

# THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Vol. No. XXXVIII



Fall, 2007



*This photograph shows the tavern about 1890, when it was a private home owned by the Jones family. The porch across the front and east elevations was probably added about mid-century. Theodore Jones ran a carriage painting and trimming business in the barn. Note the picket fence and elm trees in front. (Photo courtesy of the Weston Historical Society)*

## **250-Year-Old Josiah Smith Tavern Gets a Birthday Facelift**

The 1757 Josiah Smith Tavern turned 250 years old this year, and what better gift to a Weston landmark than a much-needed exterior restoration. During the spring and summer, construction and painting crews replaced rotted wood elements throughout the complex, removed and repaired most of the windows, replaced the aging asphalt roof with wood shingles, and repainted the house, barn, and connector. New shutters were manufactured to match existing examples. The project was paid for with Community Preservation Act funds.

## **Josiah Smith Tavern: A Time Line**

1756: Josiah Smith purchases the land from Joseph Bigelow Jr. (1)

1757: Original five-bay section of the tavern is constructed. (2)

1782: Death of Josiah Smith. His son Joel Smith (1749-1817) takes over as landlord.

c. 1805: Approximate date for addition of east rooms and meeting hall (ballroom). (3)

1817: Death of Joel Smith. His son-in-law, George Washington Pierce, takes over as landlord.

1828: Purchase by "Col" Russell Wood of Taunton. (4) J. T. Macomber is acting landlord.

1838: Russell Wood sells to Josiah Warren. (5) The tavern business ends.

1842: Josiah Warren sells to brothers Marshall and John Jones. (6)

1901: Theodore Jones, son of John Jones, deeds one undivided third of the house and eleven acres to his daughters Alice and Ellen. (7)

1947: Death of Alice Elizabeth Jones (8)

1950: Death of Ellen Marion Jones (9)

1950-51: SPNEA (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, now Historic New England) inherits the property and leases it to the town for a 20-year renewable period.

1952-53: Renovation includes removal of porch and restoration of windows in original five-bay section. Two rooms are renovated for the Women's Community League Children's Exchange.

1972: The Weston Historical Commission asks the selectmen to change the sign at the Jones House to read Josiah Smith Tavern and requests organizations using the building to refer to it by that name.

Mid-1970s: The Women's Community League renovates the barn for its headquarters.

1983: SPNEA sells the property to the town for \$48,542 and transfers the \$97,084 endowment.

2007: The exterior is restored at an approximate cost of \$480,000, using Community Preservation Act funds. A town committee continues to work on plans for reuse.

Timeline Sources:

- (1) Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Book 54, page 518, December 1756. Smith paid 20 pounds for a triangular piece of land. The following year, Smith purchased an additional 20 acres from Bigelow for 50 pounds.
- (2) The date 1757 appears in Daniel S. Lamson's *History of the Town of Weston*, p.65. As his source, Lamson cites the Natick Historical Records by Horace Mann, Esq.
- (3) See discussion in this article as to why the much-quoted date of c. 1763 is inaccurate
- (4) Book 283, page 165. Isaac Fiske Esq. to Russell Wood of Taunton, gentleman, 14 acres for \$2400 "being the tavern stand with all the land formerly belonging to Washington Pierce," July 1828.
- (5) Book 372, page 286, Russell Wood, gentleman, to Josiah Warren, yeoman, \$2600 for 13 acres, April 1838, no specific mention of the tavern
- (6) Book 415, page 144, Josiah Warren to Marshall Jones, gentleman, and John Jones, Esq., \$2000 for 11 acres, April 1842.
- (7) Book 2894, page 23
- (8) Middlesex Probate 280645
- (9) Middlesex Probate 298510

Credit for the exterior transformation goes to the Josiah Smith Tavern Committee, initially formed in 2003. Original members included Chairman John Sallay, Al Aydelott, Irvonne Moran, Dennis Saylor, and Henry Stone, with liaisons Sharon Dornbush and George Amadon. The initial work of stabilizing the building included fixing leaks, removing overgrown trees, and dealing with insect damage. The pipes burst in the winter of 2002-03, leaving the building without heat for several years, until the installation of a temporary heating system in 2005. The building still lacks running water and toilet facilities.

