

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
NORTH HAMPTON SURVEY
2012-2013

PURPOSE: To begin a survey program in the town of North Hampton to document manmade structures.

GOALS:

- Undertake phased reconnaissance survey using volunteers for historical research and field work
- Engage and educate volunteers, property owners and the public about the historic significance of public and private buildings and other manmade structures

BACKGROUND:

In 1994, the NH Department of Transportation, as part of its project to enlarge the Route 111 bridge over the railroad tracks, hired an architectural historian to assess the impact, if any, on the buildings and other structures in the area. Lisa Mausolf completed the NH Division of Historical Resources *Project Area Form* for an area extending (between Lafayette Road to just before the School). It included thirty properties considered historic in terms of age (any structure more than fifty years old). She advised the Board of Selectmen in a letter that the area which she called the Village Center was eligible for listing as a National Register Historic District.

Since then, the Town has restored its Town Hall and successfully placed it on the State Register of Historic Places in 2006. Little Boar's Head District became a National Register-listed Historic District in 1997. Despite several efforts at surveying historic houses, barns, and farms, no organization or person completed the standard forms for such a survey, and no other individual building or geographic area has applied for inclusion on the State or National Registers.

SCOPE OF CURRENT PROJECT:

Phase I: The Commission has decided to start its reconnaissance survey effort with the Town Hall / Depot area extending along Atlantic Avenue from Lafayette Road to Pine Road. This area has been the Town Center since the arrival of the railroad in 1840 and the construction of Town Hall in 1843. As there are likely to be changes to the area in the next few years, it makes sense to document what exists today so that pertinent information about the built environment is readily accessible to boards, commissions, property owners, and residents.

The Commission will build upon the 1994 report and the successful State Register application for Town Hall. Commission members will do the work relating to the Town-owned buildings in the Town Campus; and will solicit the aid of the School, business owners and residential property owners to assist in documenting their own properties and any structures (buildings, portions of buildings, graveyards, stone walls) that date prior to 1963.

The Commission expects to complete as many as forty one NH *Division of Historical Resources Individual Inventory Forms*. These reconnaissance level forms will consist of page 1 (sections 1-38), mapping (sections 39 & 40), history and architecture (sections 41 & 43), boundary and bibliography / references (sections 47 & 48) as well as photos.

If owners wish to complete a State Register listing for individual properties, the NHDHR will work with them and Heritage Commission members and volunteers to complete sections 44-46 of the *Individual Inventory Form*.

Phase II (but coincident with Phase I). Heritage Commission task. National Register application for Town Hall; State Register application for the original Library (now Town Clerk/ Tax Collector Office), with consideration of National Register.

Phase III: North Hill, the original Town Center extending out from the UCC Church, Centennial Hall and Town Common, will be the focus of the next survey. Public input and future events, however, may affect the order in which surveys are conducted.

PRODUCTS:

Phase I:

- Approximately forty-on (41) reconnaissance level individual inventory forms
- Completed forms and supplemental materials available to the public at the Library and online, if feasible.

Some possible users and uses of the information are:

- Select Board, Land Use boards: Development of Master Plan, decision - making
- Individual owners: Understanding, preservation, restoration, documentation of manmade structures on property
- School Board: Decision-making and outreach to community about changes to the building and property over time
- School Faculty: Enrichment possibilities relating to the survey process itself, the family graveyard on school property, the farms that preceded the School, and local history

Phase II

During the same period, the Heritage Commission works on

- National I Register application for Town Hall
- State Register (and possibly National Register) application for the original Library (now the Town Clerk/ Tax Collector's Office)

Phase III: Next geographic area for reconnaissance level individual inventory to be determined.

TIMELINE: The Commission intends to begin Phase I in Spring 2012 after holding a public awareness and engagement effort, and a training session for volunteers. Assuming the Commission obtains volunteers to do some of the work, it anticipates completing Phase I within a twelve month period.

National Register application for Town Hall is being prepared by consultant at present. State Register application for the original Library building expected to be prepared by Fall 2012 by the Heritage Commission. No application for the National Register listing anticipated until 2013.

CONSULTANT: The Commission does not expect to use a professional consultant for the survey itself but the DHR has suggested one will be needed for a National Register application.