

# Historic Resources Section North Hampton Master Plan

A Brief History of North Hampton  
Summary of Heritage Commission Activities  
Goals and Recommendations

Prepared by  
the North Hampton Heritage Commission

Approved by the Commission at its  
17 January 2013 meeting

Approved by the North Hampton Planning Board  
April 2, 2013

## **A Brief History of North Hampton**

About 1636, settlements were established within the bounds of the present day North Hampton. Further east, along the Little River, grist mill and the saw mills were first operating as early as 1672. North Hampton was incorporated as a town in 1742, when it separated from Hampton, one of the four original settlements in New Hampshire. As was the common practice in New England, the Meeting House served as a house of worship and was closely intertwined with the secular life of the community. Since travel to Hampton was difficult, the residents of North Hill were granted permission to build their own Meeting House on the Green in 1734. The development of the new North Hill Parish was fostered by being located on the principal post route between Portsmouth and Boston. North Hampton's main industry of agriculture prospered as farmers found more profitable and accessible markets in Portsmouth. With the construction of a larger Second Meeting House on the Green, a school, established taverns, and ancillary businesses, the North Hill area evolved into the town's center.

The transition of a small agricultural community of 600 people into the present day thriving community began in 1761 with the construction of the New Cut Road (Atlantic Avenue) linking North Hill to Little Boar's Head. However, it was the launching of the Eastern Railroad in 1840 that shifted the center of commerce and political activity from North Hill to the area around the Railroad Depot. The Town Hall built in 1844, at what is now 224 Atlantic Avenue, was subsequently moved to its present location in 1885, to be closer to the local established businesses near the Depot. The Portsmouth Electric Railway connecting the Depot to Little Boar's Head, Hampton Beach, Rye and Portsmouth, attracted visitors to the ocean and the opening of boarding houses. By the early 1900's, summer homes were built along the Atlantic coast. Little Boar's Head was now host to presidents, governors, industrialists, artists, poets and writers.

Post Second World War era transformed North Hampton. With the popularity of the automobile and advances in telecommunications as well as the improved local roads connecting to the Interstate highway, North Hampton attracted a more diverse commercial and professional populace. Between 1960 and 1970, the population of North Hampton increased from 1,910 to 3,259, representing a 70 % increase. Faced with this dramatic growth just within one decade, the Planning and Zoning Boards were entrusted with the mandate of preserving the rural character of the town while at the same time better meeting the needs of the populace. As of the 2010 Census, the population of North Hampton was 4,300.

The Master Plan will undoubtedly be an important factor in creating the Town Hall area as the focal point for an integrated municipal complex. North Hampton continues to address the challenges of growth, while maintaining the important values of the past. The eclectic nature of North Hampton's development is a constant reminder that as we move forward, it is important to remember the past. The Heritage Commission strives to keep that vision of the past as a guide to the future.

## Summary of Heritage Commission Activities

In 1997, the Town voted to establish a Heritage Commission in accordance with the provisions of RSA 673 and 674. The mission of the North Hampton Heritage Commission is to model, facilitate and support activities, events and publications that will connect the heritage of this community with the past, present and future.

Among the Commission's activities and accomplishments since its creation are:

### Publications

- *North Hampton Heritage Walks* (co-published with North Hampton Historical Society & Little Boar's Head Heritage Commission)
- *North Hampton's War Monument and Memorial Bridge Markers* (available on Town website)
- *Some of North Hampton's Famous People* (available on Town website)
- *Old Locales of North Hampton* (available on Town website)
- *North Hampton Militia Victory at 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Saratoge: The Battle of Bemis Heights October 7, 1777* (brochure and oil painting by Jenny (Landman) Holbert in Heritage Commission conference room)

Time Line pre-1660 – 1975 (available on Town website)

One Hundred Historic Houses (available on Town website)

Milestone Marker description (available on Town website)

Town Hall added to NH State Register of Historic Places - application prepared by Kathy Shea, Winnacunnet High School Senior Project with assistance of Priscilla Leavitt, North Hampton Historical Society (available on Town website)

Town Hall application for the National Register of Historic Places (pending) – with support of North Hampton Town Hall Committee

Town Clerk's Historical Records Project (finding aids available on Town website)

Information and support for other Land Use Boards and Select Board

Historic Resources Survey of Town Hall / Depot Area underway

## **Goals and Recommendations**

**The historic buildings and sites in North Hampton contribute to the Town's unique character, heritage and quality of life; therefore, it is in the public interest to protect them. It is the policy of the Town of North Hampton to protect these historic resources through both voluntary and regulatory measures.**

**GOAL: Make historic preservation part of the planning process.**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Heritage Commission shall keep itself informed of the Planning Board's agendas.

The Heritage Commission recommends that the Planning Board hosts all Land Use Boards at an annual informational meeting at which each board presents recent activities, actions, goals, objectives and tasks for the next twelve months.

The Heritage Commission should advise and provide information to the Planning Board to facilitate historic preservation. This advisory function is especially important in cases involving properties over 50 years old or which may have an impact upon an historic site or resource, including properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Heritage Commission shall continue the effort to survey and inventory the structures and sites of North Hampton, in a systematic fashion, with emphasis on structures and sites more than 50 years old. The survey will be a resource to the Planning Board and other town boards to understand the built environment, patterns of development and historic resources of North Hampton. Such knowledge will lead to better informed decisions and more effective preservation planning. The survey material will be made available for public use.

