

Evolution of CAM Buildings

27 Pleasant Street, Gloucester

CAM
CAPE ANN Museum

A presentation by Bonnie Sontag

Arranged by Bruce Shaw

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DAVIS HOUSE



Photo by Steve Rosenthal, 2014

- Designed & constructed between 1799 and 1804 by housewright Jacob Smith who used Asher Benjamin's *The Builder's Assistant* (1797).
- Its style reflected the prosperity of a sea captain & vessel owner involved in foreign trade.
- Clapboard-covered wood frame construction dominated residential development at this time, known as the Federal Period.

*Decorative quoins
lead up to low-pitch
roof*



Slender doorway



DAVIS HOUSE

- Local Federal stylistic features included:
 - low roof pitch
 - tall, slender doorway with classically-inspired flat columns
 - broken triangular pediment and decorative fan-light over the door, forming an elegant, narrow entrance
 - decorative quoins on side corners (wood blocks carved to look like stone).

DAVIS HOUSE



Addison Gilbert

- Addison Gilbert bequest created the first repository of Cape Ann artwork and objects.
- The Cape Ann Scientific and Literary Association, formed in 1875, used the money to buy the property in 1923.
- With an inheritance from the now-defunct Gloucester Historical Society, the organization added *historical* to its name: Cape Ann Scientific, Literary and Historical Association.
- The building opened to the public in the late 1920s.

ADDITIONAL STRUCTURES ON-SITE:



Photo by Leon Abdalian, c. 1925

- The hooded porch on Pleasant Street was a popular entryway style in Gloucester during the 1870s.
- A two-story addition was built in the post-Civil War period.
- A small barn existed at the rear of the property.

MUSEUM ALTERATIONS

- Interior remodeling to the ground floor created an assembly space.
- Other rooms were repurposed to display artifacts donated to the Association.
- The two-story addition became the caretaker's apartment.



Photo by Leon Abdalian, c. 1925

FIVE EXPANSIONS BETWEEN 1936 AND 2014



} 1936



1968



2001-2



1989 -
1993



2014

Photo by Al Malette, 2020



Federal Street Addition 1936

- The Catalina Davis Fund made the 2-story addition possible.
- It used brick, steel and concrete construction.
- The auditorium on the ground level was named in honor of Lucy Brown Davis.
- The large exhibit hall on the first floor was named in honor of William Fuller Davis, father of Catalina and Lucy.

DAVIS HOUSE CONNECTED TO NEW ADDITION



The structure, entirely separate from the old Davis House, was connected shortly after it was built.

Museum Main Entrance 1936



Archival Photo C.1950

- The new entrance was put in the ell adjacent to the Davis House.
- The entryway retained colonial design:
 - 8-foot pilasters (flat columns) on either side of the door; triangular pediment over the door; plain leaded glass door transom.
- Catalina Davis primarily funded the project, also bequeathing:
 - most Davis family heirlooms
 - an endowment to help sustain the museum in perpetuity.
- The expansion encouraged many new and significant donations and artworks, as well as objects that related to the fishing industry.



Four-Story Addition 1968

- The museum purchased the lot contiguous to the Davis House in 1965.
- It demolished two mid-19c wooden structures, creating space for new construction.
- The new structure was composed of concrete and brick, painted white.
- Arched windows referenced the arches of the nearby City Hall windows.
- Roof and chimneys replicated Davis House style.
- The design contained storage space on ground level and top floor.
- First and second floors became exhibition space.

Four-Story Addition 1968

- The Museum committed to its location in central Gloucester and to the Central Civic District, linking CAM to City Hall, the library, Main Street and the working waterfront.
- The addition spurred more donations, including many Fitz Henry Lane paintings.



PURCHASE OF FEDERAL BUILDING



- In 1989, the Museum acquired the former New England Telephone building on Elm Street.
- The structure had been built in 1917 as Gloucester's first Class-A fire-proof building.



The plan:

- expanded exhibit space
- added an education room
- created more room for library and archives
- developed office space and meeting rooms in the Davis House.

1989 – 1993 RENOVATION



1989 – 1993 RENOVATION

- Both existing buildings had three main levels which didn't correspond structurally.
- A three-story link building resolved the differences.
- An elevator allowed barrier-free access to all parts of the museum.

THE *GREAT REPUBLIC* BEING HOISTED THROUGH THE WALL OF THE NEW ADDITION



- New maritime and fisheries gallery provided a permanent home for many treasures, including the *Great Republic*, a 25-foot-long sloop Howard Blackburn single-handedly sailed across the Atlantic in 1901.
- The Museum made more interior upgrades and renovations in the 1990's and early 2000's, adding three galleries, a remodeled gift shop, and an atrium.

