

July 27, 1986 conversation with Ben Graziani (513)871-1864, grandson of the builder of the cottage.

Ben has four early pictures of the cottage he will send:

1. View from Eagle Point direction, possibly from a boat. Ben said all porches were originally open without screening. Screens were added to the lower porches only in the late 1920 early 1930s. The upper porch was roofed but not screened.
2. The second picture is a closeup of the lower and upper porch in detail.
3. The third picture is an aerial shot taken in the 1930's or 40's of the cottage when the Yacht Club was renting it. Ben said the roof line went straight down over the porch roof. When porches were removed, they cut off part of the roof. "Eaves extended down and covered roof with apron out over roof of the first floor.
4. This picture is taken from the first cottages built to the North in early Spring showing a granite rock Ben's father dragged over attached to his Hudson.

The cottage has never had a major fire. In 1910 it had a small porch fire caused by fireworks but it was quickly put out with a hose.

The kitchen was a separate room attached to where the patio is now located. It was one story and the floor was a little lower than the cottage level. A central hall traveled from a small door at the front (East end) of house and went back to the kitchen in the rear. The front door was centrally located on the east end with a wall on the right and door leading into the living room.

A well was located between the kitchen and the lake but it isn't there anymore. They carried water upstairs with bowl and pitcher where they bathed.

About 1925 electricity was installed. About that same time the bathroom upstairs was put in which was quite advanced for that time.. Laura Sawyer put the shower in after 1940 where it is now located.

The kitchen had a door leading to the lake side and another leading into the house. You went up some steps on to a platform, and then thru a small laundry room between the kitchen and main cottage.

The present kitchen and dining room was one large room. The reason was that lots of people would come a great distance to visit and would stay a long time. They had many fish dinners. Ben remembers setting around a large wooden table in that room to eat.

When screens were added they put in a waist level apron which cut out considerable light.

The kitchen was about one half the size of the current cement patio and held several wood burning stoves.

Ben remembers the porches being taken off because the wood was rotten. Rae Albrektson says it was because the house was so dark.

Ben remembers the original shoreline as being much further away from the house than it currently is. He remembers a large weeping willow twelve feet from shore that reached out over the water. As children they built a tree house in the tree, and would drive their boats up under it, and enter the tree house from the water.

A cornfield was located next door where the current Par Riley house is located. A swamp with frogs and turtles was located where now the Franklins tennis court is located. A finger of land di go out on the point.

Ben recalled the State did do a sounding of the lake and that if we found the back line of our property and went out from the ould sounding, we could determine where the water line originally was located. Rags Albrektson though the boats had excelledated natural erosion. Ben agreed with Rags. Ben also noted that the lake goes up and down and perhaps it is up now.

Pillars holding up the porch were round and white. Steps went all the way ~~xxx~~ around the cottage. The carpenters bored big holes in the riser part of steps to keep dampness out.

The upstairs SE bedroom has always been the choice room. It was his Grandmothers and may have been where she died.

The third floor had particians that went up 6 or 7 feet for privacy and had three or four rooms.

The garage was at one time the boat house and housed a 30 foot launch. They had a metal track leading from the boat house into the lake where they pulled the boat in Spring and Fall. After the boat was gone, they moved the boat house closer to the gate and cut it down considerably. They had to remove the Yard man's house which was located where the garage now stands.

Ben remembers the house originally as a gray color with white porch and gray painted floors.on the porch.

Ben said the house sat neglected for a long time after his Grandmother died preceding the time the Yacht club used it.

Ben remembered his Grandfather telling him the story of why the Hitt family home is on N. Lake Road and not on the lake. Mr. Hitt's family goes back to the original land grant. The original Mr. Mrs. Hitt built a log cabin near the lake. There were Indians at that time who hunted and fished the lake. When walking by the cabin, the Indians often looked in scarring Mrs. Hitt. So, Mr. Hitt built the house on the new location away from the lake.

Ben's grandfather originally bought the whole Kentucky Park - six acres. The acreage went along the shoreline and stopped at Turtle Hill.

Ben feels Kentucky Point is the best property on the lake. His reasoning is that it was one of the first properties built on, and the choicest was chosen first.

Ben's Grandfather had five children, who all had children, so there has always been many children enjoying the cottage and many good times were had there by the family.

I invited Ben and his family to visit us at the cottage when he is next in the area. He is a sailor and thought if not next year, he would visit us within the next several years. He is anxious to see what we do with the place and is pleased that we want to restore it.

I gave him all our telephone numbers and he said if he found more pictures or additional materials he thought would help us in restoring the property, he would let us know and send them along.