Because the Old Library proved to be integral to the planning process, the committee was reconstituted in 2007 as the Josiah Smith Tavern/Old Library (JST/OL) Committee and now consists of seven members. Al Aydelott, Irvonne Moran, Henry Stone, and Andy Marvel have been actively involved for several years and are credited with arranging and supervising the exterior restoration. The selectmen recently appointed three new members: Cornelius Chapman, Peter Nichols, and Pam Swain, along with Carol Snow as the Weston Historical Society representative. The consulting architect for the restoration was Roger Panek. The town's Director of Facilities, Gerry McCarty, was also instrumental in the successful completion of the exterior work, which was done by Langton & Douglas Contracting, Inc.

The color combination of off-white with dark green window sash, shutters, and doors was chosen because the building we see today reached its present size and configuration in the mid-19th century. At that time, it was almost certainly painted white with dark green or black trim, a favorite color scheme embraced by entire New England villages. In choosing colors, the JST/OL Committee and Weston Historical Commission consulted with Historic New England. They also examined late-19th-century photographs in the collection of the Weston Historical Society, all of

which show the complex painted white. Historically, white paint was not as bright as the modern version, which is why a yellow-white was chosen.

In 2007, the new JST/OL Committee was charged with evaluating the financial, physical, and legal implications of active reuse for both the tavern and library. The committee is exploring the idea of returning the tavern to one of its original uses, as a restaurant, perhaps specializing in dishes made with locally grown ingredients. Town Meeting approval would be required for rezoning, allowing a liquor license, and funding improvements to the interior. Current proposals call for the Women's Community League to be moved to the main floor of the Old Library and the Historical Society and Historical Commission to become part of a "Weston History Center and Archives" to be located in the former children's reading room and basement storage area.

### *Early History of the Tavern*

The tavern was built in 1757 by Josiah Smith (1722-1782), fourth child of William and Mary Smith, whose home still stands at 111 Sudbury Road. Josiah was a prominent citizen of Weston who held many important town offices including Justice of the Peace, Town Clerk (1768-69),



Selectman (1766-1769, 1771-1775, 1777-1779), Delegate to the Provincial Congress in Concord (1774), and Representative (1779 and 1781). In his book *History of the Town of Weston, Massachusetts, 1630-1890*, Col. Daniel S. Lamson called Josiah's tavern "one of the most noted between Boston and Worcester." Lamson writes that, because Boston Post Road was the most important early route from Boston

*Gathering for their weekly inspection of the exterior restoration are (l-r) Roger Panek, architect for the project; Henry Stone, Al Aydelott, and Andy Marvel, members of the Josiah Smith Tavern and Old Library Committee; and Gerry McCarty, Director of Facilities for the Town of Weston. (Photo by Pamela W. Fox).*

to New York and Philadelphia, “There were few houses of any importance in all these years that had not first or last served as taverns. It was the most profitable business of all country towns along the main arteries of travel.” (p. 190)

The tavern was not Josiah Smith’s only financial asset. In 1768, a detailed tax valuation list shows Smith as owning three dwelling houses, 2 horses, 2 oxen, 4 cows, 35 acres of pasturage, 12 acres of tillage land, and 40 acres of mowing land, which, along with his crop yields, gave him an robust real estate assessment of 75 pounds.

A much-repeated but apocryphal Revolutionary War story tells of a British spy, John Howe, who stopped at the Smith Tavern on his way to Worcester. He was questioned by the suspicious owner and then directed to the Golden Ball Tavern, where tavern keeper Isaac Jones was known to be a Tory sympathizer. Lamson was just one of many Weston historians who embraced this spy legend, first published in 1827 in Concord New Hampshire by Luther Roby under the title “A Journal Kept by Mr. John Howe While employed as a British Spy.” Lamson’s history includes a lengthy quote from Roby’s account.

The authentic version of the same spy story was written in 1775 and printed in 1779 as “General Gage’s Instructions” and “Narrative of Occurrences.” It was reprinted in 1816 as part of the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Vol. IV of the Second Series. In it, there is no mention of any Weston tavern other than the Golden Ball, where the three spies, Ensign De Berniere, Captain Brown, and their man “John” found Isaac Jones to be “a friend to government.” Researchers at the Golden Ball Tavern Museum have suggested that in 1827, the 50th anniversary of the end of the War of Independence, rampant plagiarists created historical legends only loosely based on fact.

