

## OLD MEETING HOUSE MUSEUM

### MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To present as a furnished architectural artifact of the highest importance and value, a classic New England-style meeting house built c.1765 in the Planter period of Nova Scotia's history, prior to the American Revolution; and to discuss the evolution of its interior.
- » To interpret it uses as both a meeting house for the community of Barrington and as a place of worship, the oldest Protestant non-conformist meeting house in Canada; how it was used initially by traveling preachers.
- » To provide the historical context for the importance and style of religion represented by this meeting house, and its contrast with the establishment Anglican Church.

### PROPOSED CONTENT

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

## I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

### D. RELATING

#### D.2 Governance and Politics

- British Colonial Government: Set the 18th century context of the colony.

## II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

### D. RELATING

#### D.6 Religion and Spirituality

- 'Non-Conformity': The oldest non-conformist meeting building in Canada; New England heritage.
- Religious Affiliation: The meaning and concept of a religious "meeting house" in the 18th century; role of religion in early Nova Scotia society.

### E. LIVING

#### E.2 Communities

- Coastal Towns/Villages: History of early settlement in Barrington.

#### E.4 Cultural Expression

- Architecture: Unique nature and importance of the building.
- Folklore and Celebrations
- Music
- Heritage Preservation: History of the building's survival.

#### E.5 Social Development and Organizations

- Religious Observance: Nature of worship; who led the worship; religious and general community use of the building.

## III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

### B. EVOLVING

#### B.4 Migration, Outmigration, Exodus

- Planters & Pre-Loyalists: The Planter tradition; who came to Barrington and why?
- Loyalist Arrivals, 1780s: Relationship of meeting house to Loyalist settlers.

#### B.5 Response to Place

- Coastal Communities

### D. RELATING

#### D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia

- American (United States)

### E. LIVING

#### E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Places of Community Interaction

## CONCLUSIONS

There is an opportunity to provide much more religious and social context for this extremely important building. Although not noted as new content to develop, the topic "Indigenous Peoples" (part of D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia) is an important talking point that should be addressed at this site.