

The Richardson House

Presentation to the Board and Residents of Plandome
Manor

January 18, 2022



History

- Built in 1730 in Hanover Four Corners, Massachusetts and belonged to the Collamore Family
- George A. Richardson moved the home from Massachusetts to Plandome Manor in 1923, ten years prior to the Village's incorporation
- The home was brought by boat and rebuilt on Circle Drive
- An addition and gabled roof were added when the house was rebuilt in its new location
- The reconstruction of this home gained a lot of attention in the press
- The experiment was considered an “extraordinary feat” and was such a success that Mr. Richardson brought another home from New England and placed it in Great Neck
- The Richardson House in Plandome Manor is the oldest New England home on Long Island
- It is one of the oldest homes in the Village of Plandome Manor
- The home has been meticulously cared for and remains in pristine condition with many of its original features intact

200-Yr.-Old Cape Cod Home Packed Up, Transplanted To Site at Plandome, L. I.

George A. Richardson Also Ships Ancient New Hampshire House — Now in Crates at Great Neck Ready for Reassembling.

George A. Richardson, of Plandome, L. I., recently found the very house he wanted. It was 200 years old, an aristocratic old manse, and sturdy from roof to cellar. But it was located in Hanover Four Corners, Mass., about 20 miles from Plymouth, and Mr. Richardson had no desire to leave Plandome.

"However," he told the owner, "I'll take it. Pack it up and send it to me, addressed to Plandome, L. I."

The owner laughed at the pleasantry. And so, being a man who wants what he wants when he wants it, Mr. Richardson called in a contractor and gave him his orders. The contractor did what he was told. Today the house, every brick, plank and nail of it, is standing on a wooded knoll at Plandome, and the Richardsons are living in the oldest New England homestead on Long Island.

It was taken down carefully, every part of it handled as tenderly as though it were glass, and packed in freight boxes. The boxes were numbered. When they arrived at Plandome Mr. Richardson called in another contractor.

"These boxes out there contain a house," he said. "Put it together."

Second House Here In Boxes. The entire experiment, an extraordinary feat in housing circles, was so completely a success that Mr. Richardson at once set about rail-roading another colonial mansion out of New England, this time from Rindge, N. H. It has arrived. Still in the boxes, it is scattered about the ground next door to the other transplanted home. Within a few weeks it too will be up.

The Hanover Four Corners house is typically Cape Cod, from its low, 7-foot ceilings to its ship's stairway, and from its weather-worn rafters to its tiny-paned windows. In the midst of a settlement of new and modern homes, it stands as a strange and fascinating sight.

The long, low lines of the house are unchanged, with the exception of the roof, which is now gabled. Even the "six foot square" chimney in the center of the house spells Cape Cod in smoke, while the green rain barrel adds the very last note in perfection to the New England picture. "I have been heartily laughed for the rain barrel," said Mrs. Richardson, "but I endured that and here, you see, it is."

Nothing is lovelier than green and white, particularly with such artistic arrangement as the Cape Cod house has, with the green blinds. Both

Former Boro Man Heads Subway 1,000 Committee



Frank D. Waterman, chairman of the Committee of 1,000, which is petitioning the Mayor to start digging subways, is a former resident of Brooklyn. He lived in this boro for 18 years, beginning in 1832. During all that time he was a resident of the upper Bedford District, most of the time residing in the immediate neighborhood of the old Union League Club, now the Unity Club, on Grant Square. When he first came to Brooklyn he lived in Macon st. Later he moved to Bainbridge st., then to Bedford ave. and latterly he lived in Dean st., just off Grant Square. He now lives at 850 Park ave., Manhattan.

M'ANENY DARES HYLAN TO FACE TRANSIT BOARD

Packs Up 2 Ancient New England Homes, Transplants Them on L. I.



1. House of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Richardson at Plandome, L. I., that was transplanted from Cape Cod. 2. Fireplace in the 17th century living room, and 4. Table, chair and table for lawn, from Cape Cod. 3. Mansion to be re-erected by Mr. Richardson at Great Neck, which has already been taken apart and shipped there from its original site in New Hampshire.