The Heritage Commission encourages the adoption of a Zoning Ordinance or Building Code Amendment stating that Subdivision and site plan review should include the identification of historic features, sites, neighborhoods and views. The Heritage Commission should be included in any proposals for development/subdivision of historic properties. Documentation of buildings/historic use should be required of any developer considering such a development/subdivision.

The Heritage Commission encourages the Planning Board that the naming of new roads should consider any historic features or names of the area.

The Heritage Commission should be included in a review of any proposal to renovate historic town-owned buildings or development plans for town-owned buildings and sites.



The Heritage Commission should advise in determining whether a building might be exempt from otherwise mandatory code provisions. NH Division of Historical Resources maintains a list of Historic Buildings and Code Compliance information that includes special provisions for historic properties relative to access, building and safety codes, that take into consideration the particular circumstances and/or construction methods and materials.

**GOAL: Amendments to North Hampton Zoning ordinance to preserve the rural New England character and heritage of North Hampton**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To adopt an amendment to protect historic stone walls from demolition. The Heritage Commission shall provide input to the development and writing of the ordinance.

To establish a Demolition Review committee comprised by 3 members and 2 alternates appointed by the Select Board comprised of at least 2 Heritage Commission members and 1 at-large member of the public.

To establish a process of demolition review for any building constructed more than 50 years before the date of application which includes a two tier process of demolition delay. An initial delay of 5 business days for the Demolition Review committee to determine if a building is of historic or architectural significance. If the property is deemed significant, a delay not to exceed 45 days would go into effect during which time a public hearing would take place. If no alternatives to demolition have been identified and agreed to by the applicant, the applicant is free to proceed with demolition. If the applicant is in agreement, the Demolition Review committee shall photographically document the building. The committee may also encourage the applicant to salvage significant architectural features. *The foregoing is a brief explanation of a possible process.*

**GOAL: Recognize and work to preserve civic structures more than 50 years old, including those no longer owned by the town.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Survey and document the historic significance of the former library/old stone building and war memorial with a goal to obtain listing on the New Hampshire Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

Make the North Hill area and Centennial Hall a priority for the next phase of the survey of historical resources.

**GOAL: Engage and educate the community about the historical significance of the built environment and the people who lived and worked here.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Continue the Historic Resources Survey. Make the property inventories readily available and conduct outreach efforts to publicize the process and results.

Promote the benefits of historic preservation including any tax incentives or grant opportunities, such as preservation easements, barn easements and preservation tax credits. If a survey area's property owners wish to become an historic district (local, state or national), provide information and assist if asked.

Encourage use of historic names for new roads and developments.

Invite the Heritage and / or Historic District Commissions of Little Boar's Head and bordering towns to an annual meeting to exchange ideas.

## **MASTER PLAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

Adopted December 3, 1998

The Heritage Commission was organized in May 1997. The purpose of the Commission is to identify, educate, and promote preservation of historic buildings and sites. The Commission is in compliance with RSA 674:44 with five members and two alternates. The work of the members is to research, record, and inventory historic resources, assist the Planning Board as requested, advise local agencies and boards, and coordinates activities with service and non-profit groups.

There four areas of town with historical significance: North Hill, Little River, Little Boar's Head, and Town Hall-Deport area. In these areas are existing structures and sites dating from the early 1700's. For a complete history of North Hampton, refer to the 1978 history, "The Way It Was In North Hampton", by Stillman Moulton Hobbs and Helen David Hobbs. North Hampton has an active Historical Society.

Over one hundred houses have been identified and recorded by the Heritage Commission that are still existing from the 1857 and 1892 maps. A letter to homeowners informed them of the historic value of their homes. A photo project is in process to record these houses. Additional places identified and recorded include public buildings, historic sites, and cemeteries. Current projects include verification and mapping of historic sites and structures. Consideration is being given to identifying these structures with plaques. With these and other projects, the Heritage Commission will continue to promote awareness and appreciation of the value of Town Heritage to the community.

First Report of Heritage Commission, written by Robert Southworth, has been completed and distributed to Commission members, town office, and available to review at the North Hampton Public Library.

Jane M. Palmer, Chairman  
Robert A. Southworth, Secretary  
Barbara Hobby  
Jennifer Landman  
Priscilla Leavitt  
Janice Mellian  
Jack Steiner, Selectmen's Representative  
Pamela Schwotzer, Consultant

## HERITAGE COMMISSIONS FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITIES

Heritage Commissions give local governments in New Hampshire new abilities to recognize and protect historical and cultural resources. Unlike historic district commissions, whose responsibilities are limited to specific part of a community, heritage commissions are intended to have a town-wide or city-wide scope, and a range of activities that is determined by each individual municipality. Heritage commissions do for cultural resources what conservation commissions do for natural resources. Functionally, heritage commissions are somewhere between historical societies and historic district commissions, with their precise role determined locally. And while their primary duties are to advise and assist other local boards and commissions, including the planning board, heritage commissions are also empowered to accept and expend funds for a non-lapsing heritage fund, and to acquire and manage property and property rights. Some communities may have heritage commissions that are only advisory, but others will want their commissions to take a much more active role, and to assume responsibilities of a historic district commission. And all of these are local decisions, authorized by the state enabling legislation: it gives communities a menu, not a mandate.

