

Letter

18 June 04

Dear Ms Stetson:

I enjoyed reading your nicely detailed article on Hodgson houses in the recent issue of *Spritsail* especially because I have lived in one (mostly in the summer) for the past 55 years. Of course for most of those years I didn't know it was a Hodgson house until the contractor, during one of its two renovations, told me that the house was a "collectible." He then pointed to the small window at the peak of the roof in the living room which has a frosted section in the shape of an "H." You will see that "H" in the same place in the photographs of the houses on page 10. He said it was the signature of Hodgson houses.



Indoor view of frosted glass H window on Ward's Hodgson cottage. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

My grandfather, Edgar McCallum, bought the house for my grandmother, around 1947, as part of a divorce settlement. It was enlarged at that time by the builder Alexander (Sandy) McLean but the living room was not changed. The ceiling was tarpaper and the notches and fasteners for the roof were clearly visible. It also featured unique windows (at least to my knowledge) which are split. To open them one pulls a handle in the middle so that the bottom part folds out and can be fitted next to the top part to make one half-window. Devices on the side of the window fit into slots at two different heights.

The house was not heated and was strictly a summer house except for a couple of times when, for various reasons, I extended the fall and began the spring early. My wife and I have retired to this address but have built a modern addition connected to the Hodgson.

I write to you simply because I thought the information might be something useful for the record.

Yours,

E. Graham Ward
Oyster Pond Road, Falmouth

Correction: The photograph shown on Page 12 of the Summer 2004 Spritsail is not of the "Newest Hodgson" but of a house next door that was put up in the 1940s by a local builder named Reggie Swift. Mr. Swift's house looks very much like a Hodgson Portable; he may have borrowed elements of the popular design. The real "Newest Hodgson" was erected in 1970, just before the company went out of business. It is located at 524 Scraggy Neck Road and is owned by Edith Stokey.



Outdoor view of frosted glass H window on Ward's Hodgson cottage. Photo by Janet Chalmers.