(Continued from Page 1.)

front and back door steps are made from large half mill stones brought from New Hampshire for the purpose, while quaint lanterns flank the front entrance, shielding light through iron bars.

A Charming Library. Straggling into the room to the left of the front doorway, one finds the library with the gray diamond paper of Longfellow's house at Cambridge, open book shelves and furniture of the 17th Century. Here is the fireplace set in a pane of white wood which covers the entire side of the room. To the right is a picturesque open cupboard where some rare bits of green tinware are displayed.

This is the only room which is not early New England to the very last note. Here Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, who have lived in this country but one year since a stay of three years in Italy, where Mr. Richardson was engaged as civil engineer in the installation of Great Lakes low water of their Oriental treasures to invade the Puritan atmosphere of the house and a magnificent tiger skin is the floor covering. In the 12 foot square dining room the table is some lovely side paneling. Here on the opposite wall the black butterfly hinges, while the "D'Avary" in all the right type and shades, H. L. hinges and silver chairs, in the 17th Century living room, in the days of the Col-

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle July 29, 1923

The Magazine Antiques March 1925

more, the kitchen. Everything in this room breathes age, and the whole is so restful, so suggestive of the very roots of American life, that one sits down with complete satisfaction and a desire to stay and enjoy the beauty of it.

17th Century Furniture. Heavy oak "Gun stock" posts hold up the great rafters, all of them of the 17th Century, proved so by the warm brown of the wood everywhere left untouched and untouched by the passing of decades upon decades. Great oak pine boards are used in the floor, some of them two feet wide. Here the furniture includes a genuine gate-legged early maple table, a rare and much coveted piece, a pine ax-cased chest that must have delighted the brides of every day, hooked and braided rug and chairs of 1726 and 1756. The white, with old steel trivets and some beautiful pewter, is a Wallace Nutting room in every particular.

Curtains are of ruffled unbleached muslin in all the rooms, and upstairs in the maple parlor beds are counterpane of great-grandmother's day. On this floor, delighting every woman, are most unexpected linen closets, while under the eaves are store rooms, utilizing every inch of space. The old butler's room, where Richardson's smart kitchen and back of this the dining room and bath. To keep unsightly radiators and radiators from spoiling the view, an indirect system of heating is used.

The experiment has been a success," Mrs. Richardson said, although her statement was wholly unnecessary. The little house speaks for itself. The cost of making and transportation was reasonable and has been so satisfactory that we tried to build a larger mansion from Rindge, N. H.

House Built by son of a Minute Man. Col. William Gardner built the house, and was the son of a Lexington Minute Man, Isaac Gardner, who was shot by the British. One of his seven sons, Addison, was Lieutenant Governor of New York in 1844.

The woodwork in the Rindge house is in a marvellous state of preservation and little of it will have to be replaced. Fragments around the largest one being in the drawing room and having a width of seven feet. Each of the right bed-rooms has a fireplace.

Decorative pretensions will be the mansion that the first one transplanted by Mr. Richardson. It is 56 feet in width and two full stories in height, leaving an attic which in Brooklyn would make living quarters for more than one family. In its best days the first house was a show place in the section of New England where it stood.

The fitting of New England houses to New York State is a movement in architecture which is commended by the Metropolitan Museum, and arrangements have been made to bring the fine old signs of the Gardner's home from Portsmouth, N. H., down to New York and place it in a wing of the museum. This plan will be carried out within a year's time, since the house has already been purchased.



DIGNIFIED HOSPITALITY of OLD-TIME MANSION; SNUG COMFORT and QUIET INFORMALITY of ANCIENT COTTAGE

EACH is exemplified here by two dwellings, built more than a century ago in New England and standing unaltered and undisturbed by the changing years, until, like rare old trees, they were carefully uprooted and re-planted beside the very threshold of New York City.

Old beam work, old panelling, old hand wrought hardware—all the mellowed perfection of actual 18th century craftsmanship—have been preserved in these dwellings. Essential modernizing has been accomplished with skill and taste. Locations amid suburban woodlands adjacent to New York are worthy of these wonderful homes. Antique furniture now in place may be purchased.



