

C. NSM Site Mandates and Topics

COSSIT HOUSE MUSEUM

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To tell the story of the Loyalist experience of the Cossit Family as a way of introducing the history of Loyalist settlement in the colony of Nova Scotia after the American Revolution.
- » To illustrate the domestic life of the Cossit family at the end of the 18th century.
- » To place the house in the context of the early settlement of Sydney and interpret it as a key element in the Heritage Conservation District of the north end of the city.
- » To interpret the role of a minister in the community and the role of religion in late 18th century Nova Scotia.

PROPOSED CONTENT

*Note: Topics are drawn from the NS Interpretive Master Plan Content Framework.

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

D. RELATING

- D.6 Religion and Spirituality**
 - Religious Affiliation: Importance of religion and clergy; status of Anglicanism.

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

B. EVOLVING

- B.4 Migration, Outmigration, Exodus**
 - Loyalist Arrivals, 1780s: Loyalist settlement in Nova Scotia beyond the peninsula.

E. LIVING

- E.1 Life at Home and Work**
 - Gender Roles and Home Life: Workings of a small family home.
 - Childhood Experiences: Adults' expectations of children.
- E.4 Cultural Expression**
 - Folklore and Celebrations: Concept of "holidays" in the late 18th century.

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

D. RELATING

- D.2 Governance and Politics**
 - British Colonial Government
- D.7 Social Equality**
 - Privilege/Social Circles: Status and role of the Anglican clergy.

E. LIVING

- E.4 Cultural Expression**
 - Architecture: Importance of the house and the district.
 - Heritage Preservation: Survival of, and interest in, the house.

CONCLUSIONS

Loyalists and Anglicanism merit further exploration. The house is an important architectural and historical survivor and plays a role in the Heritage Conservation District.