

Historic Preservation Award

The Dover Historical Society celebrates the preservation of houses and land. We are delighted to recognize Becky and Doug Gladstone's home at 46 Farm Street with the Sixth Annual Historic Preservation Award. Known as the Asa Talbot (1816-1910) house, the farm has an illustrious history. Thomas Burr ridge of Newton purchased land in 1759 and settled the 31 acre farm in 1765. The Burr ridge homestead was sold to Simeon and James Mann in 1810 and nine years later Simeon became the sole owner. His property was divided between his two sons, Leland keeping the original homestead, and Willard building a house in 1831, which in 1853 became Asa Talbot's farm. Asa, a cabinetmaker, operated a successful milk business, served as Town sexton, was elected Selectman nine times, and was a Deacon of the First Parish Church. He was the first Dover recipient of the Boston Post Cane, now on display at the Dover Library.

After purchasing the house, three barns, and the only surviving wooden silo in Town in 1999, the Gladstones have made steady progress in renovating their home situated on 2.5 acres. Initial projects included a well, and electrical and septic systems in addition to stabilizing the barn. In 2003 construction transformed the first barn and space above the stables in the second barn into living space. A year later the third barn, which was leaning against the second barn, was raised and the silo received windows and a door. The original house was renovated.



The Gladstone House, 46 Farm Street

Especially noteworthy is the extent of reuse of materials. Tongue and groove boards and bead board from the first barn were relocated. Beams from the third barn were reused as beams and repurposed as a fireplace mantle and handrails on a new stairway. One of the beams has the marking, *Dick White, Dover MA 1887*. Joists from the barn ceiling served as stair treads. Antique glass windowpanes found new life in kitchen cabinets. Wallboards became floors and floorboards were transformed into a kitchen table.

Six years ago, the stables' transformation resulted in exercise and entertainment areas. A terrace was built where the pig stall was thereby keeping a ramp to the back yard and bullpen. Landscaping continues.

For a list of prior Award recipients, please check our website, doverhistoricalsociety.org. It is a pleasure for the Historic Preservation Award Committee, consisting of Jill French, Priscilla Jones, chair, Sara Molyneaux, and Charlotte Surgenor, to consider nominations from the community each year. The Award is presented at the Society's Annual Meeting in March.

Priscilla Pitt Jones
Committee Chair

Save The Date

Sunday, June 5, 2016

**Annual Garden Party
Caryl House and Fisher Barn
107 Dedham Street**

**Period Refreshments will be served
Admission Free**