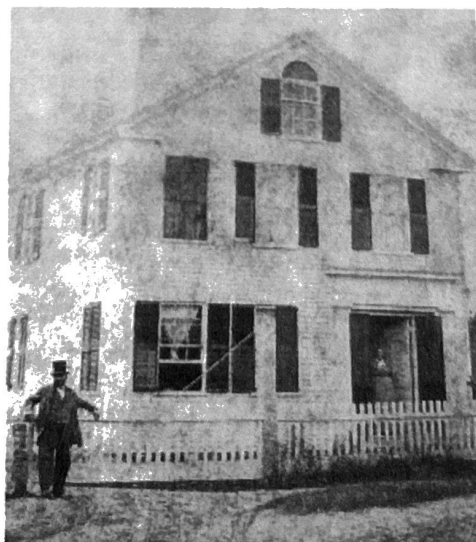


Welcome to the Captain Swain House

During the mid 19th century, over a span of 30 years, more than 50 houses and three churches were built on William Street, almost doubling the size of the older community along Main Street and the harbor. This expansion of the village, then known as Holmes Hole, became a thriving costal seaport. Three out of every four households made their living at sea.

The Greek Revival house at 49 William Street was constructed between 1835-1836 and the barn was built in 1841 by Captain Johan Andreas Skjon, a Dane by birth, who adopted the name John A. Swain upon settling in Holmes Hole (now Vineyard Haven) in 1827. He married Polly Dexter Luce, the daughter of Captain Matthew Luce, and built this home for his wife and six sons. The home remained in the Swain family until the early 1900's when it was sold to Miss Laura Lee, a designer and writer for House Beautiful. The original structure remains intact, although additions have been made over the years. In 1983, 49 William Street was listed on the Nations Register of Historic Places.

The current owners trace their first ancestor on the island to James Redfield, who purchased 20 acres in Holmes Hole in 1675.



The Captain and Mrs. Swain