



RELEASE DATE: August 15, 2019

**OLD YORK CELEBRATES GRAND RE-OPENING
OF THE PERKINS HOUSE MUSEUM, AUGUST 23–24**

York, Maine—Old York Historical Society (OYHS) re-opens the Perkins House Museum to the public with a series of events, including a benefit cocktail party on Friday, August 23, and a free open house on Saturday, August 24.

COCKTAILS BY THE RIVER: BENEFIT EVENING – Friday, August 23, 5pm

Old York's re-opening weekend kicks off with a benefit party, *Cocktails by the River*. Guests enjoy drinks, delicious nibbles prepared by Wabi Café, live music by *Seasmoke*, and a first look at the newly-restored 1926 kitchen. Craft cocktails are provided by Wiggly Bridge Distillery (including Elizabeth Perkins' favorite tipple), with beer provided by SoMe Brewing Company, and wine by Vineyard Brands.

Tickets are \$75 per person, or \$250 for patrons (includes two tickets), and may be purchased online at oldyork.org, or by calling 207-363-4974.

Parking is available at the York Middle School (30 Organug Road), with a trolley to the Perkins House generously provided by Williams Realty Partners.

Event sponsors: Coldwell Banker Yorke Realty, Marshall Tent and Event Rental, Vineyard Brands, Wiggly Bridge Distillery, Williams Realty Partners, and York Harbor Inn.

Proceeds from this event provide essential support for the many things Old York cares for and cares about—16 buildings, 20 properties, 5 full-time and 25 part-time employees, more than 20,000 artifacts, 50,000 archival objects in the library—and helps us serve thousands of people annually through tours, educational programs, exhibitions, and special events.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – Saturday, August 24, 10am-4pm

This fun, family-friendly event is an opportunity to tour the first floor of the historic house, including the newly-renovated 1926 kitchen. Afterwards visitors can enjoy snacks and lemonade under a tented venue in the garden, overlooking the scenic York River. There are activities throughout the day for children, including lawn games, and story time at 11am and 2pm.

This is a free event; no reservations are required.

ABOUT THE PERKINS HOUSE MUSEUM AND ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

Originally the home of ferrymen and sea captains, the Perkins House Museum is a rambling, gabled structure situated at 394 Southside Road, on the York River by Sewall's Bridge. In 1898, it became the summer home of Mary Perkins and her daughter, Elizabeth, who transformed the house into an environment evocative of colonial New England. The museum preserves their original interiors and possessions.

The historic house has been closed to the public since 2014. As part of a multi-year strategic plan, the house received critical upgrades to its electrical and water services, along with a new cedar shingle roof. Most noticeable to visitors, however, is the restoration of the house's 1926 kitchen—included on the public tour for the first time since the house opened as a museum in 1954. With a broken sewage pipe and a rotting floor, the space needed all new plumbing and flooring. Old paint was stripped from the walls, and the historic finishes restored. Using a 1950s estate inventory, the historic kitchen and pantries, are furnished with their original objects, including dishes, copper pots and pans, work tables, and a 1925 "Glenwood" cook stove.

Finally, an underused wing of the house has been converted into administrative offices for the museum staff. The 4,000+ square foot space includes public reception rooms, restrooms, conference room, offices, and a large multi-use space in the formerly unfinished attic.

Regular public tours of the Perkins House Museum begin September 5, and will run once a day, Thursday through Sunday, until October 13. Visitors should purchase tickets for the tours at the Museum Center at 3 Lindsay Road. For more information and tour times, visit oldyork.org or call 207-363-1756.

ABOUT OLD YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OYHS is a vital part of the York, Maine, community. The organization maintains 16 buildings and 20 properties including the 17-acre Steedman Woods; employs 5 full-time and 25 part-time employees; houses more than 20,000 artifacts and 50,000 archival materials; and serves thousands of people year round through tours, educational programs, and special events. OYHS receives no Federal, State, or Municipal support, relying on funding provided through private donations, a modest endowment, and a trust established by Elizabeth Perkins, as well as earned income from ticket sales, programs, memberships.

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