An Early Cottage Built :: 1730 Recently transplanted from Hanover-Four-Corners, Cape Cod, to Plandome, Long Island

Living Room, illustrated, with ancient beams and fireplace. Library, Dining Room, Kitchen on first floor. Two Masters' Rooms and Bath on second floor.

An ell contains Maid's Room and Bath, Rear Entry, Utility Room, Attic Storage. Basement Garage. Modern heating and plumbing; first floor heating indirect.

The Colonel Gardner Mansion :: c. 1780 Formerly at Rindge, N. H. Now Re-erected at Great Neck, Long Island

Living Room, here pictured, 14 x 16 feet, paneled in early pine. Paneled Library, Dining Room and Double Hall, 4 Masters' Bed Rooms, connecting Baths. Service Wing with Garage, Kitchen and ample Quarters for Servants. Heating and plumbing in best modern practice.



For further information and appointments to inspect, call **GEORGE A. RICHARDSON** PLANDOME (Telephone, MANHASSET 3028) LONG ISLAND

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Old Homes Attest Durability of Wood

Few persons are insensible to the peculiar appeal of an old house—one that has been lived in for many decades. If the period of occupancy covers one, two, or three centuries, as in the case of occasional dwellings to be found even in this comparatively new land of ours, the attraction is proportionately increased. The imagination loves to dwell on the scenes of happy family life and friendly hospitality enacted within their weather beaten walls as succeeding generations have trodden the well worn thresholds. If in their prime they were the abodes of noted personages, the interest is of course enhanced by that fact.

But it is not because of the romance or the historical interest attached that the AMERICAN LUMBERMAN from time to time pictures and describes notable old houses. Its chief purpose is to help stem the floods of propaganda that are being poured forth for the purpose of creating the false impression that wood is not a lasting building material. Pages upon pages of scientific and experimental data, attesting the permanency of wood construction, have been printed, and such material of course is of the greatest value. But it also is necessary to get the facts across to those who lack time or inclination to study the ample data available on the subject. The hundreds of old wooden

present two particularly interesting illustrations of the durability of wood construction. The fact that one of these houses figured in an event of current interest, connected with one of the most notable personalities of the century, makes the illustration especially timely.



The old Rockefeller house at Moravia, N. Y.



House two centuries old that was cut into sections and shipped by rail to a new location

houses, in good condition after from one to three centuries of occupancy, with which the older sections of the country are dotted, are arguments that "the who runs may read."

It is the privilege of the AMERICAN LUMBERMAN this week to

Recently John D. Rockefeller, upon the occasion of his eighty-fourth birthday, visited his boyhood home at Moravia, Cayuga County, New York, shown in one of the accompanying cuts. The future oil king came to Moravia with his parents when a boy of four years, and remained until about ten years old. He occupied a room in the attic which was not celled or finished off in any way. Old residents declare that they remember "John" telling them at school of how on stormy nights the wind whistled thru the walls and the snow drifted in, forming little mounds on the floor. The stove pipe leading up from the living room supplied the only heat.

The Rockefeller house was built about one hundred years ago, possibly a little longer. It is in a fine state of preservation, and from all indications is good for another century or two. It is now occupied as a dwelling. The house is of heavy frame construction, the woods used being hemlock and white pine. The walls and partitions are of 2-inch pine plank. The exterior walls are covered with pine clapboards, and the roof is of pine shingles. The shingles are in good condition, but no one seems to know just how long they have been on the roof, altho they certainly have been on a long time. The doors and finish are of pine, and hemlock lath were used on the interior walls.

The AMERICAN LUMBERMAN is indebted to H. K. Crofoot, lumberman of Moravia, for the foregoing information regarding the construction and condition of the Rockefeller house, as well as for the photograph, showing the house as it is today, which he caused to be taken specially for this article. The house shown in the larger picture had stood for two hun-

(Concluded on Page 69)

Products Co., Cornell, Wis. W. Irving Osborn, of Chicago, was re-elected president. George Thorpe, C. H. Haney, D. N. Dixon, W. N. Jaccard, W. Irving Osborn and Jacob Newman were elected directors. The semiannual meeting of the yard managers of the Fuller Goodman Co. was held Sept. 8 at the Beaumont Hotel, Green Bay. About twenty-five yard managers from Wisconsin and Michigan were present.

