

2018 Second Quarter Report: Akin House Project Progress
prepared by Diane Gilbert, DHPT
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About this report: Accomplishments or work in progress this quarter (April, May, June) with photographs illustrative of the work products have been combined into one report.



**Interior prep work and whitewashing to distinguish the old from the new.
(Keeping/Gathering Room)**



- Rough pine used as wall covering.
- Retained original wall substrate to show early whitewash and markings of the lath (with plaster) first applied to the walls throughout the house.
- The original joists and other early features covered for protection so that whitewash can be applied to new construction.





Details of the original construction

Upper left: original floorboards left exposed to contrast with the new. Chamfered timbers from the 17th & 18th centuries could have been elaborate or very simple depending on the house building style and always a function of capabilities of craftsmen and affordability. These original chamfered joists harken back before 1762.

Did Job Mosher recycle these joists or adopt earlier chamfering techniques? Reuse of materials was more commonplace then as now. The timbers coming from virgin forests after clearing for farmland ensured longevity.



Visit dhpt.org archive: May 2018, Preservation & Restoration Progress at the Akin House, Part 2, for more information on this technique.





An examination of color choices. We selected historic colors of the Georgian period. We used Dorset Gold for the trim in the Keeping/Gathering Room along with the Buttery and the Boring Room to unify those spaces. The center photo shows a new mantel replicated from the ca. 1760s Hanford-Silliman House in New Canaan, CT. We have no extant evidence of the original mantel for the cooking hearth. Cogswell Cedar matches the rear entry door built for primary, universal access. Pumpkin chosen for the pine floors installed in 2009 and 2017. *Replica mantel and paint colors approved by MHC and Historic New England.*





Above: Newly whitewashed ceiling in the **Formal Parlor**. This photo shows the rough hewn wall substrate; original to the left and new to the right to replace rotten boards.



Other photos of the **Formal Parlor**. Center: the Federal style doorway leading into the Foyer with original doorway leading to the small parlor in the background. Upper right: the Greek Revival fireplace and hearth topped by Greek Revival mantel scraped down to its original color and left as is, surrounded by original wall panels. Right: the restored corner cupboard, known as a beaufait, ca. late 18th century, surrounded by new wide pine wall panels stained to conform with the original wall panels although obvious new construction. Caldwell Green selected for this room, a color that closely resembles the first layer of paint in the original corner cupboard. This room represents three periods, Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival.



Below: An example of a historically appropriate repair of the late 19th century floor in the Foyer, using just a strip of planed wood of the same vintage and period found in the house.



Above: View of the Borning Room paneled with original white washed boards. This room will be used as a library, for research, and small scale interpretive presentations using technology.

Above: The Buttery has been outfitted with shelves to display pottery, crockery, jugs, dishes, baskets, cooking utensils and other tools typically used by inhabitants of the period. The shelves were made with wood discovered in the upper eaves of the second story. The Buttery will be furnished as vintage items are purchased, found, or donated.



The above cabinet was repaired with reused wood plank pieces salvaged from this room.

Sitting Room/Small Parlor

The above cabinet to the left of the Greek Revival fireplace was restored with few alterations. A plaster & lath wall below the cupboard was removed to expose the chimney for repairs and replaced with Similar rough pine panels installed throughout the house. The door now opens to reveal a back view of the parged chimney, rebuilt to accommodate the original cooking hearth in the Keeping/Great Room.



Sitting Room/Small Parlor



Henderson Buff was used to paint the restored mantel, the pine panels, and the trim because it is a close match to the early green-yellow layer revealed in this room and foyer. The floor of hard yellow pine (extending to the Foyer) was sanded and finished with a sealant and poly oil finish for durability. Because of this room's exceptional and rare qualities such as the wall covering of 18th century English wallpaper, as was suggested by wallpaper experts, it will be used as a exhibition space requiring special conservation treatment.



The Fujitsu combination heat and AC unit was installed this quarter. The exterior compressor is located on the North elevation and will be camouflaged with vegetation. A view from the Formal Parlor shows the unit installed in the Keeping/Great Room in between the Borning Room and Buttery.