The "heritage commission" concept provides communities with broader choices for the form and function of a municipal heritage body:

- no entity (nothing at all);
- a heritage commission only, with community-wide but non-regulatory responsibilities;
- a historic district commission only, with regulatory responsibilities limited to designated district/s;
- both a broadly focused non-regulatory heritage commission and a more narrowly focused, regulatory historic district commission; or
- a heritage commission (or historic district commission) that combines the functions of *both* entities.

The heritage commission statutes are "local option" legislation. They enable communities to establish heritage commissions with educational, advisory, and technical responsibilities; and, if desired, to merge an existing historic district commission with the heritage commission (or to give an existing historic district commission the additional responsibilities of a heritage commission), so that the commission would also have regulatory powers within locally-designated historic districts. 1995 legislation brought the membership requirements of conservation commission, historic district commission, and heritage commissions into conformity;

it also specifically stated that members of these commissions may serve on other municipal boards and commissions. This clarification was made to help communities--especially those with few available volunteers--that wish to establish parallel conservation and preservation commissions; and it will also make citizens' expertise more widely available to a broader range of local decisionmaking bodies.

For the first time, New Hampshire's municipalities can choose a level of official involvement in heritage activity that each community is comfortable with. And they will also be able, if they wish, to start out with a heritage commission and then, as local preservation sentiment grows, assign historic district responsibilities to the commission.

One of the other innovations of the heritage commission legislation is that it allows municipalities to establish a non-lapsing heritage fund which the heritage commission can spend--after a public hearing and subject to approval of the local governing body, without going back to the town meeting or citywide balloting--to acquire property and property interests (easements, etc.). However, to protect private property rights, neither the municipality nor the commission can condemn property for acquisition with the heritage fund.

This is exact analogue to the conservation fund provisions (RSA 36-A:4 and RSA 36-A:5) which have been in effect, very successfully, for municipal conservation commissions for over thirty years. The heritage commission is also responsible to "manage and control" the acquired property, just as the conservation commission manages and controls the property *it* acquired under RSA 36-A:4 and RSA 36-A-5.

NH DHR/SHPO October 1996

State law defines a "historic property" as follows:

RSA 227-C:1, VI: "Historic property" means any building, structure, object, district, area or site that is significant in the history, architecture, archaeology or culture of this states, its communities, or the nation.



What actually constitutes a "significant" property is an open question, but there is general consensus that "significant properties" may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- properties which are listed, or determined eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places;
- properties designated as historic properties by the State of New Hampshire, pursuant to RSA 227-C;
- properties designed as historically significant by a local governing body, local legislative body, local land use board, or other legally-established municipal board or commission, such as a heritage commission; or
- unevaluated properties which may meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or for designation as a "historic property" by the State of New Hampshire or by a local governing body, local legislative body, local land use board, or other legally-established municipal board or commission, such as a heritage commission.

For purposes of local regulation, communities are generally allowed broad latitude in defining "historic properties", as long as the definition is established by an open public process that conforms to state law and local ordinances, and as long as it is consonant with state and federal constitutional protections and provisions. The process should also be coordinated with and subject to the advice, instruction, and guidance of the municipal legal counsel.

NH Division of Historical Resources - March 1998

## NORTH HILL

North Hill was part of the North Division Territory in Hampton in the mid 1600's and early 1700's. (See Dows History and Helen and Stillman Hobb's "The Way It Was In North Hampton").

North Hill is defined as the high area on the hill and surrounding territory where Country Road, (Post Road) passes on the left and Hobbs Road on the right.

Early settlers of this area, circa early 1700's, were TIMOTHY DALTON, whose homestead still exists below the westerly side of the Hill and extended as part of the Green, SAMUEL CHAPMAN, whose house was built on the Country Road near Brumble Hill Road, (Walnut Avenue), and the JOHN HOBBS Homestead, c. 1728 located easterly from the Hill on Hobbs Road. This home later became the early home of SIMON LEAVITT.

One of the earliest stones in the Center Cemetery identifies 2 Dearborn children who died in the early 1700's.

### Garrisons

Samuel Dearborn built the first Garrison House circa 1688 North of the Brook, not far from North Hill. His brother, John Dearborn built a Garrison House north of Samuel's. It was closer to North Hill with its foundation being where Elmer Smith later lived, near the Post Road Grocery. This garrison had stone and brick lined walls.

The garrisons were built to protect the early families from the Indians in the French and Indian Wars. By 1713, peace was restored and by 1759 the danger was over. A large garrison was built on the Green, a slope on the South side of North Hill, East of Country Road. It was in this garrison that in 1706 Abigail Dearborn, wife of John Dearborn took protection from the Indians. While there, she gave birth to a son, Simon, who later became the father of Major-General Henry Dearborn.

### North Hill Parish

North Hill was a growing settlement and early settlers found it difficult to travel all the way to Hampton to Church, particularly in the heavy winter snows. It would be more convenient to have a parish church at North Hill. Several petitions failed due



to Hampton's selectmen not liking the idea and revenues would be lost. In 1738, another petition was presented and this was approved providing the parish hire a minister and a schoolmaster. It was called "North Hill Parish in Hampton".

The first meeting house was built by 1734 on the Green, several hundred feet from the Garrison House. It was a small, plain building, never finished and had only one enclosed box pew for the Reverend Gookin's family. The Town was incorporated in 1742 and a year later a parsonage was built north easterly from Country Road near Morris Hobbs house on Hobbs Road.