### ***Joel Smith Enlarges the Tavern, c. 1805***

When Joel Smith took over after his father’s death in 1782, the tavern had not been enlarged. It was still five bays across the front, with a center entrance and a center chimney. About 1805, Joel doubled the square footage. On the east side, he added a parlor, taproom with brick-paved bar, dining room, and shed kitchen on the first floor, along with a large second floor meeting hall with a high curved ceiling. The interior detailing on the new addition features typical Federal-style mantels, whereas most rooms in the original building have Georgian raised-field paneling on the fireplace wall.

The date of this addition has been incorrectly cited as 1763. Despite the clear stylistic differences, the incorrect date occurs repeatedly in timelines and building histories found in files of both the Weston Historical Society and Weston Historical Commission, most written by Weston teacher and historian Emma Ripley. [Author’s Note: I regret that I repeated this information in my book *Farm Town to Suburb*. It is a lesson in the pitfalls of trusting authoritative-looking typewritten and printed records that repeat the same error over and over.]

Using information from the Direct Tax of 1798, a Federal tax valuation book unearthed in the vault of Town Hall, it is possible to prove conclusively that the addition dates after 1798. This census, the only one of its kind ever conducted by the federal government, recorded building details that collectively determined the value of a house at that time, including square footage, number of windows, and even square footage of glass, since large windows would have been more desirable and more expensive than smaller ones.

According to the 1798 valuation, Joel's tavern had a footprint of 1248 square feet. The 28 windows had a total of 233 square feet of glass. The original five-bay section of the tavern measures approximately 40 feet wide and 31+ feet deep, for a total footprint matching the valuation. This original section of the house would have had nine windows on the front façade, seven on the west side, seven on the east side (now altered) and five at the rear, for a total of 28. A major increase in real estate taxes from \$200 in 1804 to \$325 in 1805 suggests that the addition was completed that year.

In 1798, the tavern valuation was \$1200, making it the seventh most valuable building in the town. The following residents owned dwelling houses valued at an equal or higher amount: Artemus Ward (\$2000, 543 Boston Post Rd); Thomas Marshall (\$1600, 22 Church St, built by Elisha Jones, originally located on Highland St); Robert Calef (\$1600); Isaac Jones (\$1500, Golden Ball Tavern); John Flagg (\$1500, once stood at 725 Boston Post Rd); John Derby (\$1200, once stood at 89 Wellesley St), and Enoch Greenleaf (\$1200, 787 Boston Post Rd).

After Joel died in 1817, his son-in-law, George Washington Pierce, took over the business. Sometime in the early 19th century, George W. Bigelow opened a store in the west end of the house, but this closed with the coming of the railroads. (Lamson, p. 155)

### *Stage Coach Travel and Tavern Life*

In his history of Weston, Lamson includes the following quote from "President Quincy" [Editor's note: perhaps Harvard University President Josiah Quincy] describing a journey by stagecoach from Boston to New York City:

Middlesex C.  
To the Select-Men of the Town of *Weston*  
GENTLEMEN,  
**T**HIS contains the Names of the Persons  
licenced in your Town the last Year, viz.

*Samuel Baldwin*  
*Theo. Mansfield*  
*Josh. Bullard*  
*Jos. Smith* } Innholders  
  
*Abm. Gale*  
*James Jones* } Retailers

THE Time for renewing Licences for this present Year will be on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> Day of September next, at Concord, when and where you are desired to make Return hereof with the Names of the Persons approbated by you.

And by Order of the Court of Sessions, it's expected of you whenever you shall judge meet to approve of any new Taverner or Retailer in your Town, you do recommend him as a Person of sober Conversation, suitably qualified and provided for the Exercise of such an Employment, agreeable to Law.

Cambridge, May 17 67.

*Thos. Marshall*

Towns were required to make an annual report listing the names of persons licensed to sell alcohol either as innholders or retailers. Josiah Smith (whose name is incorrectly abbreviated), is listed in this 1761 application.

