

284 Christy Hill Road, Sedgwick:

Dennis and Kathleen DeSilvey purchased the Christy Hill property in January of 2004 and named it "Deis de," Gaelic for "halting place or sanctuary." So it is for all who have spent time here. The combination of quiet, views over the field to the ocean, islands, and mountains beyond, and little, if any traffic contribute to the sense of peace encountered here.

The homestead was once the center of a large farm which encompassed either side of the road from the corner with Radar Road all the way to Old County Road, commanding the sweeping views of the ocean and islands, Western Mountain in Acadia National Park, Schoodic Mountain downeast, and the Brooklin Baptist Church steeple, all still visible today. The home was built around 1820 and might be classed as a Federal Cape. It lacks the large, massive central chimney of earlier cape style homes and the architectural distinctness of those built during the Greek Revival era. It is clearly evidence of the cape style in transition. It would have been one of the most "modern" houses in town at the time of its construction, for it featured Rumford fireplaces and flues which were shallower and less bulky than the earlier colonial ones. The Rumford fireplaces threw more heat into the room and less up the chimney while cutting down on the massive bulk of a central chimney, thereby allowing a central staircase. Another delight in this home is the abundance of natural light from the many windows, many of which are new Marvin clad windows. These windows allow summer sea breezes on the hilltop to cool the house and provide a connection to the natural environment not available in many older homes.

The most recent addition to the homestead is the adjacent four-season studio and garage built by the husband of the previous owner who is an artist and printer. In the office, he built in a drafting table and shelving and drawers for his prints and drawings. The current owners also added a second telephone line for dedicated internet use in the office as well as the downstairs master bedroom.

The renovations the DeSilveys undertook have allowed the antique cape to become an efficient year round home. (See attached.) The DeSilveys were helped immeasurably by architect, Mike Sealander, of Brooklin and David and Victor Gillen of Sedgwick. Victor continues to help out whenever needed and has served as the winter caretaker for the property, as well as for other properties in the area.

284 Christy Hill Road, Sedgwick, Maine.

Chronological List of Renovations:

Spring 2004: *Interior:*

- Kitchen renovation: Sealander Studio, Brooklin, Me, architects  
Gillen Brothers, contractors
- Removal of old range, wall and doorway, installation of new door and window, new oak counters to right of sink, new cupboards on kitchen wall, painting throughout
- New dishwasher, microwave/vent, refrigerator, and range
- Foundation stabilization, shoring up of foundation throughout, especially under front door, installation of new flooring
- Setting for well stabilized and reburied to proper depth below freezing (Peasley Plumbing)

*Exterior:*

- Upgrading of plantings throughout

Summer 2004: *Exterior:*

- New gutters installed in front of house
- New Eagle front door with transom, weatherproofing door entry below and new Eagle kitchen wing door

*Studio:*

- New window installed in studio office

*Interior:*

Living room:

- Removal of old inefficient propane heater in living room and installation of new lined chimney in flue; installation of Harman Stove (Sunrise, Bangor) in new flue-Eddy Jordan, chimney sweep.

Bathroom:

- New washer and dryer installed
- Installation of new windows and woodwork in bathroom and painting of walls and woodwork
- Installation of bathroom wall light and wall fan/vent
- New Toto toilet and new tub surround and showerhead installed
- Sink faucet replaced

Electric:

- Upgrading of electrical service throughout. Installation of exterior lights; installation of electric back-up heater in kitchen wall and wall light in master bedroom (Chris Joyce of Stinson Services, Stonington)
- Installation of second phone line for Internet use.

Winter 2004-2005:

Heating:

- Installation of new propane furnace and ducting by Gary's Fuel of Penobscot

Electrical

- Installation of new lighting in basement

Summer 2005:

*Exterior:*

- Replacement of windows and siding in front of kitchen; replacement of side windows in master bedroom. Marvin clad wooden windows
- Replacement of doors and siding and timbers in studio.
- Installation of window in place of door in studio office.
- Replacement of shingles on dormers in home
- Entire home (but for shed) primed and repainted. Studio woodwork primed and repainted
- Excavation to locate basement drain. Replaced where needed and recovered.
- First floor storm/screens installed on all but Marvin windows

*Interior:*

- Removal of non-functioning propane heater in master bedroom. Patching of wall.

Winter 2005-2006

*Interior:*

- Enclosure and resupport of back hall stairway.
- New lighting for same
- Recreating doorway between bathroom and master bedroom
- Enclosure of front hall closet in tongue and groove pine; new light in same and on hallway wall.

*Exterior:*

- Flashing fixed around kitchen chimney

*Studio:*

- Installation of tongue and groove pine walls; installation of workshop in one corner

Spring 2006

*Studio:*

- Installation of new Rennai propane unit in studio to replace inefficient propane one.

*Exterior:*

- New gutter installed on rear of home

Addendum: 2007-2008 renovations

1. Replacement of old non-functional door in living room with new Anderson French door.
2. Replacement of clapboards on rear of house by new door.
3. House roof shingles replaced with architectural shingles and boards replaced as needed.
4. January 2008 - installation of Vermont Castings gas parlor stove in family room.
5. Chicken coop constructed
6. Woods cleared near house.
7. Winter 2008 - New interior paint
8. Spring 2008 - Installation of new wall at north side of shed.