In 1760, there was discussion of constructing a larger Meeting House. By that time the population was nearly 600. The second Meeting House was built in 1761, a few feet north of the first one. However, the steeple was not built at this time because there was much discussion as to which end the steeple should be placed.

### Schools

The first school at North Hill was made of brick in 1825. Remains of its bricks can still be seen 174 year later in the gravel driveway at Centennial Hall.

1876 brought another change to the Hill. The North School House on Cherry Road was too small, drafty and inadequate. The brick school at North Hill was becoming outgrown. Further, a place for social gatherings was needed. John W. F. Hobbs proposed to build a three story building combining the North and Center School Districts. Also would be included a hall and stage for social activities, with the stipulation the schools would be torn down by the town. The town fathers agreed. In 1876 Centennial Hall was built as a gift to the town, but the ownership remained by Mr. Hobbs.

### Country Road

The population continued to grow. Country road became the early route for mail riders as they came from Boston to Portsmouth in the late 1600's and early 1700's.

Benjamin Franklin, Deputy Postmaster, came through North Hill in 1753 to measure mileage for mail rates. He invented a special instrument for this purpose. After he measured, men followed in carts and set stone markers. On such milestone still exists on the westerly side of Country Road at North Hill opposite Centennial Hall. It was erected in 1774. Chiseled in stone the marker reads, P10/N12, meaning Portsmouth 10 miles, Newburyport 12. (Even with the changes in today's highway, it still remains quite accurate.)

### Captain John Leavitt's Inn - 1751

This Inn was built at North Hill on the west side of Country Road not too far from the Meeting House. Between the morning and afternoon church services, the people who didn't live near the Green found rest and refreshment at Leavitt's Inn. The men went to the Tap Room while the women and children rested in the Parlor. After 1761 Leavitt's Tavern became a reception area for the stage coaches which used Country Road to travel from Boston to Portsmouth. Here they changed their horses and refreshed themselves. In the Tap Room, according to the "The Way It Was In North Hampton", a hearty dinner cost about 25 cents. Leavitt's Inn closed in 1836. Note: Half of this old Inn was later moved to the residence of Deacon James R. Leavitt's house on Hobbs Road, which was built in 1838.

### Simon Dearborn Tavern

Simon Dearborn opened a tavern in 1792 at the corner of Exeter Road and Country road (now called Stage Road). In later years Simon Dearborn operated a grocery store in the Tavern as well. Simon left the tavern business to help his brother in the family blacksmith shop.

In 1824 the corner tavern was purchased by Nathaniel Batchelder and opened it as the Half-Way Tavern. (Half-way from Boston to Portland). This building increased in demand and became a country inn of 22 rooms. Albert Locke was the grandson of Simon Dearborn and told of the arched ceiling in the upper front bedroom known as the "Brides Chamber". The tavern operated until the close of the Nineteenth Century. The stage business increased and in 1826 the new Abbott & Downing Concord coaches began travel on Stage Road, as it was then called. They were brighter and lighter.

### The Militia At North Hill

The Committee of Safety elected Captain Moses Leavitt to head the militia. The recruits practiced marching on the Green at North Hill. In extremely bad weather they practiced marching in the long barn that existed across Country Road known as the Simon Brown property, now 112 Post Road.

### Notables At North Hill

Benjamin Franklin 1753 (as previously mentioned).

General Lafayette 1824 visited and traveled over the Stage Road from Newburyport to Portsmouth. Colonel Thomas Leavitt and Captain John Dearborn presented a tribute to General Lafayette on the Green. General Lafayette wrote to the people of North Hampton (after he returned from France) thanking them for their courtesy.

