

THE KILLINGWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TO: Parmelee Farm Steering Committee
FROM: Linda Dudek
DATE: December 8, 2011
RE: Parmelee Farm House Proposed

The Killingworth Historical Society Board of Directors visited the Parmelee Farmhouse in the spring of 2010 to discuss suggested the house and the possible uses of each room. The following is a summary of the visit and the directors' thoughts.

Main Floor:

Kitchen: Utilize the kitchen for light refreshments for the Society i.e. coffee for the monthly meetings. Check regulation regarding the need for a hand washing sink or stove vent in the event that light fare might be served for events.

Main room off kitchen: This room would be used for monthly Board of Director meetings, temporary displays, the Christmas Fair and tag sale. The Fire Marshal will determine capacity. We anticipate no more than 40 people would be allowed in this room at one time. The Society owns glass front display cabinets that would be used to display small artifacts. Demonstrations of spinning and weaving, candle making and other early American crafts could be conducted in this room. Displays of photographs and art would be hung on walls, easels and temporary display components. Lighting needs to be addressed in this room and possibly tract lighting would offer a solution to changing needs. At minimum, additional electrical outlets need to be installed.

Rear center room: This area might be used for a mini library area with locking cabinets and for further display area. It would offer additional space during the Christmas Fair and tag sale. The Society would prefer to leave the current antique doors in place in this room and offer ADA access by opening the walls closer to the rear of the building. This would keep the original integrity of the doors while complying with ADA requirements. Additionally, it would allow a better "traffic flow" for guests visiting the building. Electrical outlets should be in place to offer sufficient power.

Bathroom: This could be removed, leaving additional space for display or storage. The Parmelee Steering Committee has plans for a separate restroom facility that would eliminate the need for this bathroom. Perhaps this space would be devoted to textiles. The Society owns a spinning wheel manufactured by A.H. Parmelee, a loom used by Jerusha Parmelee and a yarn winder. Clothing items include John Lane's coat, and original Killingworth baseball uniform as well as other articles of early clothing.

Front parlor room: The Historical Society would prefer this room be left intact as it has had the least number of modifications over time. The room would be used for permanent displays of the larger artifacts. The Society owns two Windsor chairs from Killingworth, a corner cabinet from the Hesser house, an organ, a wall clock in working order and a large painting by local artist, Ruth W. Robinson. Numerous other large items owned by the Society would be displayed and we anticipate more items would be donated as it becomes known that there is appropriate space to display them. More electrical outlets would be helpful. The doorways of this room would be left intact as it is our intent to rope off the room permitting public viewing but not complete public access to the area.

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Second Floor:

The upstairs would be for the Board of Directors use only. No public access would be allowed.

The large front room would serve as office space. Office furniture consists of a few resin tables, several file cabinets and computer table. Sufficient outlets are needed for typical office equipment i.e. computer, printer and scanner.

The back room at the top of the (back) stairs would serve as storage of several resin tables and folding chairs (approx. 20) and cabinet space. Outlets and lighting in this room would be helpful.

The smaller front (north) room would be an ideal work area for our Christmas Fair preparations and storage of craft items. As in the other rooms, outlets and lighting should be addressed.

The back (north) room might be used for tag sale sorting of small items.

Bathroom: The Society would like to keep the upstairs bathroom for staff use. The bathtub could be removed and a deep utility sink (supplied by the KHS) could be installed in that area. Minimally, the Society would like to have the plumbing connections left to allow for renovations to be done at a later date. An extra outlet in the bathroom would also be helpful.

During our tour of the house, the KHS noted that the items of high importance were the structural issues (if any), electrical needs and upgrades, HVAC system that should be zoned to allow sections of the house to be shut off to save on heating costs and water, which included hot water available with an "on demand" system. The water system should be easily drained if necessary and an outside faucet is desirable. Outside lighting would be helpful for security.