



# ALDEN HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE **CAMPAIGN**

*Preserving our Past...  
From Timber to Technology*





*The Alden House and its property is without a doubt one of the most important historical sites in Duxbury and as such is a source of pride as well as a vital cultural partner in the life of the community. - Tony Kelso, Duxbury Town Historian*

## *Honoring the history and legacy of the Mayflower Pilgrims*

The Alden Kindred is excited to present the **Alden Building Campaign (ABC)** – designed to both preserve the Alden legacy and provide a **Center for Living History**.

Today, over 400 years after they landed at Plymouth in 1620, we celebrate the hope, love, leadership and resilience shown by John Alden and Priscilla Mullins and the other - barely fifty - *Mayflower* Passengers who survived the first winter at Plymouth.

Just a few years later, around 1627, a young John and Priscilla came to Duxbury in pursuit of what became their own “American Dream” - a home and land of their own. Their story is at the core of early America. And it remained so as the years have passed ...

Some 155 years after the arrival of the *Mayflower*, on the day after the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the Duxbury Militia met in the Great Room of this, Briggs Alden’s house. The British were in nearby Marshfield. Briggs, his son, Judah, militia leader George Partridge and a band of others left the Alden House to march to Marshfield to drive out the British from their midst.

Again in 1858, this place took center stage. Longfellow’s **THE COURTSHIP OF MYLES STANDISH** immediately became folklore, making the Aldens American icons. Scores of curious travelers, eager to see where John and Priscilla lived, came knocking at the door.

Today, we all have the privilege to look directly on the actual foundations of John and Priscilla’s first Duxbury home, walk on the lands they once sowed, learn how they and the Aldens who followed survived, overcame hardship, lived their lives, built their homes, and with it, a young nation.







# Alden Building Campaign

We can marvel at how one family was able to survive, thrive, grow and develop a sense of community that we continue to cherish.

This is the story of real early American history, told through the lens of one family - the Aldens and their children – who have grown to over 1 million descendants.

Our **Campaign** was launched to ensure the full and inclusive story of the Pilgrims – along with those who were here in Duxbury before, and those who followed. This story will continue to be taught and learned to the delight of generations to come. There are stories yet untold, discoveries yet uncovered, lessons yet to be learned.

We have the opportunity today to lift this cherished Alden House National Historic Site into an exciting and fulfilling **Center for Living History** that ensures the early American story in our midst continues to be told to the young and old! Please join us in support of this exciting opportunity!





# Alden Building Campaign

## The Alden Building Campaign (ABC) aims to raise \$2.3 million to do three things:

**A – Preserve our Historic Assets** (The Alden House and the First Site) by creating a dedicated endowed fund with **\$500,000** to be used only for preservation, restoration, and protection of our National Historic Landmark.

**B – Build a two-story addition to the Alden Barn and create the *Center for Living History*** which strengthens our mission to preserve, share, and teach the significance of the Pilgrim story. **We need to raise \$1 million for this purpose.** The proposed 2,400-square-foot addition will provide a lecture/gathering space for 75 people, a reproduction hearth for hands-on cooking demonstrations, an exhibit gallery, gift shop and an elevator to the Alden House level enabling equal access for handicapped visitors. This expansion will provide our visitors with a world-class visitor experience supported by the necessary physical and technological infrastructures. With a state-of-the-art, year-round, handicapped-accessible building, we will be able to offer exhibits that share Duxbury's colonial and Native American story, living history demonstrations, educational programs, and gallery talks. We will employ cutting edge technologies to build on the physical experience we provide. It will be accessible through technology to the rest of the world.

**C – Continue to expand our financial base** to meet the capacity building for this next century by dedicating **\$500,000** of your donations to our Endowment and **\$300,000** to retire the mortgage on the 2 ½ acres of original Alden land acquired in 2015, which made our expansion possible by doubling the size of our property.

We have developed a list of **Naming Opportunities** for our donors which is inside this booklet.

**We know that this ABC Campaign will be a success!** We Aldens and others are “up to this task.” We know how important it is to save our history, preserve this authentic historical site for the next century, and to make sure the generations of Aldens yet to come understand this amazing story of a family who survived the voyage to a new land that became the United States of America.

