

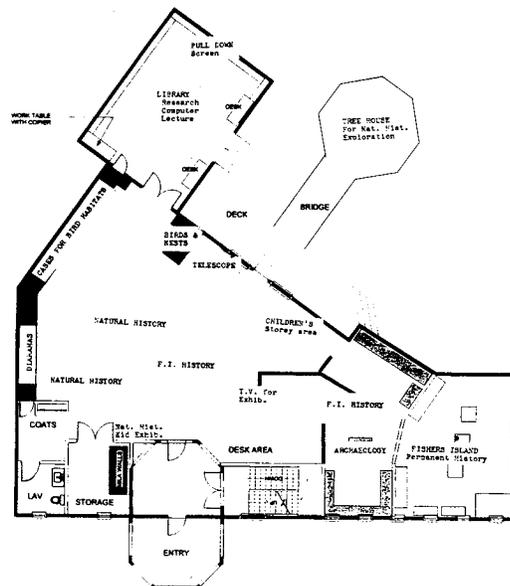
The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Fishers Island, NY 06390 • Curator 631-788-7293

42nd Anniversary
2002 Newsletter Vol. 18, No.1



The new Museum under construction, May 2002.



Preliminary plan, H.L Ferguson Museum 2001
Albert Righter & Tittman, Architects, Boston,
Mass., assisted by Allie Raridon, Assoc. A.I.A.;
Valarie Kinkade, Museum and Collector
Resource; and Serena Furman, A Space.

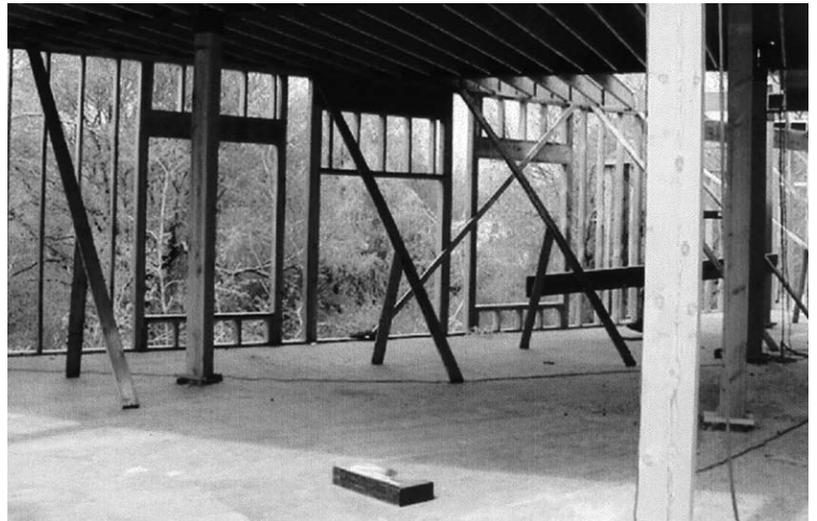
Report by Bagley Reid and the Building Committee — May 28, 2002

We are very pleased with the progress that has been made over the winter in the construction of the new Henry L. Ferguson Museum building here on Fishers. Z & S, the general contractor, has almost completed the framing – including the framing for the tower entrance – and hopes to start work on the outside trim and roof within the next few weeks. The interior is spacious, airy and welcoming. It is anticipated that the building will be closed in by the end of the summer and is on target for completion around the end of this year. As of this date the cost overruns on the initial contract price of \$625,000 have been fairly minimal and we are hopeful that this will continue. We feel that Z & S is doing an excellent job constructing this beautiful building designed by the Boston firm of Albert, Righter and Tittman. Once completed the building will be covered with natural wood shingles and have dark black/green trim.

The exhibit designer Serena Furman, is developing her ideas that will be presented to the Exhibits Committee in mid-June 2002. The design plan, once approved, will then be implemented. The various volunteer curators of the different segments of the Museum, i.e. Archeology, Natural History, Earth Sciences and History have been working this winter developing their ideas for displaying material on their subjects held in the current Museum collection.

We have raised approximately \$1,300,000 since the inception of the Osprey Fund. For this we are thrilled and very appreciative. Janie Stanley has done a great job coordinating this campaign. The community as a whole has been incredibly supportive and generous and I feel confident that it will continue to support our efforts in the future. Our current thinking is that we will be open for business and a grand celebration in early summer of 2003.

