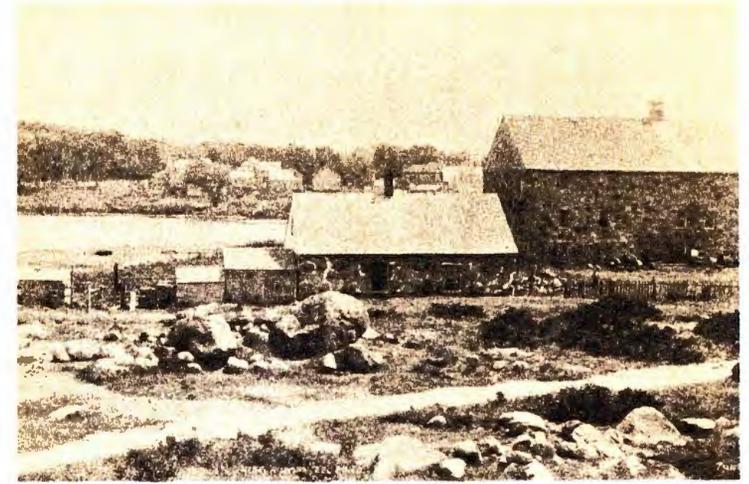


CANDLE HOUSE



The Candle House: From Past to Present

The Candle House, for years a prominent Woods Hole landmark, has been reborn. The old structure, which has stood for so long on Water Street as a relic of the past, has been tastefully restored in order to house the administrative offices of the Marine Biological Laboratory. A handsome building, its character accented by a unique blend of old and new, the renovated Candle House has an important new role in the MBL community and in the town that has long valued its historical charm.

Built in 1836 during the height of the New England whaling industry, the stone building served as a supply house and candle factory, hence the name Candle House. Although Woods Hole had but a comparatively small part in the whaling business, a bronze plaque affixed to the Candle House exterior commemorates four vessels constructed on Bar Neck Wharf (where the docks of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution are presently located). The close proximity of a bakery, blacksmith shop, and barrel manufacturer facilitated the outfitting of these ships in the village.

Spermaceti, a waxy white substance obtained from the head of the sperm whale, was the ingredient used in the candle making process. The viscous fluid was so named because it was believed at first to be the sperm of the animal. Spermaceti candles were a high-quality and relatively expensive commodity; they burned twice as long as tallow candles made from animal grease or fish oil, and provided a bigger and brighter flame. They were used at one time as a standard measure for artificial light. A multi-stage refining process was necessary to remove every drop of oil from the crude "head matter" before the purified spermaceti could be molded into candles. First, it was bleached by the sun in large pans placed under the glass roof of a smaller stone building called the "try house," formerly located behind the Candle House. The substance was then filtered through linen bags, granulated, steamed in wrought-iron hydraulic presses, mixed with lye, and washed of any impurities.