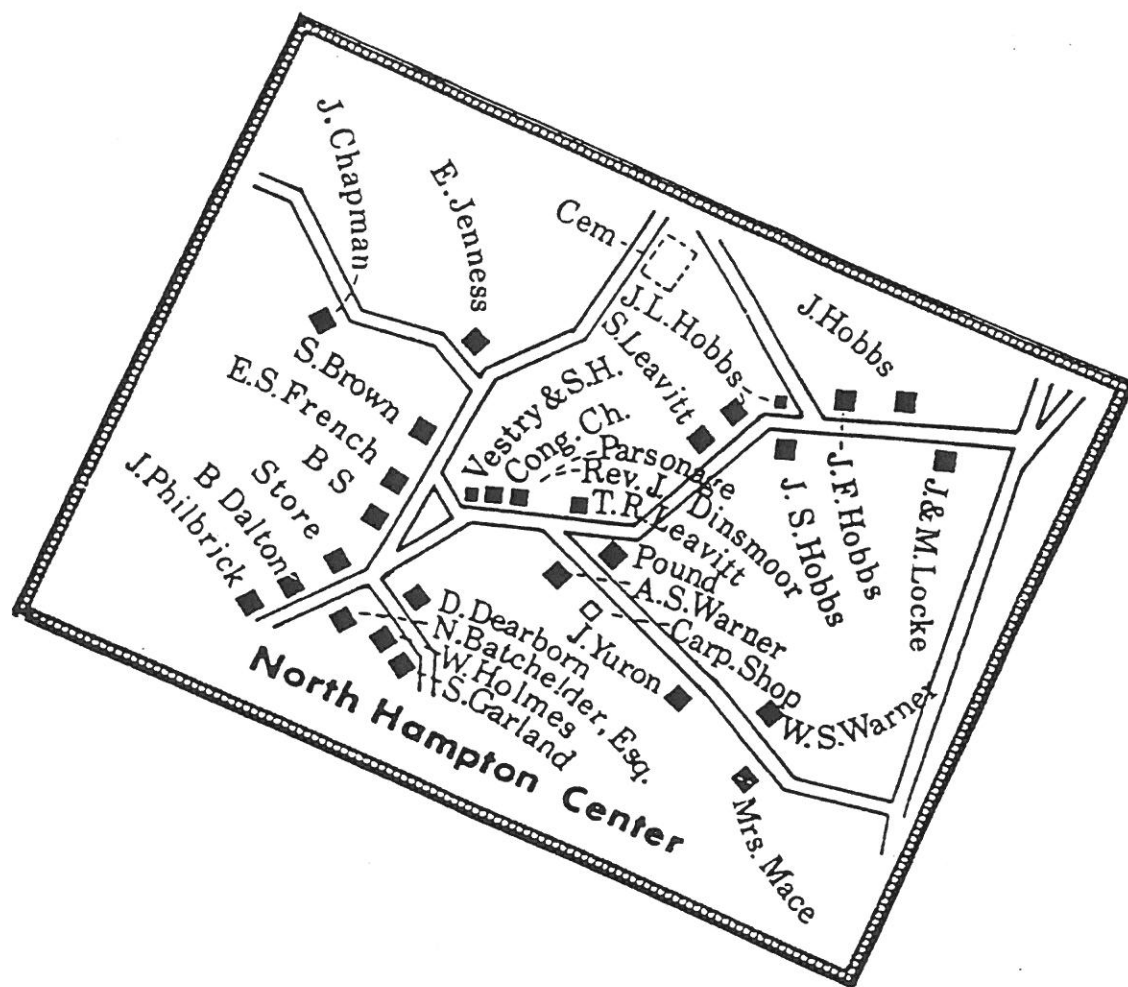
George Washington stopped at North Hill while passing to Portsmouth.

Major-General Henry Dearborn born in North Hampton in 1751, at the Dearborn Homestead at the foot of North Hill on Country Road. Dearborn became a doctor. Later joined the military. 1755 he joined in the Battle of Bunker Hill. 1777 Dearborn, now a Major, joined the NH Brigade at Fort Ticonderoga. His three cornered hat was on display there in later years. In 1801 to 1809 he was appointed Secretary of War for President Jefferson. In 1812 President Madison appointed Dearborn as General.

#### Significance of North Hill

North Hill has played a very important part in the development of this town's history and also in the history of our country.

NOTE: Basically all of this information was taken from the book, "The Way It Was In North Hampton" by Helen and Stillman Hobbs.



1857 MAP



North Hill  
Tax Parcel Map (September 1995)



88 Post Road - South  
5 Exeter Road - West  
22 Walnut Ave. - West  
Cemetery - North  
Hobbs Farm - East  
264 Atlantic Ave. - East

**Lisa B. Mausolf**  
**Preservation Consultant**

20 Terrace Park  
Reading, Massachusetts 01867  
781-617-942-2173

January 29, 1999

Ms. Janice Mellian  
36B Ocean Boulevard  
North Hampton, NH

Re: Historic areas in North Hampton

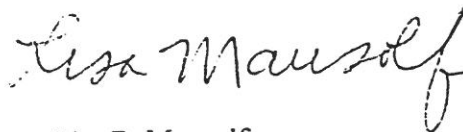
Dear Janice:

I hope the enclosed information will be helpful to you as you try to map historic areas in North Hampton. As we have discussed, in 1994 I was retained by the NH Department of Transportation to prepare an area form for the North Hampton village area near the depot, in anticipation of an upgrade of the Route 111 railroad bridge. Based on the project area form which I prepared, the NH Division of Historical Resources and the NHDOT concurred on January 12, 1995 that the village was potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. I have enclosed a map of the potential district, as determined by the project area form. Should you need additional information on this project, you may want to contact Elizabeth Hostutler at the NHDOT (603) 271-1553.

As you know, a Little Boar's Head district was determined eligible for the National Register last year and the nomination is currently nearing completion. There are still some questions remaining concerning how much open space will be included within the district, but the boundaries should be finalized in the next several weeks. The northern boundary of the district is the Latham property on Ocean Boulevard; at the southern boundary are the bathhouses to the south of the State Parking Lot. In addition to the Ocean Boulevard properties, the district includes all the properties on Willow Avenue, Chapel Road as far west and including 12 Chapel Road; Atlantic Avenue to the precinct boundary, and all of Sea Road.

Should you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Lisa B. Mausolf  
Preservation Consultant



## **TOWN HALL/DEPOT ROAD**

The Town Hall/Depot area lies along Atlantic Avenue from the Paul property on the corner of Alden and Atlantic, and the #224 Atlantic Avenue property facing it, to #215 Atlantic Avenue on the east, and #200 Atlantic Avenue facing it. The area includes 27 lots as listed on the current town map, and is a mix of residential, commercial and municipal uses.