Temporary exhibit space this summer will be at the Barn across from the Yacht Club with morning hours on weekends and “when the door is open” during the week. (Please see page four.) Pierce Rafferty will mount an exhibit that documents historic lighthouses and lightships of the region, which promises to be picturesque and informative. Ed Horning will be on call for his wonderful nature walks and to answer questions regarding the flora and fauna of the Island, something that he is so adept at doing.



Board Member Bagley Reid and Osprey Campaign Director Janie Stanley survey the Lee Ferguson Sanctuary from the new building. Right: An interior view, May 2002.



“Don’t Forget to Donate to the Osprey Campaign!”

Location: East End Road, east of driving range. Photo by John Wilton.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Janie Stanley for her successful fund raising for the “Osprey Campaign.”
- Jim Righter and Jacob Albert, architects of the project.
- Allie Raridon, Assoc. A.I.A., our key Island architectural consultant.
- Serena Furman of A SPACE DESIGN, our overall exhibit designer.
- Valarie Kinkade of MUSEUM COLLECTOR RESOURCE, consultant on collection storage, preservation and exhibitions.

AND FROM THE BOARD:

- Curator Horning — for his new concepts for exhibiting the natural history collection.
- Libbie Cook — for her work maximizing the educational potential of the all-Island archaeology collection.
- Carey Matthiessen — for creating new dioramas depicting marine life around the Island.
- Jeff Feehan — for his work with the physical sciences, including geology and meteorology. (Mr. Feehan is not a Board member, but works with the Exhibit Design committee.)
- Pierce Rafferty — for his tireless detective work tracking Island history and his efforts creating exhibits that range from the Winthrop era to date.
- Harry Ferguson — for carefully overseeing construction costs during the Z & S construction.
- Bagley Reid — for being our on-the-spot monitor and coordinator of the project, interfacing with architects, contractors and museum committees.

We are sorry to report that Kay Horning who has been with the Museum for so many years is not well at this time, but we hope she will be back in our midst soon. We thank her mightily for all her past efforts. The development of the Horning Fund to sponsor curatorial efforts for the future has grown to around \$40,000 and hopefully will expand substantially as a tribute to Kay and Ed who have made so much of our Museum what it is today.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

All on the various committees agree that the new space and Serena's design will present fabulous opportunities to display the collections in ways that were never before possible. Many, many thanks to the hundreds of people in our community who have supported these efforts and brought our new museum to life.

MEMBERSHIP

Heather Ferguson, Membership Committee chairwoman, reports that as of May 1, 2002, the museum has 19 Life members, 12 Sustaining, 61 Contributing, 56 Family and 7 Individual. It also received 50 "Special Gifts" as memorials.

TEMPORARY EXHIBIT SUMMER 2002

An article in *The Day* on September 8, 1881 stated that from a summer cottage on a bluff at the southwest edge of Fishers Island the observer could see, on any clear night, the lights of nineteen lighthouses. This startling claim led to an investigation of the lighthouses of the region and provided the impetus for:

SURROUNDING LIGHTS: The Historic Lighthouses and Lightships that Encircled Fishers Island

Location: Bagley's Barn Annex — across from the Yacht Club.