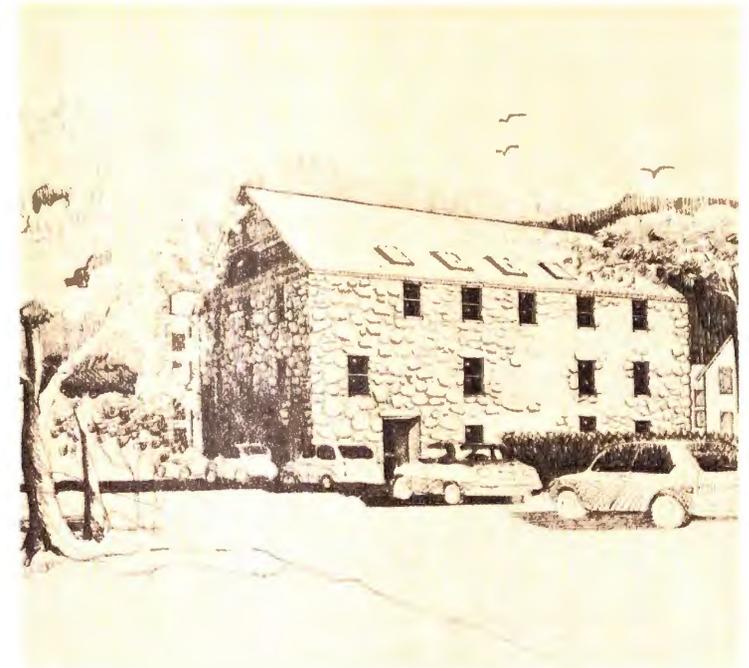
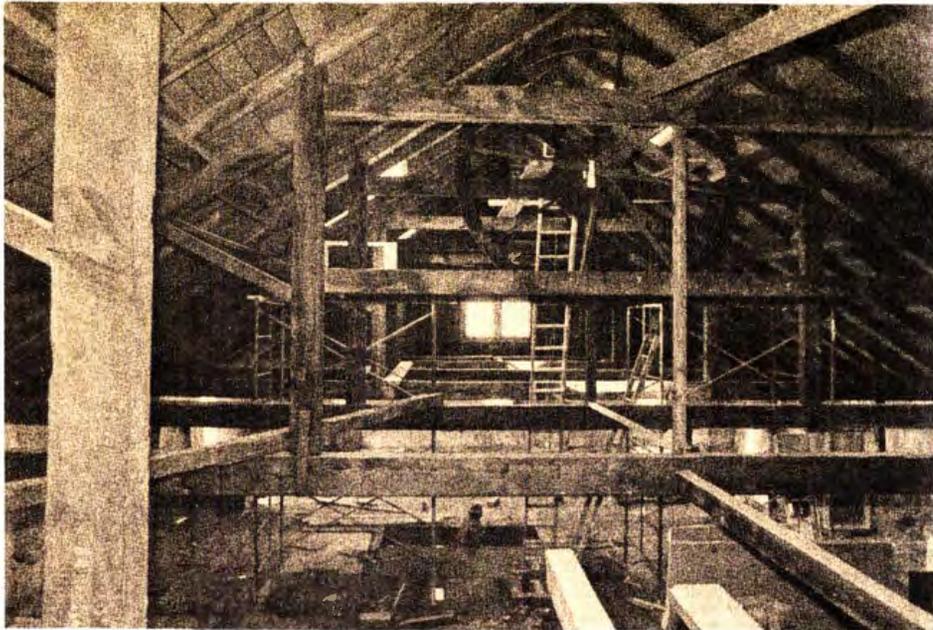
Later, as kerosene lamps became more and more popular, candle manufacturing declined and the Candle House stood temporarily idle.

Since the Marine Biological Laboratory acquired the Candle House in 1903, the building has been put to a variety of uses. For seventeen years, the ground floor and part of the second floor housed the Supply Department, the MBL specimen collecting operation, until it was moved to its present location on Eel Pond. Later, it was renamed the Department of Marine Resources. Preserved marine animals, various embryos, birds, pigs, and even cats were kept in huge wooden vats of formaldehyde. Even after acquiring new quarters, the Supply Department continued to use the Candle House to store surplus preserved specimens until the early 1970's.

At that time, the Laboratory began to concentrate upon supplying only live marine animals, and the Candle House became the site of live-specimen packing and shipping operations.

For several summers, the second floor of the Candle House provided office and laboratory space for the Systematics Ecology Program (SEP), a forerunner of the present Ecosystems Center. This group was instrumental in revitalizing the George M. Gray Museum, which was located, for some of its early years, in the Candle House. The third floor of the building was converted to dormitory space for summer employees of the Marine Resources Department, and was also the scene of children's art classes for several summers. More recently, the MBL paint shop made its home on the second floor. Throughout its nearly eighty years of service to the MBL, this unique stone building has served, in one way or another, as storage space for an array of seasonally-used office and laboratory equipment and for shipping containers.

Finally granted the recognition it has long deserved, the Candle House is now ready for a long and useful future; it will undoubtedly continue, as always, to weather the challenge of time.