The coming of the railroad in 1840 caused the center of activity for the town to be moved from the North Hill area to closer to the depot. In 1844 the old 1761 meeting house was dismantled and many of its timbers used in constructing North Hampton's first town hall, on the south side of Atlantic Avenue, just east of four Corners. In 1885 the Town Hall was moved, along with the 1816 Revere bell, to its present location closer to the railroad, making this now the center of the town's political life. The bell is of special note since Paul Revere died just two years later, and it is among the last that he cast. In 1892 a room in the southwest corner of the Town Hall building was set aside to serve as the first town library.

In addition to the Town Hall, the new town center included 3 stores, first Elkin's, then Rollins' and Dow's. The Rollins store was originally on the south side of Atlantic Avenue, just west of the railroad tracks in a building originally owned by Joseph O. Hobbs, but when the Boston and Main railroad laid its double track in 1899 it was moved 148 feet to the rear and 12 feet further from the tracks. This building burned in 1916 and the business was relocated to a second building nearby. This building also burned and the business was finally moved further west up Atlantic Avenue, until Mr. Rollins retired from the grocery business entirely.

S. A. Dow's store was located almost across the street from Rollins', in a building now occupied by Larry's Custom Interiors. In 1907 a new Dow store was erected next to the Town Hall, and the former store was used for grain storage. Both of these stores served as post offices for the town, Dow when the Republican Party controlled the White House, and Rollins when the Democrats were in control.

Between 1890 and 1896 Charles Philbrick operated a tin shop about where Dow's second store was later placed, the area now occupied by Joe's Meat Shop. One of the indispensable industries in town, Mr. Philbrick designed and made his own tinware, as well as repairing all sorts of kitchen ware, tin roofs and sinks. In 1896 he moved his shop to the ground of his house on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Pine Road.

Tarleton and Drew's blacksmith shop was also located in the depot area, just east of Dow's original store and the railroad tracks. This business opened in 1960 and continued into the early 1900's.

Three ice-houses also stood in this area, but west of the railroad tracks, convenient for loading ice on the trains with the daily milk runs from North Hampton dairies. For many years David Lamprey was responsible for most of the wintertime ice-harvesting that filled these houses.

Today, this area retains many of these buildings from 100 or more years ago, along with the new Police-Fire complex, the Town Office building (formerly the 1907 Library). And the new Library, built in 1974. (Hobbs, "The Way It Was In North Hampton).

Many famous personages have been associated with Little Boar's Head. Early residents and their visitors included Presidents, Governors, Senators, a Secretary of War, a Secretary of the Navy, and many industrialists. Little Boar's Head has also been home to artists, poets, and writers.

Residents of Little Boar's Head required various services during the summer season and gave employment to many North Hampton persons including carpenters, masons, painters, plumbers, and electricians. Caretakers, gardeners, chauffeurs, and other maintenance personnel from the local area were also employed.

If we are to document the history of Little Boar's Head, the Fuller Gardens must be included. They grew out of the Fuller's love of horticulture and their desire to share this beauty with the public. Their aesthetic vision for the gardens was shaped by their appreciation of art and travel. Landscape architects shaped the gardens according to Governor Fuller's requests, and reflected an interest in colonial and classical garden designs typical of the period.

By the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the popularity of the automobile brought fewer summer guests. Boarding houses closed and Bachelder's Hotel was demolished in 1929. Today there are only a few descendants of the old Little Boar's Head families remaining, and most are now permanent residents. The center of the Village District has survived with only a few intrusions, and there remains a high degree of architectural integrity enhanced by the unsoiled coastline.

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All material by permission of:

Helen Davis Hobbs

"THE WAY IT WAS IN NORTH HAMPTON"

By Stillman Moulton Hobbs and Helen Davis Hobbs

and

Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant from her

National Register of Historic Places Documentation

### **The Community of Little River**

Little River (the river) and Little Boar's Head (the community) are both mentioned in the Petition creating a separate Town of North Hampton in 1742. This is recorded by Mr. Dow in his History of Hampton published in 1893, (pg. 200). The Little River community is also mentioned by Mr. Dow (pg. 461) when he writes about the First Free Baptist Church in Hampton. His record states that in 1814 Simon Garland donated a building on Lobbs Hold Road (Mill Road) for this church and "some of the Little River people united with them". It is clear that there was a "Little River" (the community) and our guess is that it perhaps arose in the early 1800's and continued until the early 1900's.

We have consulted Margaret Brown on what the boundaries of Little River might have been and she has suggested that it might have been as follows:

On the west — up to where the previous Atlantic Avenue branched off about at Nancy Carter's (167 Atlantic Avenue)

On the south — to include the previous home of Abbott Brown, 34 Woodland Road (large white house on the west side of Woodland Road, the previous name of which was "Little River Road". It still is in Hampton).

On the east — to include Little Boar's Head probably past Otis Brown's house — 7 Atlantic Avenue (built in 1863).

On the north — to include as far as what was formerly the Baker property, corner of Woodland and Maple with one family however living over by the Rye line.