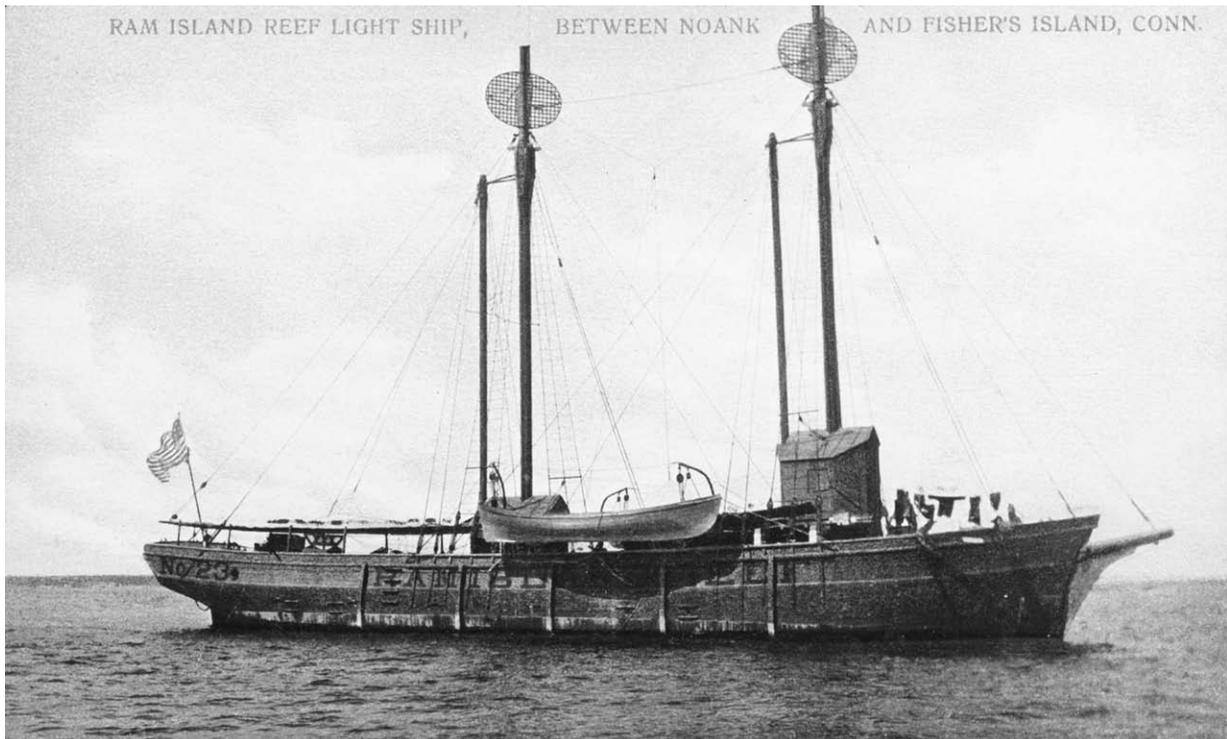
Summer Hours — June 29 through Labor Day:

Weekends: Fri. and Sat. 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to noon.

Weekdays: When the Barn Annex door is open, or by special appointment — please call 788-7293.

This year's show provides a rich portrait of the historic lights that once guided — and in most cases still guide — navigation in the region. Familiar lighthouses close to Fishers Island are examined in depth, but the exhibition also provides fascinating views of the many distant structures that we often see as mere bumps on the horizon or flickers in the black night sky. Note: The show includes more than the original 19 lights seen from Fishers in 1881. Some of our neighboring lighthouses have been built since then.



Ram Island Lightship, circa 1910. This lightship served off Fishers Island from 1894 to 1925.

CURATOR EDWIN HORNING'S REPORT ON FISHERS ISLAND NATURAL HISTORY 2001-2002

1. During September a large turtle with 5-foot long carapace was found dead near Silver Eel Cove. During late winter another was found dead at the Airport Beach on the south side of the Island. Only the carapace and bones remained. These were leatherbacked sea turtles and are endangered. Every year late in summer and early fall they make their way from warm southern waters northward to places such as Fishers Island eating such food as jellyfish.

2. Audubon Christmas Bird Count — A count of all the species and numbers of birds throughout the entire country taken on December 28. On Fishers Island the temperature was 36 degrees F and the wind was NW' 10-20 mph. 42 species were seen. Some of them were purple sandpiper, Coopers Hawk, harriers, long-tailed duck, black duck, wigeons — sharp-shinned hawk, goshawk, redtailed hawk and ringnecked duck. New London counted 119 species, the second highest ever. In the New London area the outstanding sightings were a black vulture, a saw-whet owl and a shoveler — a kind of duck.

3. During June a survey will be made of the water birds and the piping plovers of Long Island. The survey dates are:

Piping plovers — once between June 1 and June 9. During the 1960s, '70s and early '80s, the piping plover nested on Fishers Island, but has not in recent years, but we hope that it will once again.

Tern and black skimmers — twice between June 1 and June 29. The black skimmers have not nested on the Islands, but may extend their range northward. The least tern, an endangered species, does nest on the Island.

4. We are now in the second year of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas that is finding the status of all birds that nest in New York State. The study goes from 2000 to 2005. A previous atlas was done 1980-1985.



A group of dunlins enjoying South Beach on May 25, 2002, a great shorebird day.
Photo by Ed Horning.