COLUMBUS, OHIO

Sept. 24.—Hardwood trade is showing some increases in all directions. Buying on the part of both dealers and factories is better, and prices are steadier. Retail stocks are only fair and a good many dealers are buying. Practically all orders are for immediate shipment. Factories making furniture, boxes and automobiles are also buying fairly well. Musical instrument and casket factories are coming in also. Railroad inquiries are numerous. Dry hardwood mill stocks are not as plentiful as formerly; the better grades are the scarcer. R. W. Horton, of the W. M. Ritter Lumber Co., says volume of trade in hardwoods is gradually increasing. Prices are more stabilized. J. W. Mayhew, assistant to the president, has returned from a two months' trip in Germany, Belgium and England. Sales Manager Somer, of the American Column & Lumber Co., reports a steady demand from all sources, with prices well maintained. Factory buying is quite brisk. The John R. Goley Lumber Co. reports a stronger tone to the hardwood trade, with a fair volume of business going. Shipments are coming out promptly as a rule.

Southern pine trade is showing signs of revival. Retailers' stocks are low and they are coming into the market. Prices are firmer, except on a few items. Dimension is higher and boards are in better demand. Shipments are generally prompt. H. D. Brasher, of the H. D. Brasher Lumber Co., reports a better trade in all respects, with transit cars easier to dispose of. In fact there is a decided improvement in the southern pine trade. W. L. Whitacre, of the W. L. Whitacre Co., reports a fair volume of southern pine business booked. Prices are somewhat irregular. A. C. Davis, of the South Side Lumber Co., says trade is fair for the time of year, building still going on rather briskly.

BUFFALO, N. Y.

Sept. 26.—The Buffalo Lumber Exchange at its last week's meeting discussed the minimum export question. It is naturally opposed to the plan of reducing that limit and will do what it can to prevent it. The Chamber of Commerce is furthering the project to establish a regional advisory board such as now exists at several large railroad shipping centers of the country, with headquarters at Toledo. It is found that shippers' grievances are redressed much quicker through this channel than by appealing to the railroads direct. The Chamber has invited lumbermen and other shippers to cooperate. A hearing will be given soon by the transportation committee of the chamber, and all interested are invited to attend.

The fifteenth annual gymkhana of the Buffalo Automobile Club was held at the clubhouse at Clarence on Sept. 22, with an attendance of about two thousand. Many races and other contests were on the program. The chairman of the day was G. Walter Betts. Clerks of the course included John R. Bookser and Oliver J. Velling. Among the judges were City Treasurer I. N. Stewart, Councilman A. W. Kleinholder, Maurice M. Wall, Harry L. Abbott, John McLeod, Harry T. Vars and Orson E. Yeager.

The following members of the Buffalo Lumber trade took in the annual outing of the Empire State Association of Lumber & Sash & Door Salesmen at Three Rivers, near Syracuse, last week: C. N. Kellerman, Frank J. Yeager, Harry Nauss, Harold Harrower, William Lewis, E. Y. Gemmill, Marcus Abbott, E. W. Pooley and M. R. Hronek. Buffalo gained 5.7 percent from 1900 to 1920 in the number of homes owned by its citizens, according to a manual just issued by the division of building and housing of the Department of Commerce.

The Hope Lumber Co., which has a large new mill at Little Current, Georgian Bay, Ont., has prepared to run it night and day for a while. One shift of men is obtained from the shutting down of the Graves, Bigwood & Co. mill at Byng Inlet. The Hope company receives its logs by rail and is therefore independent of rafting difficulties. The Buffalo Lumber Exchange and the Buffalo Lumber Dealers' Association were well represented at the Elms Methodist Church last Sunday morning on invitation of the pastor, the Rev. H. A. Reed. He preached a sermon on "The Business Man and his Religion." Special vocal music was a feature of the service. The attendance of the lumbermen resulted from their holding their annual golf con-

tests at East Aurora, followed by a dinner at the Elms church. Arrangements for attending the meeting were made by Clark W. Hard, whose home is at Elms.

