

## Grand Opening of Restored Perkins House Planned for August 8 and 9, 2009



The final phases of the Perkins House Restoration Project are coming together. Contractor David Josselyn has worked on the interior all winter. Electrical wiring, including gallery lighting, and plumbing, much of which was donated by Tom Perkins, have been completed along with a new HVAC system. Walls have been refinished with the help of a Vermont Division of Historic Preservation Grant which restored the historic plaster in the old section of the house. Robin Eatmon, Curator, has worked with local artist Nancy McKeegan to select wall colors and stencil designs appropriate to the building.

Andrzej Bolalek and David Hoeh are working to incorporate into the kitchen design cherry wood from the original kitchen built by George Dewey Perkins, Alice Bennett's father. Plans are under way for the creative use of the lower level as an education area for students.

Members of the Museum Board have worked tirelessly to create a new space for display, education and storage of Museum artifacts throughout the building. During the early summer, collections which need to be stored in a dry, pest free environment will be moved from the Blacksmith Shop site to the Perkins House. The Blacksmith Shop will remain open and will house collections which can weather an environment with no heat. We look forward to sharing both sites with the community and to the expanded educational opportunities these sites will bring to the town.