Please consider sending your gift today.

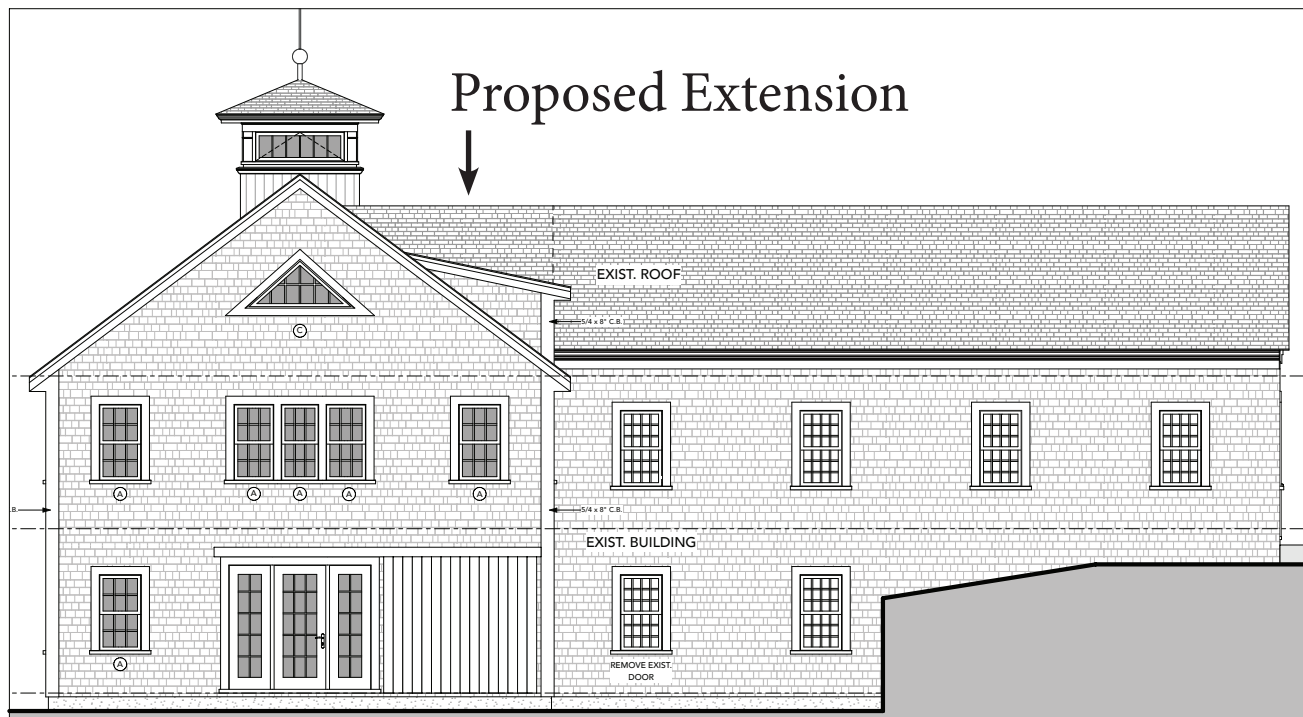
With gratitude,

Pauline Kezer, President; Russell Rockwell and Richard Holmes, Vice Presidents;  
Alden Keyser, Treasurer; and Evelyn Walker, Secretary.



# Alden Building Campaign - \$2.3 Million

- \$1 Million for expanding the Alden Barn
- \$500,000 to establish an Alden Historic Sites Preservation Fund
- \$500,000 to our Endowment Fund to build capacity and ensure fiscal strength
- and \$300,000 to retire the mortgage on abutting property added in 2015



## *Center for Living History* Two-Floor Addition to Existing Barn Adds 2,400 Square Feet

- Lecture/Gathering Space for up to 75 people
- Exhibit Gallery
- Equal access elevator to Alden House level
- Alden Museum Shop
- Office Space, Storage & Kitchen