Warblers seen in May:

8th: yellow
10th: redstart
12th: black-throated blue
black-throated green,
chestnut-sided
14th: parula
yellow-rumped
yellow-throated
16th: black and white
Nashville
17th: black poll
19th: Tennessee
Wilson
22nd: Magnolia

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mary Ferguson Russell was on the Museum's Board since its formation forty-two years ago. She was an active member and her vast knowledge of Island history contributed immensely to the growth of the Museum and its collections.

Three men "Friends" will be sorely missed: Herb Schutz, who made possible the Museum's Land Trust to acquire land bordering Middle Farms Pond; Eliot H. Porter, a long-time Island lover, writer, sailor, and musician; and Burton G. Tremaine, Jr. avid Islander, sailor, friend, who with the Tremaine Foundation made a major contribution to the Osprey Fund Raising Campaign. The Board extends its sincere sympathy to all their family members.



Frances Simmons Van Dyke returns! May 9, 2002
Mrs. Van Dyke revisited her childhood home, "White Caps" — also known as "Simmons Castle" — after an absence of about fifty years. She had a great time.



April 27: Daffodils galore!
This spring the ever-generous Tom Armstrongs donated the proceeds of their Daffodil Day to the Henry L. Ferguson Museum. Thank you, Tom and Bunty.



WHALEBONE

Couple posing with a _____bone at Fishers Island, circa 1905. Can you guess what kind of bone it is? Answer can be found below the photo.

LAND TRUST

The Land Trust committee reports that it now manages 27 parcels of Island acreage and conservation easements totaling approximately 110 acres.

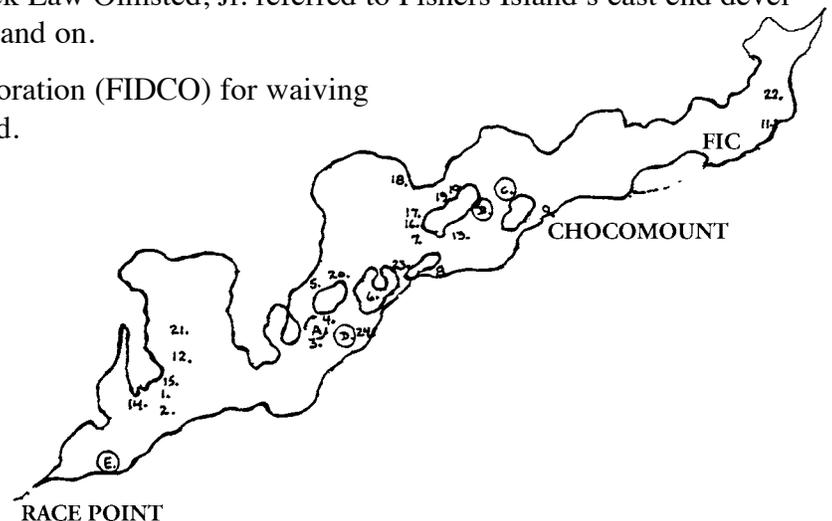
The committee is ever on the alert to acquire “forever natural land.” If interested, please contact the museum’s Land Trust committee for details. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. referred to Fishers Island’s east end development as a “park” and his vision must live on and on.

Thank you Fishers Island Development Corporation (FIDCO) for waiving all maintenance fees on museum-controlled land.

MAINTAINED WALKING TRAILS

(A Trail Guide is Available at the Museum)

- A. Brickyard Swamp Trail
- B. Treasure Pond Trail
- C. Chocomount Trail
- D. Clay Pits Trail (new 1996)
- E. The Horning Fort Wright Trail



