

C. NSM Site Mandates and Topics

NORTH HILLS MUSEUM

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To present the story of retired antiques dealer Robert Patterson, his collection of Georgian era antiques (furniture, paintings, ceramics and glass) and his creation of a home of great elegance.
- » To interpret a fine example of an 18th century “Cape Cod Cottage” along with the stories of it earlier owners, Benjamin Rumsey and the Amberman Family, and the changes made by the latter and Patterson.
- » To interpret the site overlooking the Annapolis River, its Acadian origins with the Bourque family, the Rumsey land grant and the UEL connection provided by the Amberman family.
- » To celebrate the contribution made by Robert Patterson to the conservation of historic resources in Annapolis Royal and Granville Ferry.
- » To be a venue for small temporary exhibitions related to the history or natural history of the area, or to the decorative arts.

PROPOSED CONTENT

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

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

B. EVOLVING

- ##### B.4 Migration, Outmigration, Exodus
- French Colonization: Acadia
 - French-English “Borderland”
 - Expulsion and Return of the Acadians
 - Planters & Pre-Loyalists
 - Loyalist Arrivals, 1780s
 - Early 19th Century Immigration
 - Late 19th Century Immigration

E. LIVING

- ##### E.1 Life at Home and Work
- Gender Roles and Home Life
- ##### E.4 Cultural Expression
- Architecture: Importance of the house and its evolution.
 - Fine/Folk Art: Collecting and connoisseurship.
 - Heritage Preservation
- ##### E.5 Social Development and Organizations
- Philanthropy & Social Conscience: Robert Patterson’s local contribution.

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

B. EVOLVING

- ##### B.5 Response to Place
- Acadian Marshland Settlement: The site was an Acadian land grant.

D. RELATING

- ##### D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia
- European: Acadians

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

B. EVOLVING

- ##### B.6 Agents of Change
- Rural Depopulation since 1945

D. RELATING

- ##### D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia
- Marginalized Groups: Patterson’s experience as a come-from-away in small town Nova Scotia, and his experience as a gay man.

CONCLUSIONS

This museum of “Georgian decorative arts” is a gem in itself, but speaks little to the major themes of Nova Scotia history. The outbuildings can be used to present content relating to local subjects, but also to the site’s provincially significant Acadian heritage.