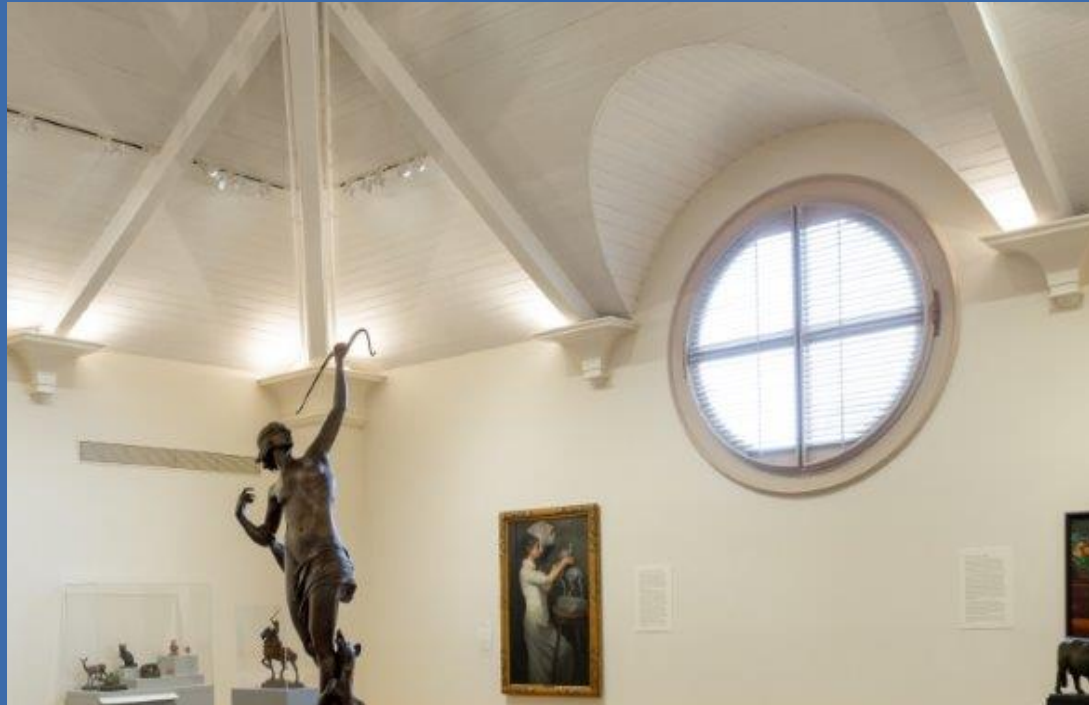


Howard Blackburn

2002 RENOVATIONS INSIDE GALLERIES

Interior view of 2002 gallery with porthole window in “Bird Room”

- Over-scaled architectural details, including massive corner columns, enhance the dramatic quality of the interior space.
- High flaring brackets shine light onto the ceiling.



- Wood-plank ceiling and cross-trusses allude to wooden ship hulls.
- An over-sized porthole “sets a Post-modern accent on this playful construction,” as noted in a travel magazine.

