

Community Workshop - Asa Parlin House

Wednesday, June 13

7:30 pm at Acton Town Hall, Faulkner Room

FACT SHEET

Property acquisition

- Purchased by the Town in 1996 for \$300,000
- Portion of the property used to expand library parking lot
- Used briefly as an office and then for storage
 - No funds spent on building maintenance
- Conditions and reuse study performed in 1998
 - No action taken
- CPA funds (\$20,000) approved unanimously at 2011 Town Meeting for reuse feasibility study



Building history

- First occupied at current site in 1861
- Portion of the building dates to late 18th century
- House may have been moved to the site
- Original structure consisted of one room
- Style - vernacular house with Greek Revival elements

Cultural history

- Occupied by Asa Parlin from 1870
 - Merchant and descendant of an Acton founding father
- Occupied by Asaph Parlin (son?) in early 1900s
 - Caretaker at Woodlawn Cemetery

Significance

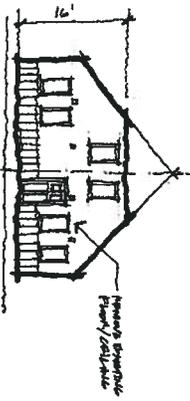
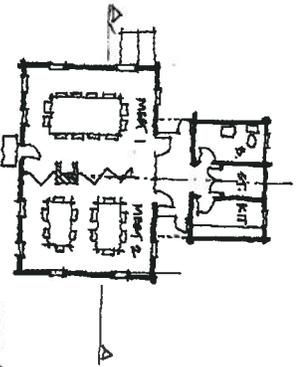
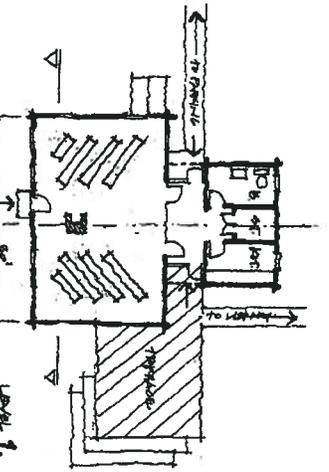
- Example of an increasingly rare vernacular dwelling in its historic location
- Contributing element to Woodbury Lane and Acton Centre Historic District
- Serves as a buffer along the lane, holding the village character
- Associated with one of Acton's early settlers

Disposition options

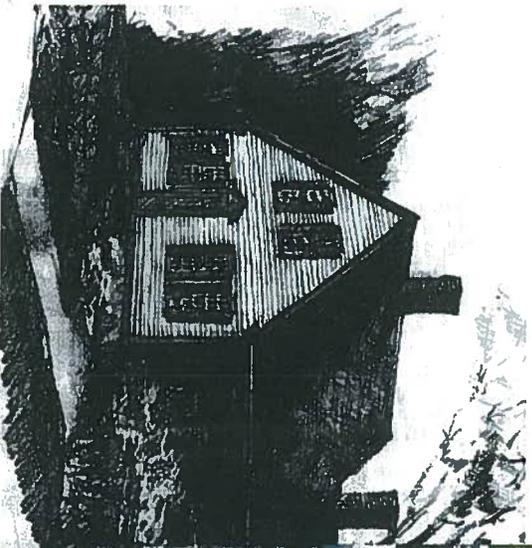
- Raze
- Relocate
- Rehabilitate - remove 20th century additions and renovate for Town meeting space
- Reuse - explore other alternatives

Next steps

- Conduct conditions assessment and feasibility study
- Present findings/recommendations to CPC
- CPC will determine whether to release balance of funding for demolition of non-historic additions and stabilization of building