The carriages were old, and the shackling and much of the harness made of rope. One pair of horses took the coach eighteen miles. Stopping-places for the night were reached at ten o'clock, and passengers were aroused between two and three in the morning, by the light of a farthing candle. Sometimes they were obligated to get out of the coach to help get it out of a quagmire or rut. They arrived at New York after a week's hard traveling, but wondering at the ease as well as the expedition with which the journey was effected." (Lamson, p. 186-187)

In addition to serving travelers and selling spirits, taverns were a popular venue for card games, which, according to Lamson, were common among rich and poor, young and old alike (p.191). Crusades against drinking and card-playing intensified around 1830 and resulted in the first stringent laws against selling alcohol, instituted in 1838. Because of increasing anti-gambling sentiment, taverns and public houses had to devise ways to conceal still-popular games of chance. Lamson describes such a hideaway:

"... there existed in the attic of Joel Smith's tavern a concealed room, not easily discovered by the uninitiated, in which was a table covered with a green baize cloth, where card-playing was continued as long as the house was a tavern. If report is true, the degenerate sons of early Bible-loving Christians were in the habit of resorting to this unhallowed spot even on the Lord's Day, and, while within reach of the preacher's voice across the way, would deal around the damning cards, now and again seeking to drown their quickening consciences in free potations of rum and sugar. While the names of some of these Sabbath-breakers are familiar to our people, suffice it to say, as a consolation to those who have forsaken the Calvinism of Dr. Watts or the strict letter of the Westminster Catechism, that many of those so unmindful of the ordinances of religion and propriety were, in after-life, overtaken with great worldly prosperity. (p. 192)

*This undated photograph is probably the earliest image of the tavern. Notice the shape of the vehicle opening in the connector. (Photo courtesy of the Weston Historical Society.*



Lamson points out the loss to the community of the convivial atmosphere of the taverns. In his history, he laments: "It is deeply regretted that much of the jovial and social life within these taverns has not been handed down to us." (p. 191).

### *The Tavern Era Comes to a Close*

The Smith Tavern ceased operation in 1838 and was sold to Josiah Warren. The decline of the once-widespread tavern business in Weston and neighboring towns was due not only to temperance and anti-gambling efforts but also to the decline in stagecoach travel. The opening in 1810 of the Worcester Turnpike (now Route 9) through Wellesley reduced traffic through Weston. By the 1830s, competition from steamboats and railroads was seriously damaging the profitability of all stage coach routes.

Even after its conversion into a dwelling, the second floor meeting hall (today referred to as the ballroom) continued to serve a number of public uses. In 1838, Andrew Dunn ran a school there, probably the equivalent of a private high school, attended by about 50 students of both sexes. The charge was three dollars for the "common course" and four dollars for "higher English and Latin." (Lamson, 170). The hall was used for Town Meeting from 1840 to 1847. Before that date, public meetings were held in the First Parish Meeting House, but between 1840, when the church built a new building, and 1847, when the first Town Hall was built, the former tavern proved to be a convenient location. A lease was drawn up in 1843 for a five-year term at \$30 a year. (Lamson, 133). Public dances were also held in the hall.

In 1842, the former tavern was sold to brothers John and Marshall Jones, who owned a prosperous paint and harness-making business in the town center and were men of considerable wealth. John's son Theodore painted and trimmed carriages in the barn. According to one account, carriages from the paint and varnish rooms were rolled out through wide doors to dry in the sun on a great platform overlooking the southern meadows, well away from the dust of the road.

We do not know whether it was the Joneses or an earlier owner who added the porch along the front and east side of the building. The fact that the support posts are metal suggests a date after mid-century. The porch appears in all known photographs. The elm trees and picket fencing that appear in late 19th photographs are testimony to the success of the Village Improvement Society, which advocated for attractive fencing and the planting of street trees.

Theodore Jones inherited the house and lived there with his two unmarried daughters, Alice and Ellen. Brenton H. Dickson III penned this description of the "Jones girls" in *Once Upon a Pung*:

Miss Ellen was the plumper of the two. She was quiet and shy and wore dark-rimmed spectacles which made her look more severe than she really was. Alice, on the other hand, was small and lively and wore light-rimmed spectacles behind which there was a perpetual twinkle. She was an extrovert and more than made up for her sister's opposite traits. She seemed to be everywhere." (Dickson, p. 5-6)

Alice was involved in nearly every civic and social event in town, and, according to Dickson, “those in town who didn’t know her could be counted on the fingers on one hand.”