Photo by Al Malette, 2020

OUTDOOR SCULPTURE COURT



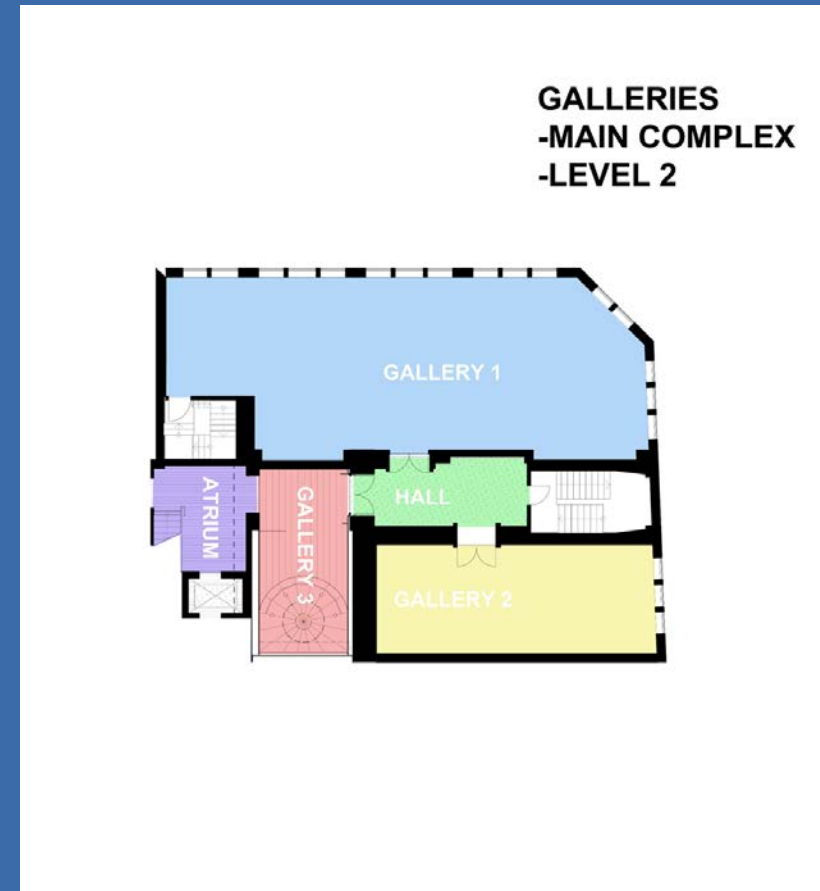
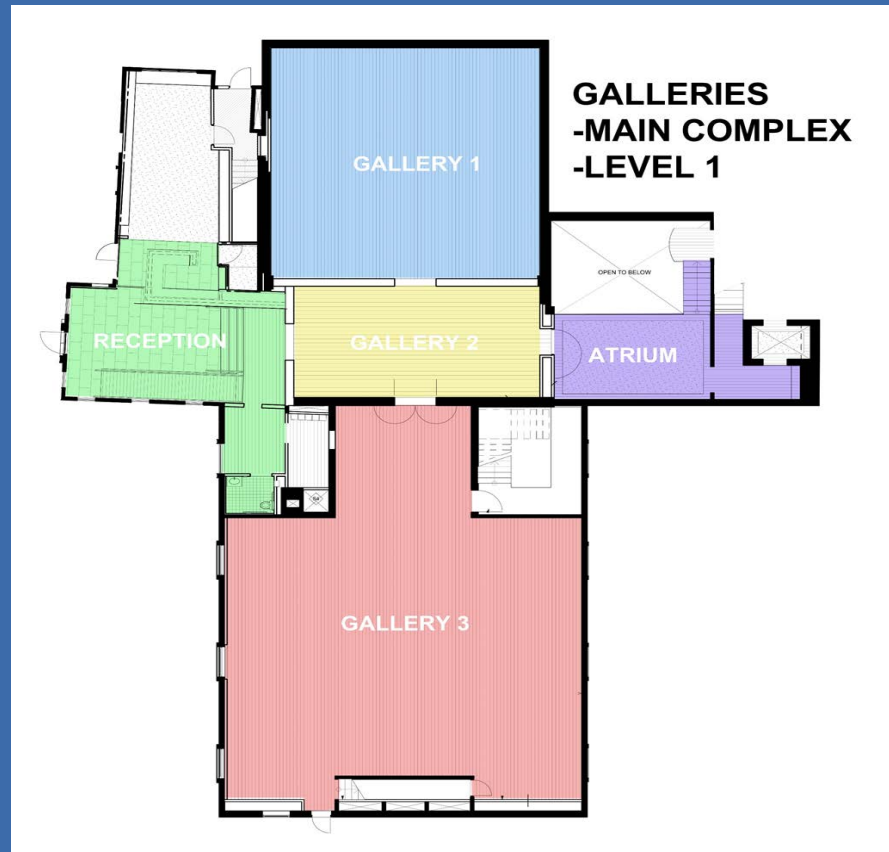
COMPLETED IN 2006, USING CAPE ANN GRANITE



2011 LANDSCAPED PARK AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

- The Museum situated the park on the site of former Moose Lodge across the street from the Museum.
- Rockport artist John Raimondi's bronze sculpture, "Dance of the Cranes," anchors the park.

OCTOBER 2013 – SUMMER 2014 MAJOR INTERIOR REDESIGN



The redesign included a new central gallery where visitors can orient themselves to Cape Ann with the 1879 balloon map and a renovated visitor entrance and shop.



CREATION OF THE FRESNEL LENS GALLERY

Photo by Steve Rosenthal, 2014



Photo by Steve Rosenthal, 2014

Throughout all its growth and expansion, the Cape Ann Museum, which officially adopted this name in 2007, has kept its focus centered on Cape Ann's Art, History, and Culture.