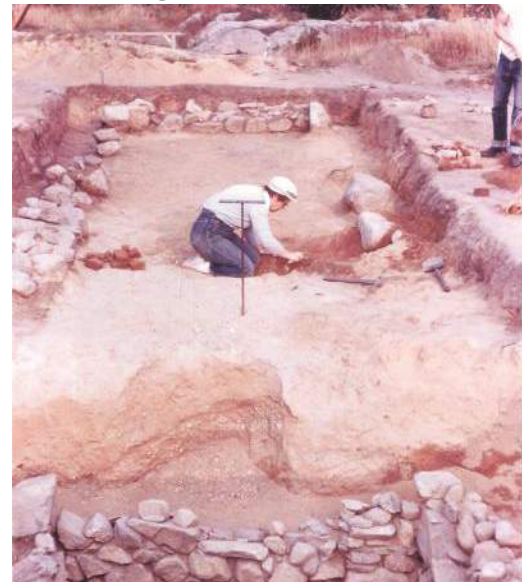


# Why Does the Alden Story Matter Today?

Today, more than 35 million Americans, White, Black, Brown, Asian, Hispanic, and Indigenous peoples are direct descendants of one or more of the Pilgrims who landed in Plymouth in 1620. Some might ask why, in the midst of all the cultural and demographic shifts that makes us all Americans, does the story of the *Mayflower* Pilgrims and John and Priscilla Mullins Alden still matter. What relevance does this 400-year-old story have in today's world, and for today's youth? It is in fact one of the most important aspects of our mission to answer these questions. *Mayflower* descendants have included nine presidents, dozens of national leaders, poets, writers, inventors, actors, and people from all walks of life. The fact that more than 10% of our fellow citizens carry the DNA of those first men, women and children who struggled for survival on the shores of New England and forged positive relationships with the local Indigenous people should tell us something about determination, family, and the tenacity of the human spirit.

## Alden First Site

John Alden was one of eight original Plymouth leaders, who, along with five London associates, bought out the merchant adventurers who paid for their trip on the *Mayflower* in 1620. John, his wife Priscilla and their children, were granted 100 acres north of Plymouth in what would become Duxbury. It's assumed that John prepared the land for planting and began work on their new house in 1628 and that they were in seasonal residence by 1629 or 1630. This house was located about 760 feet southeast of the present Alden House. The site was first professionally excavated and documented by historical archaeologist Roland W. Robbins in 1960. His investigation revealed a stone foundation measuring 10 1/2 by 38 feet with a cellar hole at the westerly end and a rich assemblage of 17th century European and Native American cultural artifacts that continue to be studied today. ([www.alden.org](http://www.alden.org))





# Special Gift Recognitions

*We invite you to be part of the next century of the Alden House by donating at your level of interest.\**

## **General:**

- \$1 million – Naming the *Center for Living History*
- \$500,000 – Naming the Alden Historic Sites Preservation Fund
- \$250,000 – Naming the Reception Area of the *Center for Living History*
- \$250,000 – Naming the Lecture/Exhibit Hall in the *Center for Living History*
- \$100,000 – Naming the new Teaching Kitchen in the *Center for Living History*
- \$100,000 – Naming the Alden Ell Exhibit Area
- \$50,000 – Sponsoring the Interactive History Exhibit with Programmable Computer Table
- \$50,000 – Naming the Gift Shop in the *Center for Living History*