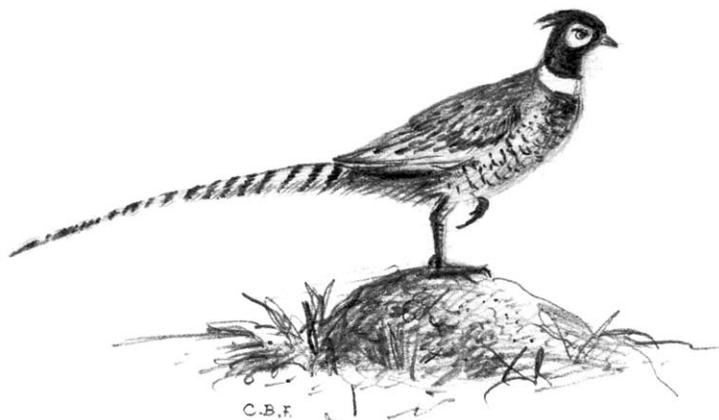
- 1. Henry L. Ferguson Museum on H. L. Ferguson, Jr. Sanctuary, 3.7 acres, gift, 1965.
 - 2. Albert Stickney III and Susan Stickney Sanctuary, 2.38 acres, donation, 1990.
 - 3. L.F. Boker Doyle Brickyard Sanctuary, 15.48 acres, gift, 1982-83.
 - 4. Barlow Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, 1 acre +/-, gift, Bagley Reid, 1986.
 - 5. David F. Harris Sanctuary, 0.75 acre, gift, 1989.
 - 6. Betty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, 8 acres. The Nature Conservancy Project, 1978.
 - 7. Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, 23.15 acres, 5.6 acres easement, Robert J. Miller, 1983; 11 acres, FIDCO, 1984; 1.7 acres, Rita and Allerton Cushman, 1984; 4.85 acres, gift, Robert and Adrienne Miller, 1984.
 - 8. 2.38 acres, gift, Otis Pike, 1981.
 - 9. Key Post Sanctuary, 6.45 acres, gift, John N. Calley, Mrs. Duncan Ellsworth, Robert L. Geniesse, 1985.
 - 10. 2.1 acres, gift, John Calley, 1993.
 - 11. The Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cant Wildlife Sanctuary, 6.78 acres, donation, Mr. and Mrs. R. James Newman, assisted by contributions from Frederic C. Hamilton, Michael and Mary Denny Wray, Peter Steil, 1996.
 - 12. 1.36 acres, gift, Regina Pyle, 1994.
 - 13. 4 acres, Jansen Noyes, Middle Farms Pond, 1991*
 - 14. 0.25 acre, east end, Hay Harbor, Henry C. Osborn, III, et al.
 - 14b. ___ acres, East End Road; estate of David B. McCall, 2000.
 - 15. Small lot, northeast corner of HLFM and connected to Lee Ferguson Sanctuary, Thomas A. and Allison A. Sargent.
 - 16. FIDCO, Middle Farms, 1.06 acres, 1996.
 - 17. FIDCO, Middle Farms, 1.46 acres, 1996.
 - 17b. 0.75 acres Chocomount Cove, Harriet Bailey, 2001.
 - 17c. Approx. 6 acres as a Wildlife Sanctuary, Stony Beach, the Wilmerding Family, 2001.
 - 17d. 3.52 acres, Middle Farms; Robert J. and Adrienne Miller; includes bargain sale donations from Hamilton Potter and the Schutz family.
 - 18. 1.82 acres near Middle farms old barn, Samuel S. and Anne H. Polk.
 - 19. North side, Middle Farms Pond, John N. Calley and Ali McGraw.
 - 20. 3.16 acres east of Barlow Pond, Robert S. Searle.
 - 21. 4.03 acres overlooking North Hill, Jeanann Gray Dunlap, her nephew and niece.
 - 22. FIDCO, east end, 22.02 acres, 1996.
 - 23. Robert J. Geniesse, Middle Farms, 5.14 acres, 1996.
 - 24. Proposed gift of 8+ acres, Clay Pits Area.
- * Expanded to 22 acres in 1999 by gift from Jansen Noyes and a bargain sale with generous assistance from Suzanne and Herbert Schutz, their daughters Leslie and Stewart, and Hamilton F. Potter.

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum Board of Governors:

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 Katherine Horning, *Asst. Curator*



BECOME A "FRIEND" OF THE HENRY L FERGUSON MUSEUM

The museum has been and is financially supported by its interested "Friends" and a modest endowment.

Help the museum to acquire land on the Island for the preservation and protection of its natural resources and open spaces for the benefit of future generations. (Please see the Henry L. Ferguson Museum Land Trust brochure, with preservation options for the landowner.)

- Life Friend* \$1,000 or more
- Sustaining* \$500 - \$999
- Contributing \$100 - \$499
- Family \$25 - \$99
- Individual \$10 - \$24
- Junior (under 18) \$1 - \$9

* You will receive a signed and numbered print, "Bittersweet," by Charles B. Ferguson.

Additional contribution for acquisition of land (The HLFM Land Trust) \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Check should be made payable to "Friends of the HLFM" and mailed to Henry L. Ferguson Museum, Fishers Island, New York 06390. Corporate matching gifts welcomed.