Little River was a well established community and probably predated the formal creation of Little Boar's Head, (1905). Indeed the Bachelders who pretty much settled parts of Little Boar's Head came from Little River and one John Lamprey (who married into the Bachelders, or they into him) came from around the cemetery at Woodland Road. Mr. John Lamprey gave 73 acres of land in that area to the Town in 1830, (book and page 0289-0253). The Town then gave some of it to the Little River Church in 1832. Further, even today the current Geological Survey map (1987) of this area records a community of "Little River". (See attached)

It is our impression that the Little River community centered around the Little River Church. This may have been the main social gathering place. In addition the first school was down Woodland Road (then called Little River road) on your right and

what must have been a later school was right across the street from the Church. This continued until about 1940. In the early 1800's Atlantic Avenue ran south from the "depot" to the Little River Cemetery where it turned left, or north, and ran up Woodland Road ("Little River Road") and then turned right, or easterly onto Maple Road. It continued along Maple until it passed Lamprey's and continued to Little Boar's Head. William Fowler told me Atlantic Avenue was not "straightened out" (i.e. ran straight by what became Runnymede), until 1850.

It was as late as 1962 that the Little River Church merged with the Congregational-Christian Church "up town", and the name of the merged congregation became, and still is, the United Church of Christ in North Hampton. But the community known as "Little River" had ceased to be well before that. The name is now seldom used, except by a few old folks who might remember is as saying ... "Well, down in Little River".

Why did people settle in Little River? Probably because of the mills. There were from time to time five mills on this river. On February 17, 1672 Peter Johnson was "granted liberty by the Town of Hampton" to set up a grist mill on Little River, "above the meadows near Barren Hill". Possibly this was the mill off Mill Road on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Field. Dow's History states this was near the site of the "Middle Saw Mill" owned by R. L. Moulton and built over in 1855.

June 5, 1997

#### "WINDOWS ON THE PAST IN NORTH HAMPTON, NH"

Bob Southworth

First Report of the North Hampton Heritage Commission

## HISTORY OF LITTLE BOAR'S HEAD

Little Boar's Head was given its name in the early 1600's by English explorers who were surveying the coast for English settlement. In 1742, when the North Hill Parish of Hampton became the town of North Hampton, Little Boar's Head was one of the 2 small settlements at the eastern part of the North Division that developed in proximity to the saw mills and grist mills on Little River. Although the land above the shoreline was rocky and undeveloped, 2 large farms were in existence in the early 1800's and early residents earned their livelihoods by farming and fishing.

Atlantic Avenue and Sea Road appear to be the earliest roads, and the 1857 map by J. Chase shows a road leading around the Head. Prior to 1850, Atlantic Avenue ended at Woodland Road because there was no bridge over Little River. Travelers turned left onto Woodland Road and then to Maple and on toward the beach, oftentimes crossing gates and fences that had been erected to keep the cows contained. What is now Ocean Boulevard did not exist until the turn of the century. The 12 Fish Houses that face the ocean are some of the oldest and most historic buildings in Little Boar's Head, having been documented as being on this site as early as 1804 when the selectmen of North Hampton were petitioned to "build a road to the fish houses". This concentration of fish houses is the largest such concentration remaining on the New Hampshire seacoast.

The ocean is a major visual element, and as early as 1840 visitors were attracted to Little Boar's Head to spend time enjoying the view and the summer breezes. Several families opened their homes as boarding houses, and in 1868, Bachelder's Hotel was constructed on Atlantic Avenue. In 1862, "Bell Cottage" was the first summer cottage built solely for a summer residence, and when the need for a permanent place of worship arose, Union Chapel was built, and interdenominational services have been held every summer since its founding in 1877. In 1905, the New Hampshire legislature established the Little Boar's Head District as a Village District in the Town of North Hampton.

During the time Little Boar's Head was known as a summer resort, it never claimed to be more than a seaside retreat for a few national and state political leaders, captains of industry, and some prominent professional people. Hostesses didn't launch "the season" as was the custom. Women at Little Boar's Head were more interested in performing good works. Women planned for the building and financing of Union Chapel, and brought concerts and operas to music lovers in the 1930's. Through the years, members of the local garden club founded and maintained the flower garden adjacent to the Fish Houses.

# LIST OF ONE HUNDRED HISTORIC HOUSES

<u>Street Number</u>	<u>1857-1892 Owner</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>
<u>Atlantic Avenue</u>		
45	J & B Brown	Robert O'Kane
59	T C Batchelder	Robert Chaikin
63	H B Lamprey	Morris Lamprey
69	J H Brown	Peter Fuller
71	E L Dalton	C Devlin Spearman
72	F B Brown	Katherine Rush Realty
75	J Brown	Daniel Packard
79	W E Moulton	James Sovich
112	G H Moulton	Howard Smith
115	Preschold	Bruce Hoglander
	Little River Church	
116	D P & H A Moulton	Francis Boueri
129	D G Moulton	Schmmerhorn (sold)
131	O D Moulton	William Boesch
136	F W Berry	Richard W Cote
139	L W Fogg	Ross L Bisplinghoff
152	H S Marston	Russell W Jeppesen
153	N B Marston	Douglas A Fineberg
156	L K Lane	Joseph McKittrick
160	W B Moulton	Samuel Bray
164	E T Moulton	Alphonse Navelski
167	S D Lane	James Carter
173	M H Moulton	Robert Carrigg
187	F E Chesley	Ruth Seidel
197	R Taylor	R Robinson
200	G Batchelder	Wm E Carlson (sold)
206	Batchedler	Apts.-R Jeppesen
207	G E Taylor	Richard Jones
	Railroad Depot	
210	J O Hobbs	Michael C Kelley
217	H A Ring	David B Tufts



