

Green Gables Architectural Development

Green Gables was completed in August 1899. We know from a diary kept by Nora Wells during their trip abroad in 1899 that they were avid photographers. Here is a selection of photographs from the early years of Green Gables. They were scanned from prints in the collection of Frances McClung Allen. The prints have dates handwritten on them, but it is unlikely that they are completely correct. We believe that the house reached a stable form with the kitchen extension, bay windows on first and second floors, turret and octagon porch about 1910.



Green Gables soon after construction. This photo was taken from the west, perhaps about at the railroad tracks. The newspaper commented that Mr. Wells built his house way north of town. The light area is sand.



Here is an enlargement of the photo of the house. Note how plain Green Gables was at this time. The “widow’s walk” on the roof is there, but no bay windows, no turret, no kitchen expansion.



A view of the front (south elevation) of Green Gables. The faces are indistinct.



View from the south east before addition of the turret and octagon porch.



Watering the trees that are now around Green Gables. Notice that the second floor of the kitchen wing hasn't yet been extended to the east.



The kitchen extension and bay window on first floor have been added. The 1899 date is possibly correct.



Here you can see the addition of the turret, the extension of the second floor of the kitchen wing, and the addition of an entrance to the second floor porch from the front of the house. The original entrance to the second floor porch is a door just to the right of the chimney in this photo. That door still exists and opens off the hall that leads to the turret room. The 1899 date is incorrect.



In this view the octagon porch has been added, but there is still no bay window on the second floor. The 1901 date is incorrect.



Another view of the south elevation prior to addition of the second floor bay window.



And here is the configuration that we want to restore with the addition of the second floor bay window. The 1901 date is incorrect.



Another view of the east elevation.



Another view of the configuration that we want to use as the basis for our vision of Green Gables. The 1901 date is certainly incorrect.