

# The Restoration and Renovation of the Katharine Lee Bates House

*Photo essay by Maria C. Ward*

*photos by E. Graham Ward*

David and Linda Newton have completed their thorough and detailed restoration of the

Katharine Lee Bates house and in the process turned it into an elegant residence. As many materials as possible were reused. For example, a reframed kitchen floor provided the exposed beams in the kitchen ceiling.



The front outside shutters were milled in David Newton's shop to match the original ones which are used in the rear of the house. All of the shutters were closed during Hurricane Irene; the wind driven rains never touched the windows. All of the windows are original to the house. Storm windows have been made to protect them and to majorly muffle all outside noises.

Plaster, wood, and floors are original. Paints and wallpapers were chosen for their early to mid-1800s colors and patterns. This hallway wallpaper was imported from England.



The original mahogany banister curves upward along the steep traditional steps and landing.



KBL monogrammed sheets and towels adorn the bedrooms and bathrooms.

The many layers of paint from years past were removed carefully to preserve the original tool marks of 1810. One rough hewn beam featured in a front room of the house reconnects the meticulously restored house to its origins, built so well that the house has never settled.



The National Park Service has recognized the house as historically significant. It is on the National Historic Register.

The kitchen features a breakfast bar (moved for this photograph) which covers the cistern. Opening the trap door automatically illuminates the cistern. The Federal style kitchen shows off antique glass in cabinetry built in the Newton workshop. The kitchen appliances are ultra-modern but covered with doors milled specifically to look like the cabinet doors.



Restored 3-holer (privy) in and enclosed area behind the kitchen.



Maria C. Ward is a graduate of Wellesley College where the Katharine Lee Bates dormitory opened in her freshman year. She was previously head of the North Andover Historical Commission and founded a quarterly journal, *The Cochichewick Chronicles*, (modeled after the *Sprit-sail*) for the town's 350th anniversary celebration in 1996.