Among the visitors to the lumber trade during the last week were: Charles Hamilton, representative of T. Sullivan & Co., at Flint, Mich.; E. W. Geddes, mill man of Blythe, Ont. Eugene W. Carson has gone on a business trip to a number of the Southern mills.

EVANSVILLE, IND.

Sept. 24.—There has been some improvement in hardwood trade. A good many orders and inquiries have come in. The automobile industry is the heaviest buyer. Prices are holding firm, and some items are tending to advance. The furniture manufacturers also are buying quite liberally. Some veneer plants are being operated on full time. The railroads continue to buy heavily of ties and other materials. The box manufacturers report a steady trade and are buying considerable lumber. The retail lumber business is active, and planning mills report that their repair business and new business is good. Building operations continue quite active in southern Indiana, southern Illinois and northern Kentucky. The regular monthly meeting of the Evansville Lumbermen's Club will be held at the New Vendome Hotel, this city, Oct. 9.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Sept. 25.—There is a notable increase in orders being received from retail sources. For a month there has been a veritable avalanche of inquiries. Now retailers are beginning to buy. Indications are that they will continue to buy for some time, because of the condition of stocks in city yards. The city yard trade is much more active than the rural. Industrials are active, especially the automobile and furniture factories. The flooring manufacturers also are buying, their chief demand being for hard maple. According to the best available reports the southern pine trade has lost the popularity of maple flooring this summer. Most flooring factories, because of this, find their supplies very low. The construction program this fall is making it necessary to build up stocks. Gum is another popular wood. The trend of the demand during the last week seems to have been for upper grade stocks. Utilities continue to be in the market, but there are evidences they are getting their repair work in shape to stop the minute the weather gets severe for outside work.

DETROIT, MICH.

Sept. 26.—There are no changes in the wholesale market, altho soft spots are occurring with less frequency. Buying still continues spasmodic, but building prospects cause a very substantial demand for lumber. The rental situation in Detroit is still in favor of the property owner, and would warrant the belief that no immediate let-down in the building program may be looked for. Mortgage money, however, has tightened to some extent. There is every indication that a conservative policy will be pursued by retailers in placing orders covering future needs.

Old Homes Attest Durability of Wood

(Continued from front page)

dred years near Plymouth, Mass., when it was seen and coveted by Mrs. George A. Richardson, who prevailed upon her husband to buy it and ship it to their home at Plandome, Long Island. The house accordingly was cut into sections, loaded on flat cars and shipped to the point named, where it was re-erected in its original form. The photograph shows the house at its new location, with Mr. Richardson seated in front. The fact that a house two centuries old could be cut to pieces, shipped a considerable distance and set up again "good as new," speaks volumes for the durability and utility of wood as a home building material.

It also is to be noted that wood is the only building material that would permit such a taking apart and putting together. The only way in which an old house of any other material could be transported any distance would be by completely demolishing it, and rebuilding from the ground up just as with new material. Therefore an old wooden house, because it can readily be moved and used for further occupancy, as a rule has a much greater salvage value than one constructed of other materials, which, to realize anything from, must be completely demolished and the material sold, for what it will bring, to dealers in second-hand building materials.

