

HISTORIC OPEN HOUSE



From left, Bob DeBisschop and Ed Rowland, both of Oxford, welcome guests at the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead, site of the Oxford Historical Society's museum, Saturday.

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Twitchell-Rowland House on view despite storm

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OXFORD — Saturday's weather forced the Oxford Historical Society to cut short the first public peek into the historic Twitchell-Rowland Homestead.

But before that took place, residents had two hours to view the first floor of the 1755 salt-box on Towner Lane. The showing was scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m., but was closed around 3 p.m. About 30 people made it out, and the historical society possibly will host additional public hours, Town Historian

Dorothy A. DeBisschop said.

"I think it's a major milestone," DeBisschop said, standing inside one of the meeting rooms. Big snowflakes could be seen outside accumulating on the ground, and on commemorative bricks.

This is also a "thank you" day, DeBisschop said. In a glass display case, the historical society propped up white cards that give thanks to various volunteers and groups who helped with the project.

On Sept. 28, 2006, the homestead was relocated from 116 Christian St. to 60 Towner Lane.

Residents walked through

the first floor, which had displays showing renovations done to the house and a video showing the move of the homestead five years ago. The building is listed in the Connecticut Register of Historic Places.

The first floor will be used as a local history educational center and museum. The historical society recently received approval for a certificate of occupancy, DeBisschop said.

Only the first floor was open to residents. The caretaker of the facility, Ed Rowland, lives upstairs. His aunt and uncle, Myrtle and Frederick Rowland, donated the land for the home-

stead.

Suzanne Palys, a Girl Scout troop leader in Oxford, said, "I think it's great. I've been hearing about it for a number of years."

She said the Scouts came out to perform community service, and are learning about the house.

Louise Burr, historical society president, said this is a big event, but members want the public to see what they have accomplished. Their work will continue, though with cataloging and bringing artifacts from members' homes to here, members said.