



PRESERVATION, rather than heavy-handed restoration to an earlier period, was the guiding principle here, so the house reflects its four construction dates (from 1645 to 1997).



ABOVE: A chamfered lintel hints that the old kitchen fireplace dates back to the log structure, which may have been moved away from its chimney ca. 1700 and a room inserted. The 17th-century flax wheel was in the house. **FAK RIGHT:** The rare document box belonged to Riggs, who was representative to the colonial Great Court. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The hall chamber. **OPPOSITE:** Windsor rocker and Victorian sofa in the stuccoed Federal parlor are Riggs family relics.

breil roof and a storey and a half were added to the Cape. That was the house configuration that Ms. Lambert bought in 1995. When she took this step, which was to be life changing, the house had no electricity, no running water, and no heat other than that provided by its five fireplaces.

"[It was] just as I was signing a contract to write a book," Barbara says. "Out of curiosity and partial disbelief, I'd gone to an open house to see a reputed seventeenth-century house in Gloucester—that I'd never heard of! It turned out to be real, but I already had a house and didn't need another one.

"Along came the Landmarks Trust, an organization that owns some 150 historic houses in England and elsewhere. It generally restores and furnishes them appropriately, publishing a book on each, and offering them as three- to five-day rentals. The Landmarks Trust had just purchased the Rudyard Kipling house in Vermont. They were interested in the Riggs house because of Kipling's connection to



TOP: Paneling over the fireplace attests to the mid-18th-century makeover. **ABOVE:** An overshoot coverlet in the main bed-chamber, created when the gambrel roof was added in 1753.