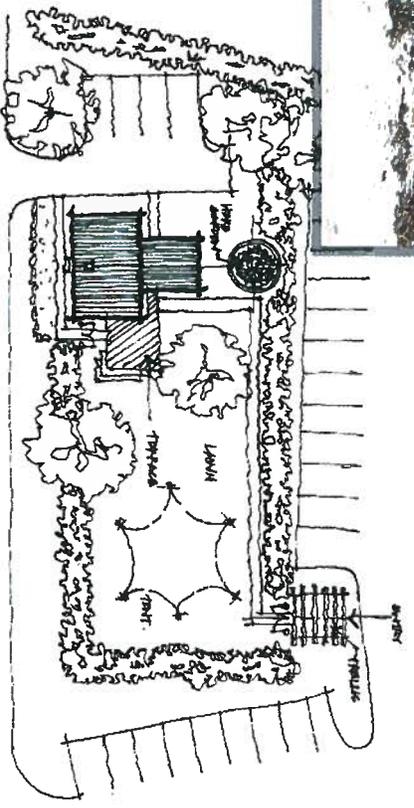
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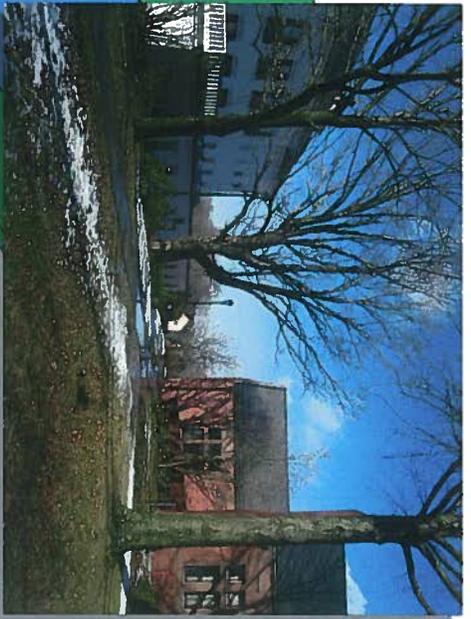
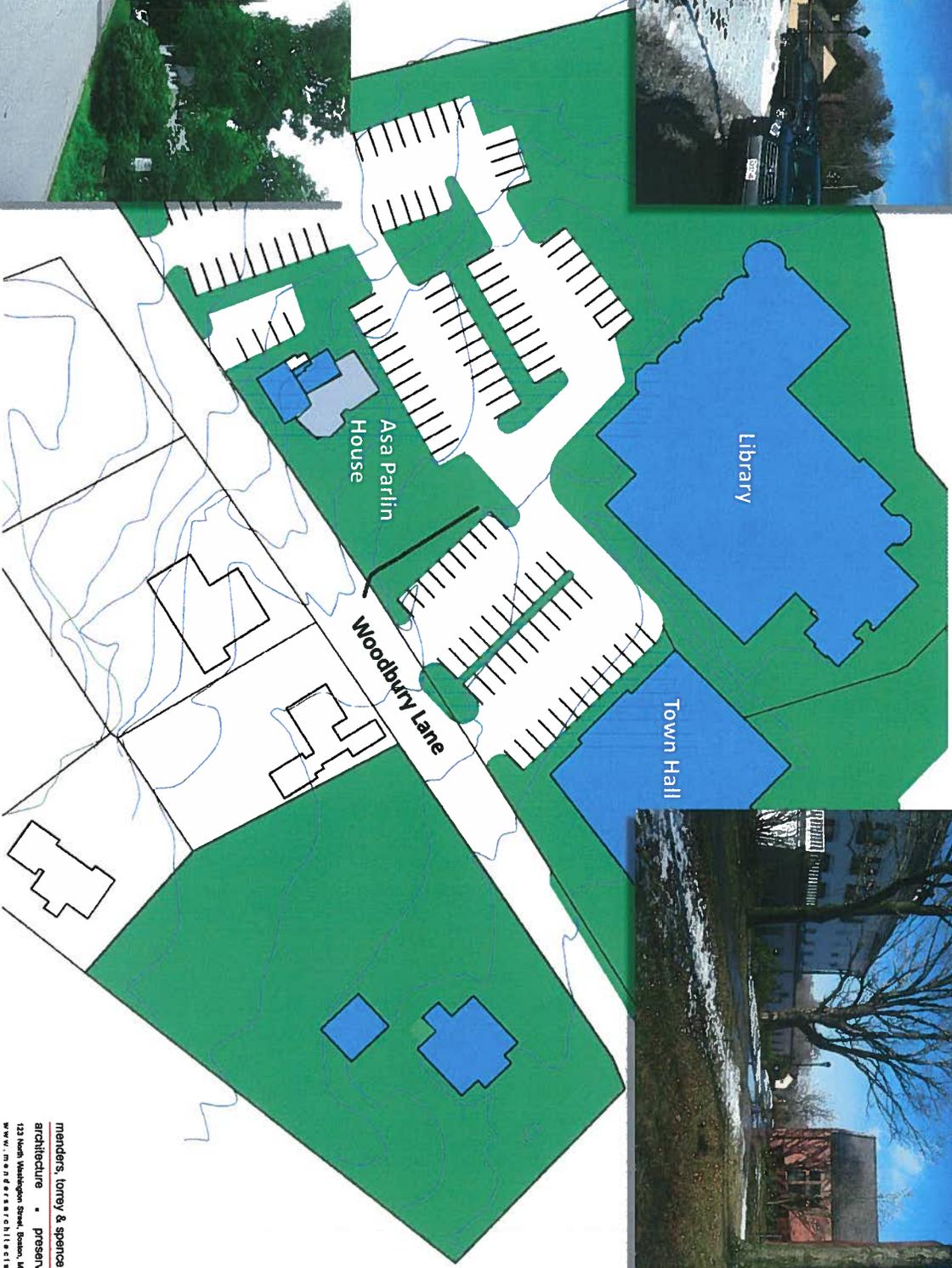
Garden terrace
 New extension with
 breezeway glazed entry,
 kitchenette & WC
 Garden path from
 Town Hall & Memorial
 with hedge screening