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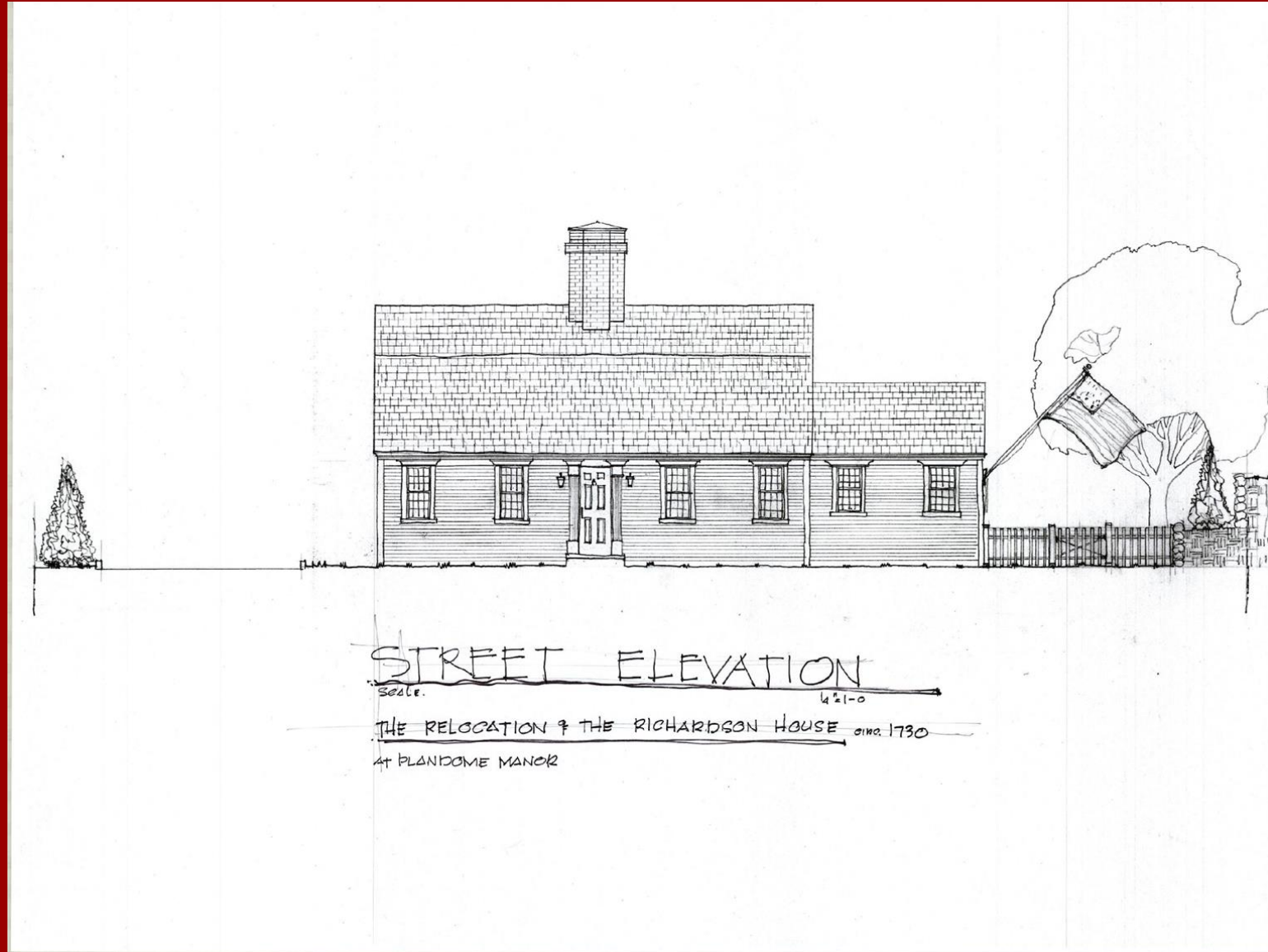
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The Richardson Home Today