## **In the Alden House:**

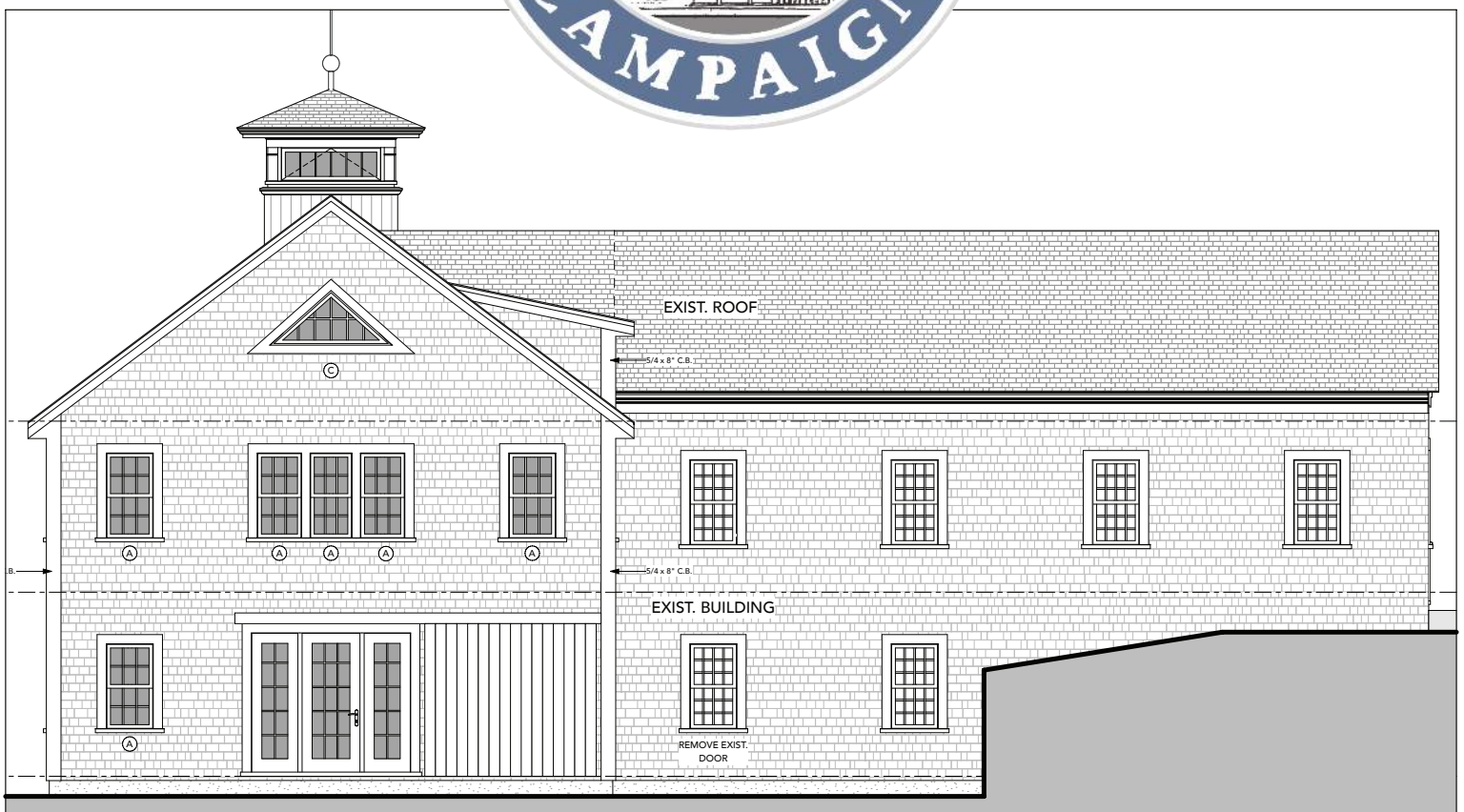
- \$30,000 – Adopt the “Great Room”
- \$30,000 – Adopt the Parlor
- \$25,000 – Adopt the Master Bedroom
- \$25,000 – Adopt the South Bedroom
- \$20,000 – Adopt Aunt Polly’s Bedroom
- \$20,000 – Adopt the Spinning Room
- \$10,000 – Adopt the Children’s Bedroom
- \$5,000 – Adopt a Window
- \$5,000 – Adopt a Door

## **On the Historic Grounds:**

- \$100,000 – Outside patio (by flagpole)
- \$50,000 – First Site Sponsor (includes signage)
- \$25,000 – Pathway to First Site (includes signage) RESERVED
- \$15,000 – The Alden Well
- \$2,500 – Alden House Gardens

\*All gifts over \$1,000 will be recognized in a public way onsite.





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[www.alden.org](http://www.alden.org)

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