*Theodore Jones painted and trimmed carriages in the barn next to his house. He also made harnesses and sold fire insurance. Notice the water pump at left in this early 1890s photo. (Courtesy of Weston Historical Society)*

### ***The Jones Sisters Leave the Property to SPNEA***

Alice Jones died in 1947 and her sister Ellen in 1950, at age 92. They left the house (often referred to as “the Jones House”) and its contents to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, now Historic New England. In the words of Ellen’s will: “I desire to have the house held by [SPNEA] without material alterations as an historic building in said Town. . .” They also left the contents of the house, including furniture, and an endowment of \$41,000, which was not sufficient for restoration and maintenance. SPNEA looked around for local help.

Historic New England has microfilm reports on the house beginning about 1951. That year, R.D. Kingsbury wrote: “The series of structures known as the Jones Tavern were so staunchly put together at their various periods, that, in spite of poor recent upkeep, the building is still keeping out the weather, and resisting rot, and insect attack, to an unusual degree for its age.” He urged immediate attention to the few exceptions, regardless of plans for future use. The Women’s Community League appointed a committee headed by Mrs. Homer Sweet to work with the selectmen to investigate how the League could help save the Jones house for the use of the town or its organizations.

A full account of this involvement is found in “A Summary of the Minutes of the Women’s Community League of Weston, 1919-1953,” in a section called “The Jones House: Report on



*Photographs of the Jones family and neighbors, c. 1891-92, (lower left photo, l-r) Emma L. Cutting, Ellen M. Jones, Harriet F. Stimpson, John Jones, Jr., Theodore Jones, and Alice E. Jones. (Courtesy of the Weston Historical Society.*

Progress of Restoration to the Women's Community League Annual Meeting, May 14, 1952." The author, Mary Elizabeth Winsor, wrote: "There were rumors that an institution wished to buy the place, or that it would be torn down and sold for shops or a housing development unless the Town, or other 'responsible organization' took over." With memories still fresh of Cutting's General Store pulled down for a parking lot and the Lamson House being replaced by McManus's ice-cream parlor (now Eaton's Drugstore), this seemed a project well suited to the interests of the Community League. Winsor added: "We had Mr. [Harold] Willis' word for it that it would be 'little short of a crime if this last authentic Colonial building on the Town Green were destroyed.'" The Community League also needed a home for its children's clothing exchange,

which had been started in 1935 in the basement of Town Hall and functioned under the War Economy Division during World War II.

SPNEA took out a mortgage in the amount that could be paid off from the interest on the \$41,000 endowment, with the mortgage money to be applied to structural repair, restoration of the ballroom and Historical Committee rooms, and then to other renovation. A Tavern Committee was appointed, with William R. Dewey Jr., the Selectmen appointee; Bertram K. Little, Director of SPNEA; and Charles O. Richardson, a civic-minded Weston resident. According to Mrs. Winsor's account "There followed days of endless inspection trips and measurements, conferences with contractors and interested organizations—etc—with all the usual complications plus added ones because of plural responsibility and varying interests." She recalled the construction scene:

I shall never forget my first trip from attic to cellar: workmen were busily ripping up flooring, but the old tin "hat tub" still hung ready on its nail in the shed; an authentic close-wired hoop-skirt lay thrown over a bed; drawers spilled out old photographs and records. In the attic with its tiny fireplace was a hidden room where the men played poker of (sic) a Sunday morning; under the eaves lay the kerosene chandeliers of the former ballroom; and never have I seen gathered together under one roof so many little inlaid boxes, ancient trunks—and bedroom utensils!

The Women's Community League reluctantly concluded that the Jones House would not make a good headquarters because the barn was too small for its larger meetings and too costly to heat and furnish. But the Children's Exchange (the original Clothing Exchange) was installed in the dining room and "shed kitchen," where clothes did not have to be put away at days end.

The early 1950s restoration effort was under the supervision of Roy W. Baker of Antrium, New Hampshire, a restoration contractor who also had the title of Supervisor of Properties for SPNEA. Among other buildings, Baker also supervised work at the Dole Little House in Newbury and the Whipple House in Ipswich.

Renovation work came to an abrupt halt because of money issues. \$8000 had been allocated, \$15,000 had been spent, and SPNEA was unwilling to provide additional funds. Charles Richardson contributed \$2000 for the historical committee rooms. Harold Willis was providing his architectural services at no cost and others were volunteering or working at cost. In 1952, the WCL board voted \$2000 for the restoration fund. Still more money was needed just to complete the house restoration, with nothing done to the barn or ell. Town fathers were reluctant to spend taxpayers money because of possible administrative or legal difficulties, and because post-war growth was straining the town's resources.