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<u>Street Number</u>	<u>1857-1892 Owner</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>
<u>Atlantic Avenue</u>		
223	S A Dow	James C White
224	T B Shaw	Wind Dancer Realty
	S A Dow Store	Joseph Kutt
	Town Hall	
228	J R Rollins	E Dean Stevens
239	J L Leavitt (Homestead)	Robert R Radochia
264	C E Seavey	Esther Seavey
268	J Warner	Thomas Haggerty
278	M L Locke	Todd Carter (sold)
	Blacksmith Shop	
291	J W Berry	Robert Bruno
293	Old Parsonage	Michael Carella
	United Church of Christ	
	Centennial Hall	
<u>Post Road</u>		
17	D S Marston	Lesley Barker
23	J H Roby	Charles Brindamour
29	E Fogg	Arthur A Lambert
34	Martson/Carter	Robert Landman
62	J L Marston	James R Kates
76	F E Knowles	Colarusso
88	G L Garland	James R Colcord
92	S J Rand	Lyons/Simmons
100	E Gove	Richard Walent
120	F Jenness	Wilbur A Nevers
146	Hendry	Robt & Harold Hendry
153		Janet Taylor
	Stackpole Barn	William Carlson
199	Norton	Barry Wilson

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<u>Street Number</u>	<u>1857-1892 Owner</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>
<u>Winnicut Road</u>		
15	Brown/Booker	Shawn McNamara
29	Dustin	Cedric & Frances Dustin
59	Hormel	Richard Batchelder Jr
67	Barton	Louis A Datillo
69	Barton	Jean Booker
<u>North Road</u>		
104	T J Knowles	Charles R Robie
<u>Cherry Road</u>		
4	S Knowles	Gail R Spring
15	N Marston	Elizabeth M Thompson
<u>Fern Road</u>		
19	D J Marston	Donald B Gould
<u>South Road</u>		
65	D & G Page	Richard Shea
69	D Sherburne/ G W Knowles	Scott Johnson
79	E Hunt	J F Coughlin
81	Mrs M C Chase	Emile Magri
151	L W Dearborn	Theresa Lariviere

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<u>Street Number</u>	<u>1857-1892 Owner</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>
<u>Hobbs Road</u>		
6	John Stacey Hobbs	Forest Griffin
15	John Oliver Hobbs	Ronald Fletcher
17	J F Hobbs	Allen Schenck
19	A D Hobbs	Peter Parker Cynthia Swanks
21	J L Smith - 1892 J L Hobbs - 1857	
23	W H Smith - 1892 J L Hobbs - 1857	Lynn Johnson
27	Simon H Leavitt	David R Whalley
28	J S Hobbs	Adella Chauncey Nellie Dube
39	James R Leavitt	Benjamin King
<u>Exeter Road</u>		
2	S Knowles	Mildred Connarton
3	Eben Dalton	Eunice Dalton
5	John W Philbrick	Paul Kelleher
8	G W Page	Mary Lambert
10	Harry Marston	Curtis Marston
73	H B Marston	Lee D Whitney II
77	G W Page	John Tillinghast
111	R F Philbrook	Ferd Ensinger
108	T Philbrook	Frank Wolfsen
49	Godfrey	Terrence L Dostie
<u>Walnut Avenue</u>		
22	Towle/Jenness	Joseph Carter
49	T Leavitt/H Leavitt	Chris Loeffler
54	D M Dow/J I Philbrook	Simmons Trust
83	Chapman/Philbrick	Fisher Trust Jean B Fisher

<u>Street Number</u>	<u>1857-1892 Owner</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>
<u>Walnut Avenue</u>		
95	Chapman/Marston	Earl Swain
109	Jenness	Richard Wollmar
135	Kimball/Leavitt	Curtis C Edmunds
139	Marston	Brian Batchelder
134	Frost Rollins	Peter Corbett
<u>Pine Road</u>		
30	Miss F Batchelder	Charles Peck
38	I J Taylor	Robert Clements
39	E J Taylor	Grant Seavems
43	G E Perkins	Lee A Field
<u>Woodland Road</u>		
34	R Brown	Stephen Gianotti
44	S Brown	David Boies
48	A D Brown	
	Tarleton (schoolhouse)	Wayne Whitcomb
61	A T Brown	Tyler Buffinton
63	J A Brown	Ann Werner (sold)
65	S Knowles	Viva Brown
71	N B Brown	Jayne Qualyle
130	Jenness	Charles Kensler
<u>Maple Road</u>		
8	S Tarleton	Leon S Drew
9	D Brown	William Hawks Est. c/o William Fraser
19	Cotton Farm	Peter Fuller
34	Barn to V Brown place	Margaret Brown

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<u>Street Number</u>	<u>1857-1892 Owner</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>
<u>Mill Road</u>		
100	O B Fogg	H Kennard Perkins
123	Mrs. J Moulton	Robert Field
132	O C Page	Thomas E Kaloust
130	H L & G O Moulton	William McCann
136	E G Bunker	Christopher Carlisle
<u>Elm Road</u>		
2	J W F Hobbs	Paul/W Hobbs
8	J O Hobbs	Antonio J Marino
<u>Lafayette Road</u>		
86 Condo Unit	W Whenal	Soucie Garrigan, Paul Lagasso, George Jeppeson, Russell
122	J P Smith	ARGM Corp
144	A and N Drake	Rollns Furniture
148	J Drake	Gross/Van Dyke
160	F Luck	Ed Luck

Heritage Commission  
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