Proposed Plans for the Richardson House



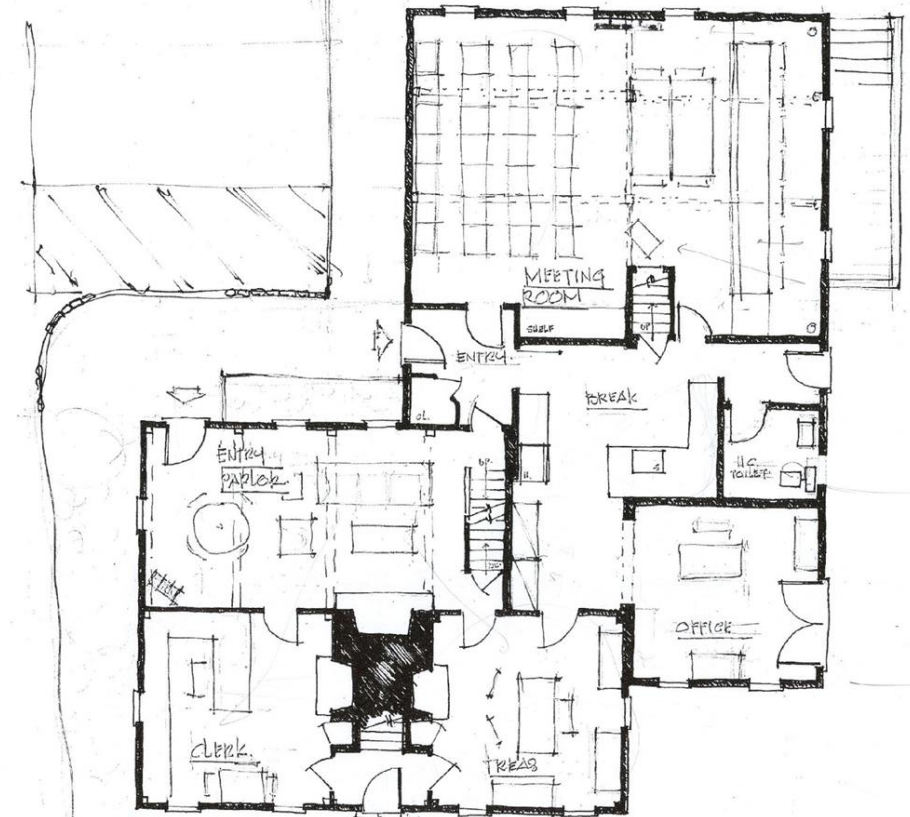
Proposal to Save the Richardson House

- After the home was sold to a developer, a private individual contacted the Village Office about moving the home outside the Village
- At the Board of Trustees meeting on November 16, 2021 this individual addressed the Board and informed the Village that moving the home outside the Village was not feasible
- In December 2021, a group of professionals volunteered to explore ways to save the Richardson House
 - This group includes local architects, a representative from Preservation Long Island, and Plandome Manor residents
 - The group met with historic preservation specialists to determine the feasibility of moving the home
 - Plans and measurements of the existing conditions were completed pro bono
- After assessing the condition of the home, it was determined that the home can be moved but it must be within close proximity due to transportation restrictions
- The Village-owned lot on Circle Drive is within a reasonable distance for the home to be moved
- Plans were drafted for the potential of using the Richardson House as a Village Hall

- To date, all work in connection with this proposal has been done pro bono. The Village has not spent a single dollar on this proposal
- This meeting is the first time the Board of Trustees will discuss the proposed plan

Interior Plans- First Floor

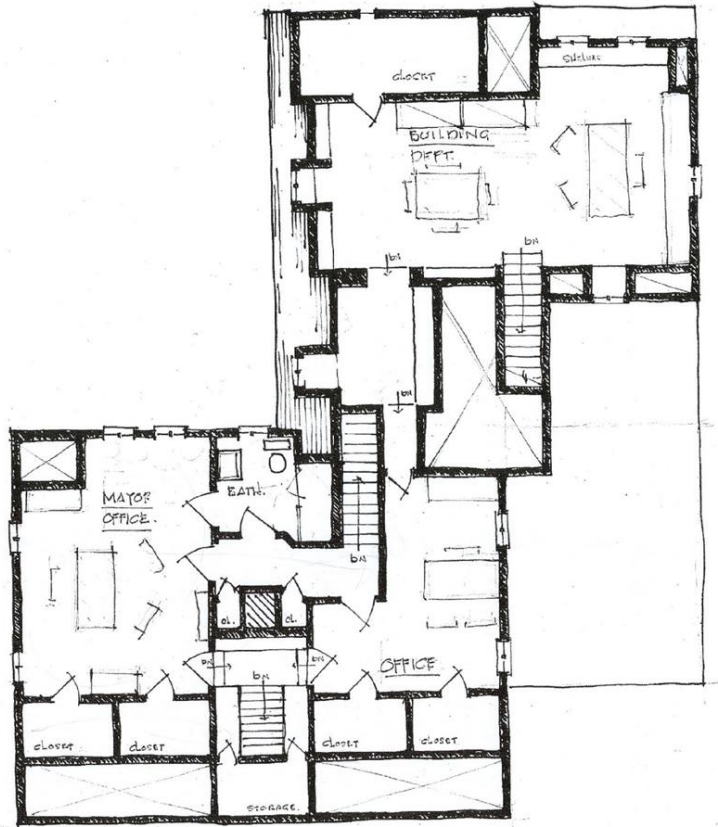
- All access to the building would be through the rear
- Village Clerk's office, Treasurer's office, Board Room, and extra office proposed for first floor
- No access through the "front door"
- No change to the footprint or size
- Minimal interior alterations would include:
 - Knocking out two bathrooms and one bedroom to make a larger meeting room
 - Making first floor bathroom ADA compliant
- No alterations to original 1700s portion of the home
- Path to the LIRR platform and public space to be maintained
- Access to the building from the VPM LIRR lot for night meetings and additional parking