Instead, a fund-raising committee was formed under the leadership of John Brooks. All town residents were asked to contribute what they could to preserve a significant historical monument, keep the Town Green unspoiled, and provide a center for town activities including committee rooms, party rooms, work rooms, archives for the historical committee, and a home for the Children's Exchange. The goal of \$15,000 was not reached, and the money was later raised through Town Meeting vote.

## *1950s Architectural Changes*

Changes made in the tavern during the 1952 restoration demonstrate a preservation philosophy based on removing 19th century accretions and returning the building to its Colonial roots. The most important such change was the removal of part of the porch. SPNEA correspondence suggests that removal of the porch in front of the original five-bay tavern was a position advocated by the town. In a letter from SPNEA Director Bertram K. Little to Roy Baker, he writes “In general, I find that the two other members of the Tavern Committee (Messrs. Richardson and Dewey) are now favoring the removal of the porch and believe that the Town opinion supports them. It looks as if decision might have to be based on the differences in costs between fixing it up properly as it is now and its complete removal.” (Letter of Nov. 30, 1951) The original thought was to remove the porch across the entire front. In a letter of January 29, 1952, local architect Harold Willis advocates for this position, saying”...as an architect, I lean towards a solution which, in my opinion, gives a building greater interest from near to and also as seen from distant points across the Common, which, in my humble opinion, is the omission of the porch from the front.” Willis did two sets of drawings showing removal of all or part of the front porch. A bay window on the east side projecting onto the porch was also removed, along with a small vestibule at the south end of the porch. Both Baker and Willis recommended that the shutters not be replaced because of expense and because shutters “would not necessarily be authentic for the Revolutionary period.” A false door on the north side of the building was removed and a window moved into its location.

The following summary of the work appears in the summer issue of the SPNEA journal, *Old Time New England*. This report gives details of the restoration and confirms that the Weston Historical Committee had been given the use of the west end of the house and the attached shed:

As the project progressed, it became possible to include some interesting and satisfying restoration work, such as matching original woodwork colors throughout and plaster colors in the eighteenth-century entrance hall and the ballroom, matching early window sash and glass, and bringing the second kitchen back to its early nineteenth-century appearance. A careful sorting of all furniture and furnishings was made by members of the house committee prior to release of any contents for sale for the benefit of the endowment fund. A thorough perusal of all memorabilia and documentary material is being made by members and friends of the town’s Historical Committee. Anything of interest or value will be added to the collections which are to be kept for study, reference and exhibition in the western end of the house and the early shed attached to it. (Serial #153, July-Sept.1953)

## *Town of Weston Leases, then Purchases the Tavern*

From 1951 to 1983, the Town of Weston leased the building from SPNEA and used it for meetings and as the location of the Park and Cemetery office. The Women’s Community League redid the barn in the mid-1970s and made it their headquarters. With the founding of the Weston Historical Society in 1963, the town-appointed Weston Historical Committee and the new private

*In 1952, Weston resident Harold B. Willis, architect with the Boston firm of Collens, Willis and Beckonert, drew two sets of elevations for the exterior renovation of the tavern. In this version, the porch was removed from across the entire front facade. The alternate scheme, which was adopted, removed the porch only in front of the original five bays. (Courtesy of the Weston Historical Society)*



non-profit society appear to have essentially merged, although no formal agreement was made. (See separate article in this issue).

SPNEA sold the former tavern to the Town of Weston in 1983 with preservation restrictions designed to preserve the important architectural elements of the building and preserve its contribution to the Weston town center. The building came with a small endowment fund. As of June 2003, the principal was \$146,168.

Terms of the restrictions run with the land for 500 years. The exterior cannot be altered without written permission from SPNEA (now Historic New England). Certain interior portions of the premises cannot be altered without written permission, including all woodwork, all structural members, interior beams and framing, and the plaster coving in the ballroom. The terms also include specifications about additions and other site changes.

*by Pamela W. Fox*

*The author would like to thank Marisa Morra, co-chair of the Weston Historical Commission, for her analysis of the 1798 Direct Tax and other tax records. Marisa was also instrumental in choosing new colors for the tavern exterior.*