The Candle House: Brought Back to Life

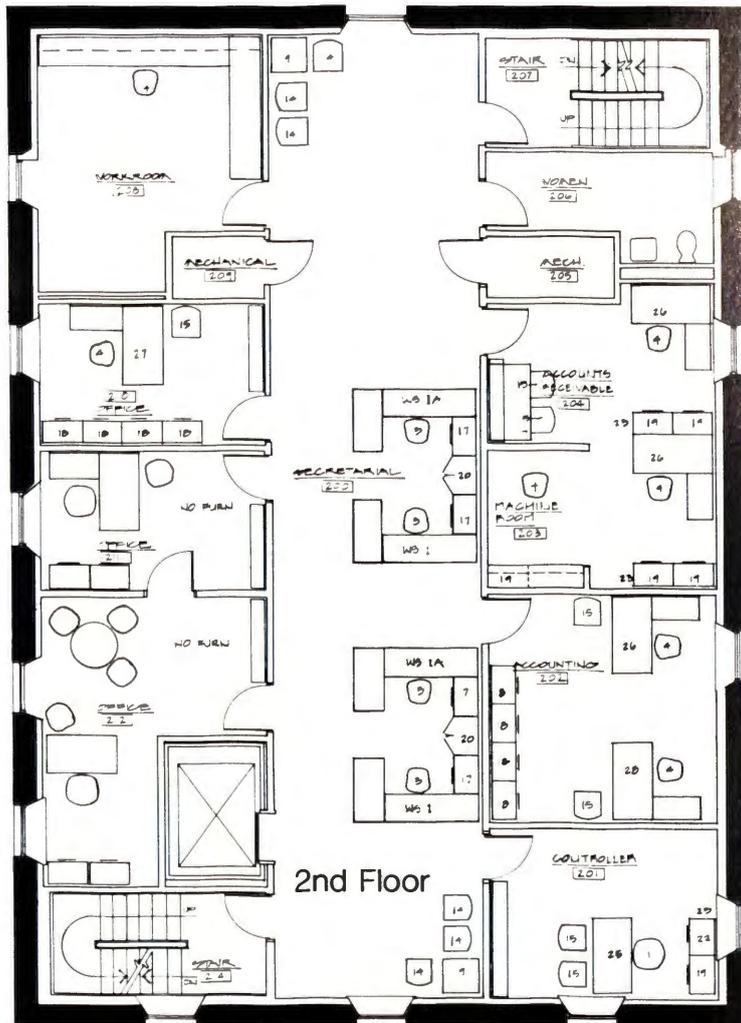
The revitalized Candle House is representative of a growing trend: preserving old buildings and restoring their usefulness. Earl R. Flansburgh + Associates, Inc. of Boston, architects for the Candle House renovation, developed a design that changed the exterior of the building as little as possible. The goal of this renovation was to create a vital center in the Woods Hole Community.

While completely gutting the building Earl R. Flansburgh + Associates, Inc. were able to incorporate an interior design that complements the exterior and highlights the building's strong wood and stone features. Twelve skylights were installed in the roof to provide extra light and ventilation to the third floor offices and to the fourth floor, which is a mezzanine running the length of the building. The exterior walls were sandblasted, and the interior walls were coated with asphalt sealer, and braced. Then came the task of cutting nine new windows and the large main entrance into the formidable stone walls. The new openings matched the existing openings.

During the design and restoration process many items of historical significance were uncovered, several of which were preserved. A huge wooden elevator wheel formerly fastened to the cross beam high up in the rafters was mounted on the interior front wall of the fourth floor. A small iron elevator wheel and mechanism were left in place to complement the interior design in one of the third floor offices. Huge brick cisterns which probably held the crude spermactei were discovered under the ground floor. The top floor rafters were retained and incorporated into the new interior design, although they do not structurally support the new floors. The well-known prow of the *Charles W. Morgan*, a scale model built by a former MBL employee, Bob Hampton, was refurbished and returned to a place of honor overlooking Water Street.

In its new capacity the Candle House serves as the administrative heart of the MBL. There are a total of twelve offices on the second and third floors, ten secretarial units, and two conference/work rooms. On the ground floor, two lecture rooms, each able to accommodate 40-50 people, can be combined by opening a movable partition. The fourth floor mezzanine is used primarily as a work area and for file storage. Stairways are located at each end of the building; an elevator and ramped main entrance ensure easy access for the handicapped.

Administrative functions now located in the Candle House include the executive offices of the Director, the General Manager, and the Director of Development, as well as the Admissions, Grants and Contracts, and Public Information offices. The MBL's financial management operations (the office of the Controller and the Accounting offices) are also headquartered in the Candle House.