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

THE RELOCATION OF THE RICHARDSON HOUSE c. 1730

PLANDOME MANOR



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE.

1/4" = 1'-0"

THE RELOCATION OF THE RICHARDSON HOUSE circa 1730

4 PLANDOME MANOR

Interior Plans- Second Floor

- No interior alterations to the second floor
- Building Department, Mayor's office, and extra office proposed for second floor

Building Department and Board Process:

- This plan requires no variances. This application will not go to the Board of Zoning and Appeals
- This plan will go before the Design Review Board
 - A landscape plan will be prepared pro bono
 - Notices to residents will be sent out via registered mail

Landmark Preservation:

- If the building is moved it will be submitted to the Design Review Board for landmark status through the Village's Landmark Preservation Code
- Landmarking through the Village's code will allow for stipulations to be put in place to prevent future changes or expansions to the building
- Historic preservation grants will be available to the Village for future maintenance and repairs



Landscape Plan

- Landscape plan prepared by the Laurel Group pro bono
- This plan will be submitted to the Design Review Board for review and approval
- Any plantings that can be preserved from the old property will also be moved to the new location

CONCEPT PLAN

PLANDOME VILLAGE - HISTORIC HOUSE

CIRCLE DRIVE
PLANDOME MANOR, NEW YORK



SCALE: 1" = 8'-0"
DATE: JANUARY 11, 2022
REVISIONS:

SURVEY NOTES:
INFORMATION FOR BASE PLAN TAKEN FROM ARCHITECTURAL DATA TAKEN FROM DRAWINGS BY PAULGECIA O'NEILL, AIA, DATED 1971/72.

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Hempstead, New York 11543
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Current Village Office

- The Village currently rents office space outside the Village
- The Village spends \$55,000 per year on rent and taxes
- The Village's lease will need to be renegotiated
- The current office does not have adequate space for three employees or to house files, including building files
- The Village has explored option of paying for off-site secure storage for files

- The Village has three employees:
 - One full time Village Clerk (five days a week)
 - One part time Deputy Clerk/Treasurer (three days a week)
 - One part time Building Inspector (three days a week)

- Main functions of the Village Office
 - The Village Office is there to serve residents of the Village. The overwhelming majority of visitors to the office are residents of Plandome Manor
 - The Village Office has very little foot traffic with an average of two visitors per day
 - Building Department- reviews plans, issue permits, inspects all projects, and houses all building files
 - Clerk's office- handles all administrative matters, records management, and constituent issues
 - Treasurer's office- handles all financial matters, oversees Village's budget and pays monthly invoices

Village Halls in Neighboring Villages

Village Offices in residential neighborhoods

- Village of Plandome
- Village of Munsey Park
- Village of Russell Gardens
- Village of Kensington
- Village of Great Neck
- Village of Great Neck Estates
- Village of Roslyn Estates
- Village of Flower Hill

Many Villages in our area use old homes as offices in residential neighborhoods

