

Winter Harbor Historical Society

P.O. Box 93, Winter Harbor, ME 04693

July 2022

NEWSLETTER

Samuel Price Wetherill Home **134 West Oval**



The Frenchman's Bay Lodge and the neighboring, Wetherill home were the only two cottages on Grindstone Point designed by architect: WW Kent. The 1898 owner was president of the Chase Manhattan Bank, but the Wetherills purchased the house in 1907 and it remained in their family for nearly 50 years.

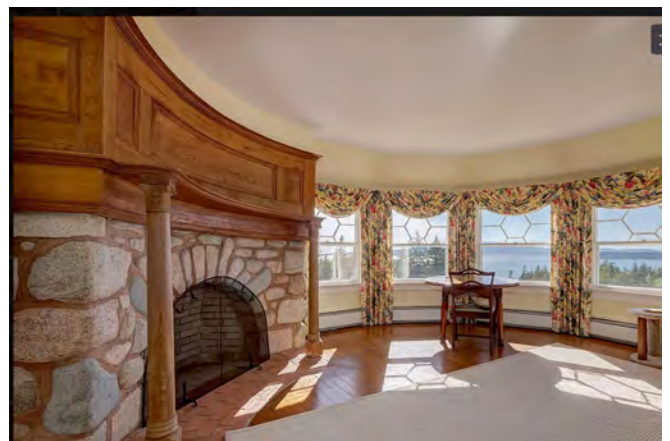
Samuel Price Wetherill benefitted from the fortune gained by his grandfather's entrepreneurial effort in the Philadelphia area. The senior Wetherill is considered the first manufacturer of fabrics, supplying uniforms for soldiers in the Revolution and he is credited with founding the Free Quakers. Mr. Wetherill's father patented systems that improved the efficiency of coal, smelting and extracting ore. Samuel Price Wetherill owned the Lehigh Zinc Works and was a wholesale manufacturer of paint and drugs. In 1918 Mr. Wetherill purchased the entire holdings of the Grindstone Neck developers: The Gouldsboro Company. A bronze plaque and stone bench at Grindstone Point recognizes Samuel Price Wetherill's dedication to the Grindstone community and its range of recreational options for home owners.

In 1959 a Hollywood screenwriter, John Michael Hayes began living here year-round. Two of the Hayes' four children were born during their years in Winter Harbor. Mr. Hayes' sister had settled in Gouldsboro, when her husband was stationed here in the Navy as a CT. The two families were active in school and local organizations. Films written by Mr. Hayes include: Peyton Place, Butterfield 8 and several Alfred Hitchcock movies. The extensive woodwork and hardwood floors were covered in a

cream paint and carpeting, popular in the times. A partner in Hugh Hefner's Playboy Magazine took ownership in 1969 and a subsequent owner installed 8,000 square feet of royal blue carpeting, which was removed in a restoration by the Crandall family in 1989.



That same blue carpeting was reused in the Masonic Halls and a few Winter Harbor homes. Paint was patiently removed from the splendid wood of the spacious first floor living areas, staircases and ceilings. This classic shingled cottage boasts a porte-cochere with granite columns, coffered ceilings and granite fireplaces flanked with carved Corinthian columns. The third floor provides ample room for ping-pong and pool tables and other recreational space. The Wetherill home was designed with bathrooms for each of the eight bedrooms. Curved windows on two floors provided a workspace for John Hayes' writing with his work table still in place.



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The pantry shines with soft wood, glass and dozens of heavy brass handles, knobs and hinges.



This very fortunate house has yet another generation with childhood roots on Grindstone Point assuming its care this spring. The Wetherill Cottage has stood the test of function for 130 years to serve as a home and respite for its owners. No renovation changed the floor plan, always bright with natural light from large windows framing the ocean and mountain views.

Museum

We invite community members to comment on the future of our building, as the Historical Society board of directors attempts to respond to contractor recommendations that the building is beyond repair. Please make comments to winterharborhistory@gmail.com. WE SINCERELY NEED COMMUNITY INPUT TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR ORGANIZATION. The museum will be open for visits on Saturdays from 1-4pm beginning July 2.

Thank You

Thank you for the generous donations at our annual meeting and viewing of "Schoodic" at Hammond Hall. We especially want to thank Colt Neidhardt and the Schoodic Arts for All staff for sharing their space and popcorn with us.

Program

Historic Walking Tours will be offered July 7, 14 and 28 at 1pm for a \$15 donation. Please email winterharborhistory@gmail.com to reserve a spot.

Winter Harbor Historical Society

President: Diana Young

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Annual Membership Renewals are due every July. Lifetime memberships and Donations are welcome anytime!