Rehabilitation Scenarios

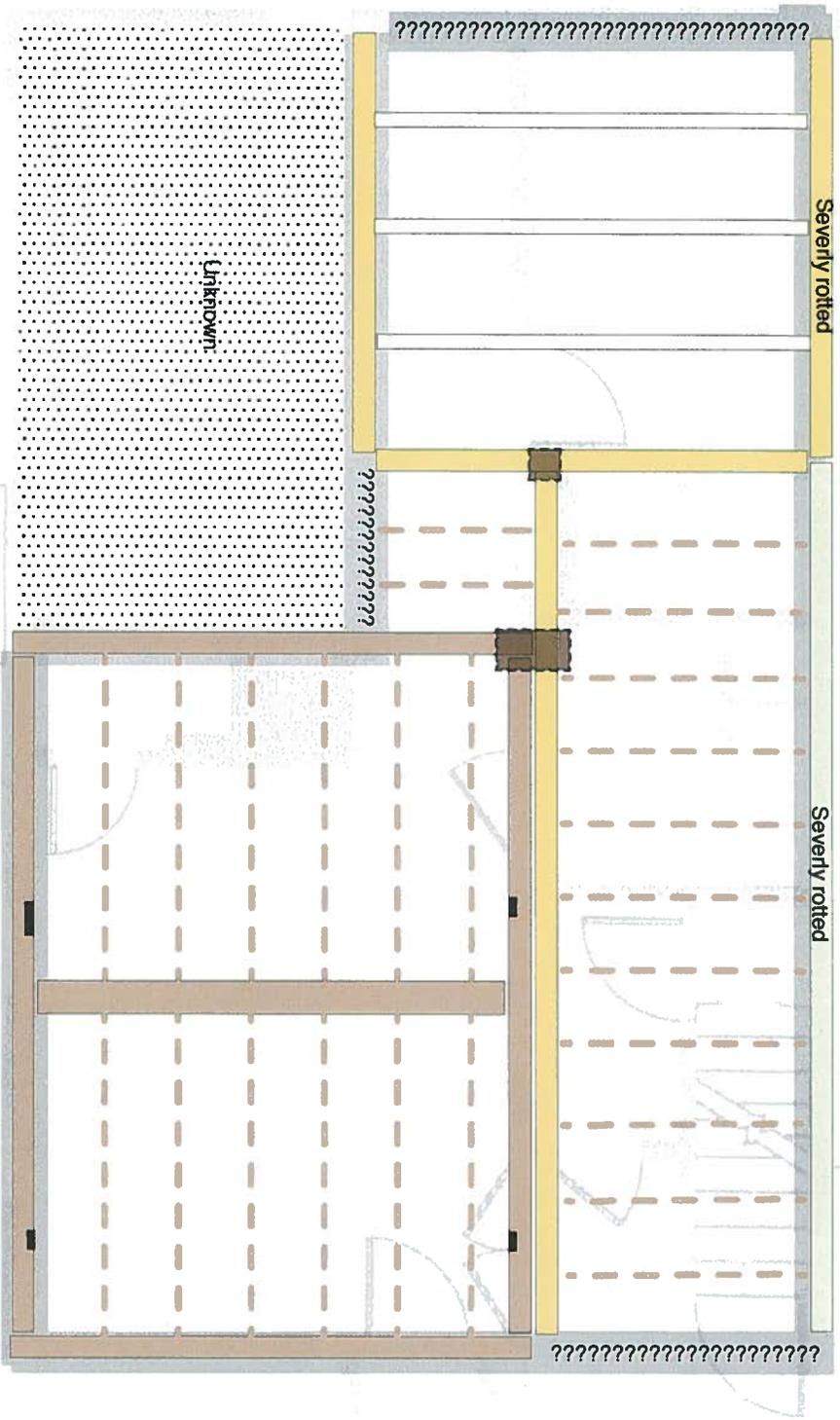
Plans and renderings by:
 William Dickinson
 Nashawtic Architects



