

# Introduction

I had never planned this project. I fell into it when I needed a place to live when a restored farmhouse where I was living month to month was unexpectedly sold and I had to move quickly. In the early spring of 1982, I had been associated with the family home since 1962 and had been living in it with others renting from my mother when it died December 26, 1980. It was then left empty to Wisconsin weather. So, I moved in and the rest you might say is history. The cause was trying to lower the \$4,000 cost of supplementing the solar heat. Installing the new boiler on that day broke the pipes (feed and return) for the only heat source, the 1500 square foot radiant floor. It then had been 2 years since that time.

Seeing this home where I was moved from outside of Boston as a 10-year-old in the then shape broke my heart. I was recently a computer scientist graduate working in a new R&D group for 100-million-dollar company and got creative. It was an act of love for this incredible living work of art. If you ask me if it was monetarily a gain, I will repeat that it was simply being there at the right time with enough courage to save this home. I think by the time I sold the home to the Moore's; it had taken everything I earned for 7 years, hours and hours of my own effort, and an eventual loss of about \$25,000.

This was going to be all or nothing. The reason for that was the interdependency of the structure. The radiant floor was the footing for the south window wall. The south window wall was a major support to the roof system. The south side of the balcony was suspended from the roof. To address as much as possible only the stone and the base structure of the balcony and roof were all that was left alone.

I rolled up my sleeves, got creative with money (then at 18%) and got it done. My deep knowledge of the house combined with a free energy loss study done about in 1978 provided me with all I needed to know for bringing this gem back to life. I knew the only way for this to work was to redo it all at the same time. Thus, the story began.