The Candle House Restoration and the MBL Second Century Fund Campaign

Return of the Candle House to useful life, with consequent enhancement of the aesthetic value of the Woods Hole it has dominated for more than a century, marks the completion of Phase I of the MBL Second Century Fund Campaign.

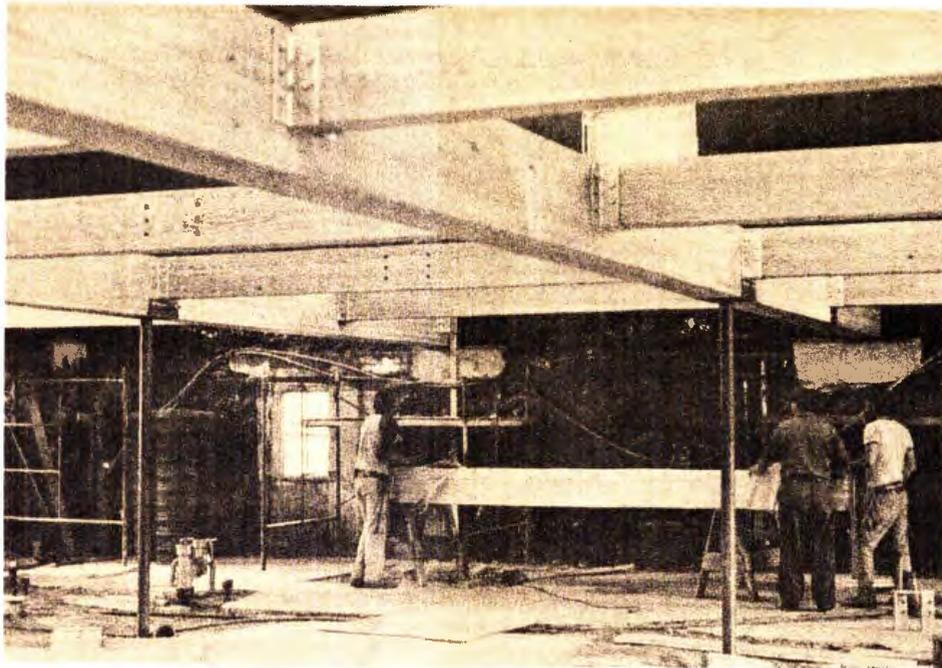
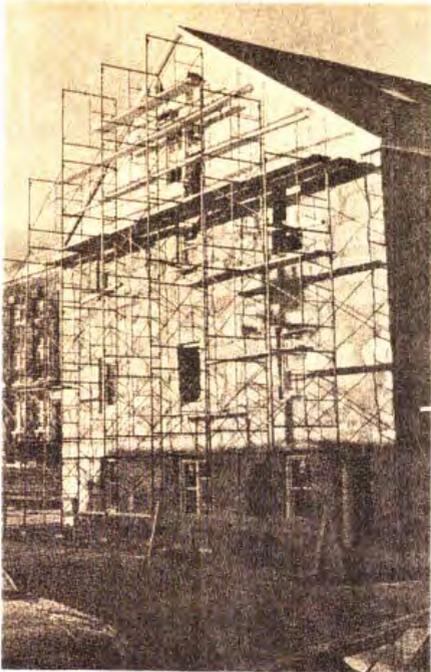
This ambitious effort of institutional planning and development, approved by the Laboratory's Trustees and announced publicly in 1979, encompasses a group of essential physical improvements to the village campus and an eventual increase of the MBL's endowment, such that it may enter its second century of service to biology in 1988 stronger and more in control of its programs and destiny than ever before. The campaign's ultimate fund raising target is \$27 million, of which some \$4.5 million have been raised and spent on Phase I.

The first Phase included three major projects, with interlocking purposes and schedules. The largest task was a thorough rehabilitation of the historic Lillie Laboratory, designed not merely to strengthen and preserve the building, of which it was urgently in need, but also to replace obsolete operating systems with new, energy-efficient ones; to return some prime laboratory space to that use, after decades of use for offices; and to expand the Library, which serves and is supported by all the Woods Hole institutions (but especially the MBL and the WHOI), with 5,000 square feet of new space.

In order for that to be accomplished, administrative offices which had over the years come to occupy some 6,000 square feet of precious space in Lillie, had to be relocated. The choice for their new location was a fully-restored Candle House; a task that many commentators described as impractical or impossible to accomplish at reasonable cost.