Woodsbury, Maine



menders, torrey & spencer, inc.
architecture • preservation
123 North Washington Street, Boston, MA 02114
www.mtsarchitects.com



Asa Parlin House Cellar Frame

- Hewn sill or beam - 18th or early 19th Century (mostly pine or hemlock)
- Slash sawn oak 3x4 joist - 18th or early 19th Century
- Slash sawn sill or beam - early to mid 19th Century (pine ?)
- Half round joist - late 18th or early 19th Century (pine ?)
- Circular sawn sill or beam - Mid 19th to 20th century (pine ?)
- Fieldstone foundation
- Unused open mortise
- Wood post
- Not visible

Photo 3: Detail of south end girt showing two layers of floor joists with the later joist framed into the circular sawn girt to carry the current second floor boards.

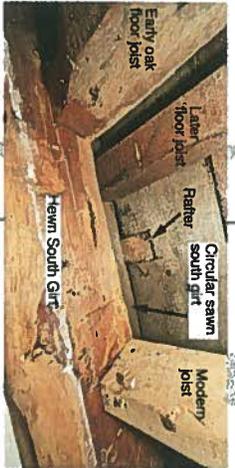
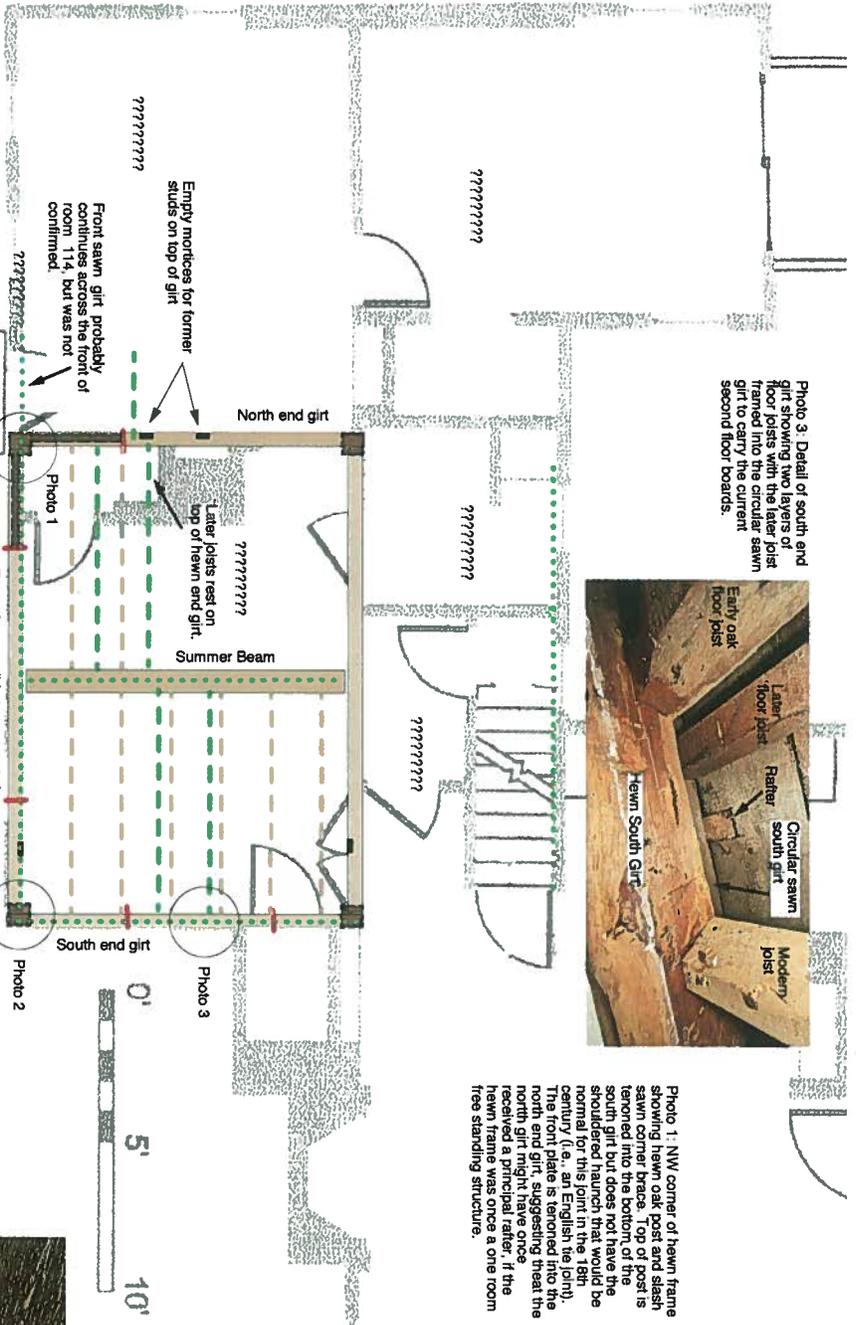


Photo 1: NW corner of hewn frame showing hewn oak post and slash sawn corner brace. Top of post is tenoned into the bottom of the south girt but does not have the shouldered haunch that would be normal for this joint in the 18th century (i.e., an English tie joint). The front plate is tenoned into the north end girt, suggesting that the north end girt might have once been a post. The hewn frame is placed once a one room free standing structure.



VISIBLE EARLY FIRST FLOOR FRAMING

Scale: 1/4" = 1'

NOTE: Circular sawn 5x5 girts and beams are set directly on top of the hewn frame front and south girts and summer beam and have their own joists to carry the second floor boards.

- Hewn girt or beam - 18th or early 19th Century (mostly pine or hemlock)
- Slash sawn oak 3x4 joist set in hewn girts - 18th or early 19th Century
- Slash sawn oak 3x4 corner brace - 18th or early 19th Century
- Pin for corner brace (brace not visible) - 18th or early 19th Century
- Circular sawn girts or beams - Mid 19th to 20th century - probably added with current roof frame (pine?)
- Sawn joists set in circular sawn girts - Mid 19th to 20th century (pine?)
- Unused open mortises
- Hewn post below girt - 18th or early 19th Century (oak)
- Not visible

Photo 2: Circular sawn girts set on top of hewn girts at SW corner of room. Top hewn front plate is framed into the south girt.

