave it to the town. It had a hollow in the middle with a beautiful big apple tree which produced many Baldwin apples. The town cut down the tree, filled in the hollow, and put up a fence."

Margaret Mills (3/13/72);

"The street became Worthen St. after the Worthens moved here, but it was earlier called Tyngsboro Road and started at the Unitarian Church, went up Worthen St., down Crosby Lane, across the flats to Steadman St. to the Merrimack River and Tyngsboro."

Chelmsford Newsweekly Jun 23, 1977

**OBITUARY**

**EDWARD B. RUSSELL**  
Edward B. Russell of 109 Westford Street, descendant of one of Chelmsford's earliest settlers, and founder and President of the Russell Lumber Company in Lowell, died Wednesday, June 15. He was born in Chelmsford, August 10, 1892, the son of Edwin H. and Mary (Spalding) Russell, and had been a life-long resident of Chelmsford. He had been active in civic and fraternal activities. He had served as a Director of the First Federal Savings Bank, was Past Master of William Sewel Gardner Lodge A.F. and A.M., had served as a member of the Chelmsford School Committee, had been a Trustee of the Adams Library. He is survived by his wife, Mildred (Cambridge) Russell, a son Chester C. Russell, a daughter, Mrs. William J. Hennessy, (Marjorie) a brother, Robert D. Russell, all of Chelmsford, five grandchildren; James R. Hennessy, Mrs. Dana E. Hult, (Jane), Miss Joan M. Hennessy and Miss Robin A. Russell all of Chelmsford and Mrs. Harry A. Foster, Jr. (Susan) of Tyngsboro, and a great grandson. Services were held Saturday afternoon at the Blake Memorial Funeral Home here. Interment was in Pine Ridge Cemetery. Funeral Directors Richard P. Burkinshaw and F. Warren Johnston.

# Common

## IN THIS SECTION:

- |            |       |
|------------|-------|
| ♦ Arts     | 20,21 |
| ♦ Calendar | 23    |
| ♦ Sports   | 15-18 |

## *Manor of Mention*



STAFF PHOTO BY ANN RINGWOOD

The house on Worthen Street, built before 1800, commands a great view from the small hill on which it is built.

## Historic District home finds new owner, new life

BY CHRISTINE SEYMOUR  
STAFF WRITER

For two centuries, the mammoth Greek-revival house has stood on the

Since it requires less work, Gary said he hopes to have the new part ready by this spring.

Although the basic structures of both parts of the house are remarkably sound, there is much work to be done in the older section.



STAFF PHOTO BY ANN RINGWOOD



STAFF PHOTOS BY ANN RINGWOOD

elow, Gary Hammond, own-



corner of Worthen and Westport streets, squarely within the town's Historic District.

Time has not been kind. Abandoned for 13 years, the yard became a tangle of neglected shrubbery, trees and grass. The white paint faded and the historic home became an eyesore.

Then, one January day, things started changing. The "For Sale" sign disappeared and the brush soon followed.

On Jan. 6, Gary Hammond and his wife, Karen, bought the so-called Davis/Russell House. Eventually, Gary, Karen and their three sons will move in.

Hammond, a house renovator from Woburn, plans to do most of the work with his partner, Dwight Bannister.

"I am so delighted," said Peggy Dunn, chairman of the Historical District Commission. "They have some marvelous ideas. It's the last property within the district that was really run-down. We just kept hoping and hoping that someone would buy it."

The Hammonds first saw the house last year but had to wait until January to close the deal.

"Karen and I were in town looking at another place, which we didn't like," said Hammond. "When we drove by here, it really caught our attention. We liked it right away."

Work on the home will not be easy. Historic district houses come complete with a strict set of rules dictating what work can and cannot be done.

"When you're dealing with old houses, there are a lot of questions that have to be answered. It's in the Historic District, so the [Historical District] Commission has to make sure what you plan to do is in line with the rules," he said.

Dunn said most of the restrictions are on the exterior of the house.

"It really comes down to the fact that it should be restored to what it looked like originally," she said.

Anxious to begin work, Hammond began cleaning up the yard five days after the deal was closed.

Once the brush was cleared and the lawn mowed (a full-day job, according to Hammond), passers-by had better view of the Greek revival-style front. With columns on either side of the front door and an arch over top, the house began to capture more attention.

"We have at least a few people come by every day, asking about it," said Hammond.

Most days, he and Bannister park their green pickup trucks in the dirt path they cleared to serve as a driveway.

"I think a lot of people are expecting the contractor to be out here, not the owner," he said, laughing. "They think they'll just take a look around, without the owner around. I don't mind at all, though. I'm getting pretty good at showing people around now."

There is much to show. With a total of 6,600 square feet, the house demands a lengthy visit.

It was built in two parts: The section facing Worthen Street is the original, built in 1799 and the smaller part, including the porch, was added in 1880.

The Hammonds will live in the newer section while they continue to work on the rest of the house. Once both are complete, the family will move into the old section and rent out the smaller section.

Neither part had heat or electricity and there was only one bathroom in the entire house. It was added in the 1950s by partitioning off a corner of an upstairs bedroom.

Despite a new roof being added about 10 years ago, years of water leaks had taken their toll. Plaster and layers of wallpaper were falling off the walls and plush, wool rugs on the floors were damaged beyond repair.

Hammond and Bannister took out many of the plaster walls in the old part to inspect the structure. Unlike many old homes they have renovated, the team did not find many relics behind the walls.

"Sometimes, we'll find old bottles and all kinds of things," said Hammond. "The most interesting thing we found here was an old tin canister from the Lowell mills."

Hammond believes the original owner of the house was involved with the mills, although the history is unclear. Many of the fireplaces in the house are decorated with rams' heads details — a common symbol of the mills.

Every room in the house has a fireplace, but the most interesting one is in the kitchen, according to Hammond.

Someone had covered the fireplaces over with bricks, probably to prevent drafts. Most are shallow fireplaces, in the Count Rumford style. While uncovering the one in the kitchen, Hammond discovered that it was a beehive fireplace.

Upstairs, they started removing plaster from the foot-thick, outside brick walls and found a few indications of the past. Under the old, faded wallpaper, someone had pasted pages from a historical journal. Though torn, entries about George Washington's will are still legible.

There are several features that appeal to the craftsman in Hammond.

He pointed out original wood beams that run from one end of the house to the other. He said the feature was typical of a time when full-grown trees were harvested for timber. Only one of those supporting beams will need to be reinforced.

Other features include a massive wainscot on the staircase, cornice pieces along the ceiling that are mostly intact, 7-foot ceilings and wide hallways.

All together, the project should take about two years, said Hammond. He and Bannister will do all of the carpentry, while Karen will take charge of the interior decorating.

"She collects antiques. She loves this kind of thing," said Hammond.

A few people had shown interest in the property before, but none of the proposals went very far. The others wanted to renovate the house and turn the rooms into apartments — a use not allowed by the town's zoning bylaws.

In fact, the Hammonds applied for and received a variance to turn part of the house into an apartment.

According to Hammond, the only restrictions on the renovation will concern the exterior.

"I plan to keep it just the way it was, anyway," he said. "I told the commission that if I didn't like the way it looked originally, I wouldn't have bought it. I would have looked at another place."

**'I told the commission that if I didn't like the way it looked originally, I wouldn't have bought it. I would have looked at another place.'**

Gary Hammond





10 Worthen Street

9/4/2004 E. Merriam

