

KL Research Note Exterior paint on south side of the Hagerman House¹

- A question often comes from visitors, “why is the back side of the Hagerman House not painted?”
- A preliminary report, by Architect John Stokes in 1969, gives extensive detailed reports of proper interior colours, windows, and doors but nothing on the exterior paint²
- A later report, by R Power in 1980, states that “there are no original paint samples or paint scheme for exterior of building”³ examples of original paint did exist for interior
- A Black and white photograph of the Hagerman house, being moved to Kings Landing, shows rough paint on the exterior back of the house
- From a copy of a meeting between George MacBeath and P.J. Wohler, M.Williams, D.Lane and L.Oakley (division heads), April 13, 1971, Wohler and Lane agreed that the back wall not be painted
- In a research note written by Darrell Butler in 2003, he made the connection that this was the way the house was in its original location, he surmises that it is because the back of the house could not be seen from the road⁴
- A brochure, undated but written by Darrell Butler (possibly in the 1980's) on the Hagerman House, he states that only the sides of the house that were visible to travellers were ever painted⁵
- **Conclusion**
- It was apparent that early restoration reports had no information on the exterior paint of the Hagerman House in 1870-1880 so a decision was made, at that time, to leave the back unpainted probably as a precaution against getting it wrong. Between 1980 and 2003, Darrell Butler was interpreting it as being unpainted to save paint on a side of the house not seen from the road. There are no sources found that indicate this to be the case nor has any research turned up that this was a common practice in nineteenth century New Brunswick. It is my recommendation that we don't interpret this tradition as such until further research becomes available to prove it.

¹ Information Compiled by Evelyn Fidler April 3, 2016

² “Restoration Report for the Upper Farmhouse”, Kings Landing Mactaquac Historical Program October 1969.

³ Unnamed report R Power, August 1980

⁴ Research note signed DNB January 21, 2003

⁵ “Hagerman House Built in the 1830's, Restored to 1870”, Darrell Butler undated (author identified on rough drafts)