The imagination, energy, and skills of the architects, the builders (Woodside Park Corporation, of Dennis, MA), and the MBL's own staff made it evident early on that those commentators would be proven wrong.

The most sought-after teaching space at the MBL is in the Loeb Building, which was designed with the flexible laboratories and technical capabilities needed for advanced biology instruction. By the late 1970's, however, there was more legitimate demand for space in Loeb than could be met. A significant part of the existing space was occupied by the year-round Ecosystems Center, thus preempting its use for the traditionally changing and responsive MBL Summer Courses.



By the same token, the ecologists were experiencing ever-greater difficulty in using and expanding their assigned facilities. The solution to this problem was evidently new construction, or conversion of an existing building to serve as a center for ecology. In fact the solution chosen was a combination of the two: the old Homestead residence was rebuilt to accommodate offices, conference rooms, and computer facilities, and to it was added a completely new laboratory annex, which would house research laboratories for the Ecosystems Center and for other MBL ecologists.

By the time of printing of this brochure, all three projects will have been completed, with the exception of some minor structural additions to Lillie and to the Environmental Sciences Center. All three will have been funded essentially in full, via grants and gifts to the Second Century Fund. The human problems and work dislocations implicit in so complex a group of undertakings have been minor, and the contribution of what has been provided to the quality of life at the MBL, today and for many years to come, is incalculable. Perhaps the most important of all the consequences of Phase I is that its completion clears the decks for the greater task of proceeding with, and bringing to a successful conclusion, the remainder of the campaign.

For what has been accomplished so far, many people and organizations deserve the sincerest thanks of the MBL community. Not the least of them are the architects for the Candle House (Earl R. Flansburgh + Associates), for the Environmental Sciences Center and Library (Peirce, Pierce & Kramer), and all the skilled workmen and managers associated with the three projects. Of course, none of these skills would have been available to us had not Foundations, Corporations, and individual donors to the Second Century Fund matched their appreciation of the MBL with timely awards of dollars.

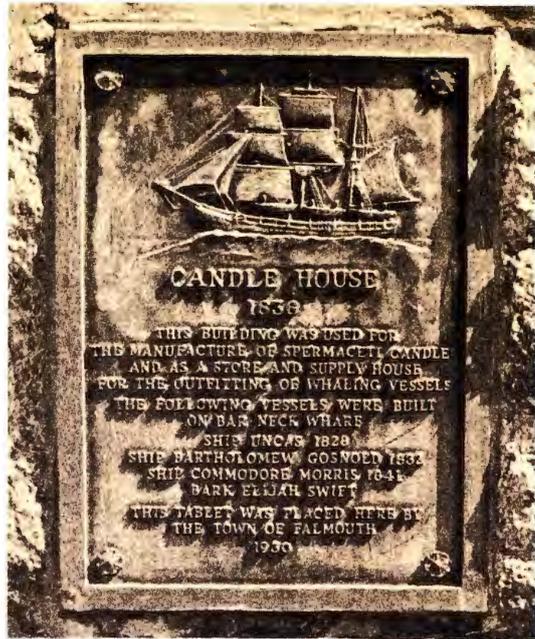
For the Candle House — in some ways a hallmark of everything we hope to accomplish in the campaign and its underlying program plans — two sources of support deserve specific, grateful mention. The first is the Pew Memorial Trust of Philadelphia, whose initial grant of \$100,000 was catalytic in turning the idea of a living new Candle House into the reality of working drawings and building materials.

The second is the Clark family of Woods Hole (and many other places). Through their generosity, extended in the name of the late Edna McConnell Clark by her sons (one of whom, Hays, is our colleague and Trustee), we were enabled to carry the project to its remarkable completion.

American biology as a whole, as well as the specific and distinguished subgroup of it identified with the MBL Corporation, will surely benefit from these gifts, no less than they have benefited for the past ninety years from other timely awards made to MBL by imaginative persons and agencies. The success of the MBL is a story of the enduring values in our culture, of a stubborn independence of scholarly institutions, on the one hand, and of a rational and generous private philanthropy.

Prosser Gifford
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Paul R. Gross
President and Director



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